

Four Rivers announces minigrant awards

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Eleven minigrant awards to local heritage-related nonprofit organizations and projects have been announced by the Four Rivers Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town and South County.

The matching minigrants program, supported by the city of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, helps local nonprofits create new programs to enhance cultural historic resources and heritage tourism.

This year there was a record number of projects involving K-12 students working with local sites to learn more about their history and heritage. There was also a large number of projects involving the art, craft and heritage of sewing.

Three of projects will be on display in the Historic Annapolis Museum in spring. Four of them will produce documentary story quilts.

Organizations and projects approved for minigrant awards include:

Annapolis Community Foundation, for the development, design, and installation of "Annapolis Tapestries Museum Exhibit 2012," an exhibition illustrating 18th-century Annapolis through hand-stitched tapestries. The exhibit will be installed in the Historic Annapolis Museum.

The Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corp. and the Anne Arundel County War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, for a "Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Celebration Map" showcasing War of 1812 historical sites, as well as water and nature trails in Anne Arundel.

The Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation and the Lost Towns Project, for "Sewing Through History: The Archaeology of Textiles and Sewing in Early America," an exhibition and public lecture based on research into material culture related to the industry and pastime of sewing. The exhibition will be installed in the Historic Annapolis Museum.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum and Banneker-Douglass Foundation, for "Threads of Change: Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County," a collaborative project with local heritage organizations and public schools in southern and northern Anne Arundel in which high school students will be trained to conduct oral history interviews and create an interpretive quilt based on their research.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to produce and install updated interpretive signs at Annapolis City Dock next to the historic skipjack *Stanley Norman*, which is used as an educational resource by the CBF.

Downtown Annapolis Partnership, for the research, design and printing of a brochure promoting the local, state and federal incentives available for businesses and buildings within the Annapolis' Main Streets boundaries and a map promoting heritage sites and businesses within those boundaries.

Friends of the Maryland State Archives, for a brochure for its exhibit, " 'The enemy all round us': Annapolis in the War of 1812," to open at the Maryland State House in February.

Galesville Heritage Society, for a new exhibit, "The Story of Stores: How Small Businesses Helped Build Community in Galesville, Md." Local students will participate in planning a satellite version of the exhibit for Southern High School.

Historic Annapolis, for "Threads of Time: 45th Anniversary of the Desegregation of Bates High School," a collaborative project with county public schools to commemorate the desegregation of the school in 1966 through a documentary story quilt, a public exhibition in the Historic Annapolis Museum and an in-school program for middle school students.

London Town Foundation Inc., for "Our Common Threads: Connecting the Heritage of Forgotten Voices at London Town," a collaborative project with the public schools. Students will examine the social welfare of Anne Arundel County during the 19th and early 20th centuries using London Town's Almshouse (1823-1965) as a case study in segregation during this period, and will create a documentary story quilt from their experiences.

St. Anne's School of Annapolis, for a program of study in African-American history and culture for the school's third-graders, including interviewing local residents, participating in a quilt workshop, and creating a resource book for the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center for other students and the public.

For more information, visit www.fourriversheritage.org.