



Media Release

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Waterfowl Chesapeake Awarded \$100,000 from Maryland Historical Trust

Funds will support restoration of windows in historic Waterfowl Building

Easton, MD - Waterfowl Chesapeake (WC) is thrilled to announce that Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) has awarded the organization \$100,000 from its Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program for the renovation of the windows in the Waterfowl Building in downtown Easton.

“We are so grateful to MHT for recognizing the historic relevance of our building and its value to the community,” says Executive Director Margaret Enloe. “In the last two years as we’ve increased our rental of the Festival Hall, we’ve seen many more people and a variety of groups come through our doors. Our hope is that the restored windows and frames will enhance the beauty of the space and encourage even more organizations to see us as a community gathering place.”



Working closely within MHT guidelines, Waterfowl Chesapeake will hire a contractor specializing in historic restoration. The steel-frame windows will be removed and taken off-site where they will be carefully dismantled, cleaned, repainted and re-glazed before being reinstalled. Work is expected to start in fall of this year.

The project will proceed in phases in order to allow WC’s offices to remain open for business during construction and for Waterfowl Festival to take place as usual on the second weekend in November. The phased schedule will also ensure that other organizations who are renting the Festival Hall can hold their events during construction with minimal disturbance. While the Trust’s program allows two years for the restoration to be completed, WC optimistically hopes to have the windows done within the next year.

The historic Easton armory, now referred to as the Waterfowl Building, was built in 1927 after several years of lobbying by local residents and elected officials. While it’s function was to serve as a training facility for Maryland’s state militia, the building’s drill hall, now called Festival Hall, also served as a community gathering place for everything from boxing matches and basketball

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games to flower shows, poultry exhibitions and art festivals over the decades. Waterfowl took ownership of the building in the 1980s, after a stint of ownership by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Easton.

“We think the Waterfowl Building is a gem on this end of downtown and want to do everything to make it shine brightly as a gathering place for our local organizations and groups on the mid-Shore,” says Enloe.

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About us *With a focus on communities, stewardship and the waterfowl-related resources and heritage on Delmarva,
Waterfowl Chesapeake: Connects financial resources from the Festival and environmental needs in communities,
Serves as a neutral convener for events, forums and discussions leading to solutions, and
Engages and educates communities about the benefits of healthy waterfowl populations and habitats.*