

State Of Maryland

2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
HDG Decoy Museum		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	S. Johnson	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Harford County	\$500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the HDG Decoy Museum expansion project		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Mike Tarquini		(410) 459-8487
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>Founded in 1986, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is a public museum organized and operated to collect, document, preserve, and interpret waterfowl decoys as a unique form of folk art that is a distinctive element in the cultural landscape of our region -the lower Susquehanna River and the Upper Chesapeake Bay. The museum engages and educates visitors with exceptional exhibits that describe the centuries-old history of Waterfowling as well as the interplay among this region, its people, the environment, and the folk art of decoy making. By so doing, the museum will preserve knowledge of these cultural traditions, encourage comprehensive understanding of the history of decoy folk art, and transmit the rich heritage to future generations.</p>		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

The projected expansion effort will add approximately 12,000-sf to the existing museum to make way for additional areas for both permanent and temporary exhibits aimed at expanding our service area by drawing in visitors from adjacent regions, giving rise to increased memberships that drive sustainability for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The R. Madison Mitchell decoy shop was relocated to the grounds of the Decoy Museum in 1989 and has remained an out-building with limited visitation due to logistics challenges. The projected additional square footage will allow for its incorporation as an interior exhibit. As some similar museums within our region have had to face closure, the time is upon us to position ourselves for the future by transitioning from a local to a super-regional museum.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	\$0
Design	\$250,000
Construction	\$3,600,000
Equipment	\$1,200,000
Total	\$5,050,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

State of Maryland (TBD)	\$500,000
Dresher Foundation (TBD)	\$500,000
MHAA (4 Phases @ \$100,000/ Phase)	\$400,000
R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Fund	\$250,000
Private Donations (includes Museum Board & Members)	\$3,400,000
Total	\$5,050,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
12/28/2022	September 1, 2025	TBD	TBD
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
430000.00	8,000	10,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Inc. 215 Giles Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078		Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Inc. 215 Giles Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	7B - Harford County		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[]	[]	[X]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Michael Tarquini	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	(410) 459-8487		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
608 Lafayette Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
9	12	300000.00	350000.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
City of Havre de Grace, MD	1/1/2033	City of HDG is supportive	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	15,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF			
New GSF	12,000		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

Not Known

28. Comments

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum . . . Positioning for the Future

A casual conversation in 1981 between three Havre de Grace businessmen and a phone call to a prominent local waterfowl decoy maker led to the establishment of a decoy festival that is about to celebrate its 43rd year (missing 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic) and a museum that has just finished its 38th year of operation. Together, they honor and preserve the traditions and the rich heritage of waterfowling and the folk art of decoy making in the Upper Chesapeake Bay and Lower Susquehanna River.

Although the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and its Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival has enjoyed success over its four decades of existence, both the museum and the festival have faced many challenges along the way. A combination of strong leadership with a dedication to the mission of the museum, responsible financial stewardship, ownership of its collections, adaptation to ever changing technologies, and full control over its destiny, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has maintained stability for nearly 40 years and promises to continue this sustainable model well into the future.

The Board of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is currently comprised of 10 members including the Board President and by all measures can be considered stable. All Board Members are volunteers. Board terms are 3 years and Board members can be re-elected for additional terms. The Board is best described as a working Board whose members come from diverse backgrounds that include business management, financial management, fundraising, law, banking, and business ownership. Board composition includes decoy makers (36%) and decoy collectors (91%) so there is a good understanding of the cultural history of the region which the Museum attempts to preserve.

The current staffing at the Museum consists of two full-time employees (a Membership & Special Event Coordinator & Curation Coordinator) and 6 part-time employees, who mainly support guest reception and museum store operations. A part-time employee serves as the Museums Finance Manager. The Board President acts as the Executive Director and directs day to day operations. The Board aspires to seek the right person to serve as the next Executive Director and is poised to be patient until which time that candidate is identified.

The Museum Treasurer is a Certified Public Accountant that has built in financial controls that govern the day-to-day financial management of the Museum. Together with the Finance Manager, the Treasurer manages the inflows and out-flows of cash and ensures that all financial reporting is completed on a timely basis. The Museum operates on an annual budget of approximately \$0.3M. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) entity and is in good standing with SDAT. The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has \$0 debt load.

The Decoy Museum physically sits at 215 Giles Street in Havre de Grace, MD on property that is owned by the City of Havre de Grace. The Museum enjoys a long-term lease (49 years) on approximately 3 acres of land that surround the Museum. The current lease expires in January 2033 and contains an option to negotiate its renewal. The City of Havre de Grace recently signaled its long-term commitment to the Decoy Museum in 2022 by executing a 20-year easement (expires in 2042) with the Maryland Historical Trust in order to allow the Museum to obtain funding for a planned expansion on our property. Although the Museum