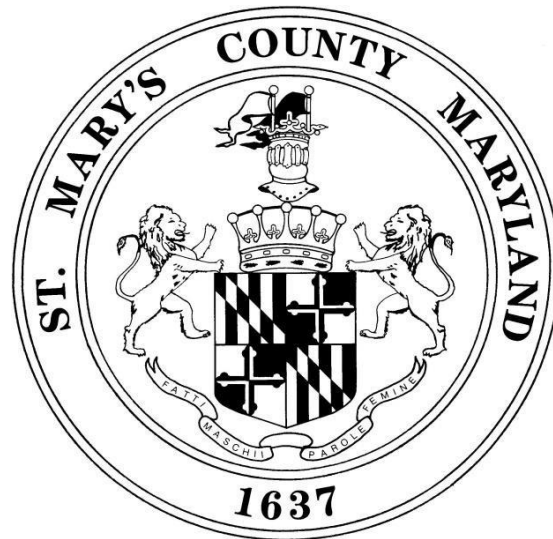


# St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees



## 2021 Annual Report

Lynn Fitrell, President  
Amy Davis, Vice President  
Michael Blackwell, Secretary  
Robin Finnacom  
Regina Faden  
Karla Langhus  
Jeanette Pettit  
Walter Boswell  
Catherine Bowes  
Michael Brown  
Laura Friess

Karen Stone, Director  
Arthur Shepherd, Director, Parks & Recreation

**January 26, 2022**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees (MDT) Board is an eleven (11) member group appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to "promote through the establishment and maintenance of a Museum and allied projects, programs which will bring about a better understanding and appreciation by the community of history, art, and the sciences indigenous to its area." The Trustees serve in an advisory and not a governing role. We ask questions and provide a sort of public input on Museum Activities. Museum Board of Trustees meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every other month, beginning in January, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 14 inside the Potomac Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD. However, given the COVID 19 Pandemic, most meetings were conducted with phone-in option. Normally one meeting a year takes place at the Piney Point Museum and Lighthouse and another at the St. Clements Island Museum. We met at Piney Point but not at St. Clements due to planned renovations there.

In 2021, the Museum Division consisted of four sites: St. Clements Island Museum; Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park; the Drayden African American Schoolhouse; the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown.

### ***Board Membership***

2021 saw several changes in membership. Victor Govier resigned from the Board in July; several members had resigned or rotated off in late 2020. Appointed in December 2020 were Dr. Walter Boswell, Dr. Catherine Bowen, Michael Brown, Robin Finnacom, and Laura Friess for 2021, bringing the Board to full capacity. Lynn Fitrell and Amy Davis began the activities of their new roles while Michael Blackwell continued as Secretary. These officers were reelected for in these roles for 2022

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MUSEUM DIVISION FOR 2020 ON WHICH THE BOARD ADVISED AND BOARD OPERATIONS**

- Strategic Plan Revision: Karla Langhus and Laura Friess are working with Karen Stone to revise the plan, with a goal of presenting a new draft in May 2022. Several goals that were in the previous plan and that have been accomplished have been removed, and new goals and objectives are being developed. Meetings with Museum Employees to gain their insights are scheduled.
- One important project the Board is excited to assist with includes the following:
  - Replacing the current St. Clements building with a new two story building.
  - Finding spaces for staff to continue their work while the original building is being demolished and its replacement is being built.
  - Storing the contents of the current building.

- The Board has seen the plans as they develop and provided thoughts. The project is progressing well, with the department working with the county to move it forward.
- Helped promote in the community and volunteered service at these events:
  - Benjamin Hance Memorial Ceremony: attended by several hundred people and dignitaries
  - Exhibits at the Old Jail Museum: they have been updated and Board members have served as guides on some days.
  - Blessing of the Fleet: attended by approximately 1,500
  - Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival
  - Open Houses at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse
  - Black Diamond Commemoration Event
  - Maryland Day
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## **Activities for 2022**

- The Strategic Planning process will be continued.
- The Board's Bylaws are ten years old and in need of review and possible updating.
- Support of Museum activities as appropriate

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

The Board will continue to work with the Museum Division and provide support, spreading the word in the community about the County Museums and their activities.

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