



Senate Subcommittee on Capital Budget
The Walters Art Museum, FY2016 Capital Budget Testimony
Julia Marciari-Alexander, Ph.D., Executive Director
Monday, March 16, 2015

Chairman DeGrange and members of the subcommittee, on behalf of the trustees, staff, and visitors please accept my appreciation for the support you have given the Walters Art Museum. I respectfully request your approval of \$1 million for the Walters Art Museum proposed in Governor Hogan's FY2016 Capital Budget. This appropriation is the final piece of the State's commitment to a \$10.4 million capital project to ensure our five buildings are safe for a world-class art collection and more than 170,000 visitors each year.

This capital project will have a lasting impact on the Walters and the public, generating jobs along the way. Work is in process and matching funds are in place. The capital project will update obsolete infrastructure, add life-safety systems to historic buildings—including fire detection and suppression—and improve conditions for priceless works of art and visitors, while tackling energy inefficiency and out-dated lighting. Aspects of this project will serve as models for the treatment of historic buildings and the use of innovative technologies.

Economic and Tourism Impact

The Walters is home to one of the finest collections of art in the United States and is internationally renowned. Our 33,000 works of art present an overview of world art from pre-dynastic Egypt to early-19th century Europe. Counted among the Walters' many treasures are Greek sculptures, Roman sarcophagi, Asian ceramics, medieval ivories, Old Master paintings, jewelry, 19th-century European and American paintings, and illuminated medieval manuscripts.

A top destination, The Walters contributes to the economic and cultural vitality of the city, state, and wider region. Thirty-four percent of our visitors are tourists who bring out-of-state revenue to Maryland. We have programs for visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, and continue to find ways to reach the differently-abled. More broadly than serving just those who come into the museum, however, we create curriculum-aligned school programs that reach over 55,000 Maryland students, and we train teachers from every jurisdiction in the State of Maryland. This capital project has been designed to produce the least disruption to our public service. Upon completion, historic Hackerman House will reopen with an entirely new approach to exhibiting our treasures, furthering enhancing the museum's draw for local visitors and tourists alike.

This project will employ more than a dozen Maryland contractors and building-trade professionals companies.

Project Needs and Expected Outcomes

- **Safety:** Fire detection and suppression systems installed throughout the museum will promote life-safety for our visitors and staff
- **Infrastructure and efficiency:** Replacing mechanical and electrical systems that are over 20 years old with new efficient technologies will drive efficiency and savings
- **Technology infrastructure:** Will create a 21st-century visitor experience
- **New LED lighting:** Will impact sustainability, generate cost savings, and enrich the visitor experience

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- **Environmental and economic Sustainability:** Will result from installation of energy efficient equipment, improvement to the building envelope, upgrades to lighting and other technologies
- **Historic preservation** – Will preserve and showcase one of Maryland’s historic treasures, Hackerman House, a 19th-century architectural gem

Timeline

This capital project will be completed in 2017.

Model Projects

In consult with the Maryland Historical Trust, we will install a water-mist fire suppression and a fire detection system in the historic Hackerman House. Maryland Historic Trust and the Walters believe this system can serve as a state-wide and national model used in historic buildings/museums. We will use advanced printing technologies (i.e. 3D) to reproduce historic antefixa along the roof line of Hackerman House, an innovative project that will be supervised closely by our world-renowned conservation professionals to ensure historic accuracy.

Matching Funds

The investment by the State of Maryland will be matched 3:1 by a combination of funding from Baltimore City, individual, private foundations, corporate, and other government sources. The State appropriated \$2.5 million in the 2013 session for which we more than doubled the matching funds. We have also already matched over \$600,000 of this recommended FY16 appropriation. Committed funds to date include: \$2.45 million from the City of Baltimore and \$1.05 from private donors. Our fundraising plan includes grant applications to federal agencies and requests to private foundations, corporations, individuals and trustees.

Fundraising capacity

The Walters Art Museum is financially stable, with a strong track record of raising funds from government, foundation, and private sources for its annual \$14.4 million operating budget, past capital campaigns, and endowment. This December, we completed a \$30 million endowment campaign to secure the museum’s financial position for the future. We have a plan to raise the balance of funds for this capital campaign.

Access

Free admission since 2006 has eliminated the financial barrier to public access to our collection. As a result, the demographic make-up of our visitors has diversified greatly since 2006. This capital project will make the museum safer, and more physically accessible to diverse audiences, while new technologies and more flexible galleries will lead to rotating exhibitions and create engaging and personal experiences for visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

Conclusion

Thank you for your time and for your important support of the Walters Art Museum.



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