

Historic St. Mary's City Opens New Visitor Center for Inaugural Season

Visitors invited to experience new exhibits ahead of spring 2027 grand-opening celebration

ST. MARY'S CITY, MD (Oct 12, 2026) – On Saturday, November 14, 2026, [Historic St. Mary's City](#) (HSMC) will open its new Visitor Center to the public, beginning an inaugural season ahead of a formal grand-opening celebration planned for spring 2027. Visitors will have an early opportunity to experience the state-of-the-art facility and its new exhibits throughout the opening season. Thanks to generous support from [Southern Maryland National Heritage Area](#), tickets for November 14 will be free.

Inside the new building, visitors will explore the origins of religious freedom, representative government, and self-determination while encountering stories connected to St. Mary's City and the people who contributed to Maryland's history.

"This new Visitor Center represents a watershed moment for Historic St. Mary's City, one that was made possible through collaboration with our community," said Travis Parno, Director of Research and Development. "We are thrilled to share a new vision of Maryland's deep history and to connect the past with the present through archaeology, history, and the perspectives of community leaders."

The exhibits were developed in partnership with tribal leaders, historians, educators, and community organizations. Piscataway leadership played a central role in shaping the presentation of Indigenous history, reflecting a collaborative approach grounded in respect and shared authority. The Visitor Center also includes stories of enslaved and free African Americans whose lives and labor shaped this landscape from the beginning.

In the new Visitor Center's introduction film, Mark Tayac, 29th Hereditary Chief, **Piscataway Indian Nation**, reflects on the shared effort behind the project: "We are all stepping collectively together into the light, building bridges of friendship and cooperation to tell the story even if the story's hard to tell."

Piscataway Conoy Tribal Chair Francis Gray reflected on the importance of that collaboration and the stories the new center will carry forward:

"This place honors the people, stories, and events that have shaped our tribal community and left their mark upon generations. Through our history, culture and traditions of the Piscataway Conoy people, we have safeguarded vital connections to our past and transformed them into opportunities for meaningful collaboration with HSMC. Together, we are creating places where

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Wes Moore, Governor David S. O'Donnell, Executive Director Bonnie M. Green, Chair

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history comes alive, deepening our understanding of who we are, and inspiring pride in our legacy.

May those who enter here discover the strength of those who came before us, appreciate the legacy they left behind, and carry these stories into the future.”

Designed as a welcoming gateway for students, families, tourists, and lifelong learners, the new center combines scholarship, technology, and personal stories to create a visitor experience that is both educational and deeply human.

A formal grand opening celebration, with additional programs and activities, is planned for spring 2027.

Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, November 14, 2026
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Address:** Historic St. Mary's City New Visitor Center, 47373 Old State House Road, St. Mary's City 20686
- **Parking:** Old State House Road, St. Mary's City 20686
- **Admission:** Free (Thanks to generous support from the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area)

About the Visitor Center

After years of development, the new Visitor Center at Historic St. Mary's City serves as a new gateway to Maryland's first capital. The facility features immersive exhibits, interactive media, educational spaces, and community-informed storytelling designed to connect visitors with the many histories that shaped St. Mary's City.

The exhibit experience was designed by Howard + Revis, the nationally recognized exhibit design firm known for acclaimed work at the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel. State-of-the-art media experiences were developed by Cortina Productions, whose immersive storytelling installations have been featured in museums and cultural institutions nationwide. The exhibit was fabricated by Explus Inc., whose many projects include the “Road to Berlin” exhibit at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.

About Historic St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City is a museum of history and archaeology located at the site of Maryland's first capital. Through living history, archaeology, research, and public engagement, the museum explores the diverse histories of the people who lived in early Maryland and the ongoing relevance of their stories today.

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