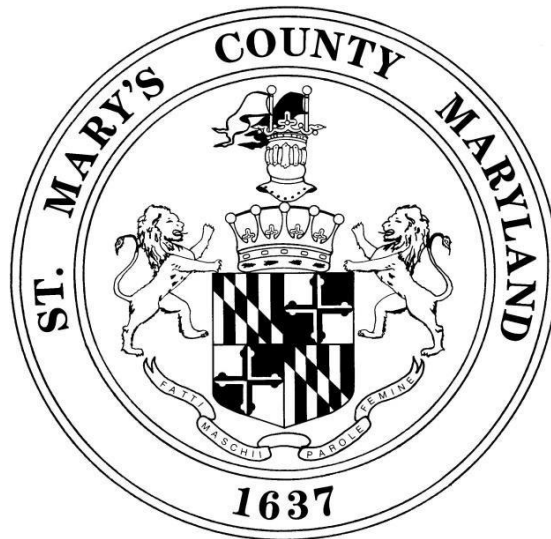


# **St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees**



## **2025 Annual Report**

Conner Wolfe, President  
Michael Brown, Vice President  
Michael Blackwell, Secretary  
Kathy Bailey  
Jessica Hale  
Daniel Kerns  
Valmora Lewis  
Michelle Reloba  
Caitlyn Socrates

Oncoming in 2026:  
Rosa Hance  
Daniel Pindell  
Zachery Steele

For County  
Karen Stone, Museum Division Manager  
Ray Bivens, Parks and Recreation Director

**January 9, 2026**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees (MBT) is a 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 public voice on Museum Activities. Museum Board of Trustees' meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every other month, beginning in January, typically in Room 14 inside the Potomac Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD.

In 2025, the Museum Division consisted of four sites: St. Clements Island Museum (closed for construction of a new facility in September); Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park; the Drayden African American Schoolhouse; the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown.

### **Board Membership**

2025 saw changes in membership. Catherine Bowes, Lynn Fitrell, Robin Finnacom, Laura Friess, Karla Langhus, Jared Loller, and Kate Ross either left due to the end of their terms or resigned due to conflicts with work time. Thank you, all, for your contributions! Members beginning service in 2026 include Rosa Hance, Daniel Pindell, and Zachery Steel. Welcome, all! Conner Wolfe served as Board President, Michael Brown as Vice President, and Michael Blackwell as Secretary. In November, a vote brought in new officers for 2026: Michael Blackwell as President, Michael Brown continuing as Vice President, and Kathy Bailey as Secretary,

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MUSEUM DIVISION FOR 2025 ON WHICH THE BOARD ADVISED AND VARIOUS BOARD OPERATIONS**

- Boards, Commissions, and Committees Compliance Report: the County periodically sends a compliance report with areas that boards must meet. The Museum Board complies in all areas.
- One important project the Board is excited to continue assisting with is replacing the current St. Clements building with a new two-story building. The Board has seen the plans as they develop and provided thoughts. Contract approval for construction occurred in July, with Wayne Davis Enterprises being selected. A Groundbreaking was also held that month, with a blessing from representatives of the Piscataway Tribe. The old building has been demolished. Construction on the new building is expected to last 18 months.
- The Board advised on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and will provide a letter of support for the request for a hearing in March of 2026. Funds are requested each year for preservation, and this constant line-item remains a priority. Much of the budget goes to essentials: utilities, memberships, insurance, etc. A capital fund of \$45,000, separate from operating funds, is proposed for some roofing, siding, and painting needs; the Board voted to support this request.
- The Board advised on plans to upgrade the boat that ferries passengers to St. Clements

Island. Various events necessitated a change in vessel. Ultimately, a customizable existing bat was chosen. It is being outfitted and will be called *St. Clements' Explorer*.

- Helped promote the museum activities in the community and volunteered for service at 2025 events.
- Heard from Dawn Letts, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, on a new lease allowing additional property on St. Clements Island for Museum Division Use. Priorities on the Island include an ADA Pathway, rebuilding of the landing, structural repairs on the south pier, the roof pavilion repairs, and repairs to the stage.
- Held a joint meeting with the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums. The Friends are making efforts to expand membership, including former members and Museum Board Members; Friends staff are visiting businesses to look for sponsorships; it would be appreciated if any Board members who have business contacts would help pave the way for a Friends visit. The special Friends Christmas ornament is available for sale to Friends members. The Friends are helping with various events throughout the year. The Division also gets grants to support these events; the Friends often provide matching money and often serve as an applicant/passthrough on grants. The Friends also run the Museum stores, which offer local crafts and books. Online sales continued in 2025 and are faring well. Volunteer help from the Museum Board is welcome. The Friends (and Museum Division) are planning for events commemorating the USA's 250th and Maryland's 400th anniversaries, including the Rebels and Redcoats historical reenactment of Revolutionary War Battle of St. George's Island.

#### **Activities for 2026/Plans for the Future**

- As possible, attend budget hearings to indicate support for the division in the January through June process, working for budget increases for Fiscal year 2027.
- Support Museum activities as appropriate.
- Follow and advise on construction for the St. Clements Island Museum.
- Follow and advise on the deployment of new boat.
- Work for greater diversity in programs with an aim to celebrating the contributions of all to the county.
- Review strategic plan for possible action items.