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THEATRE WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT IS FIRST STEP IN MARYLAND HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

ANNAPOLIS—Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts has begun work on the restoration of eight large windows in the Hall’s 850-seat main theatre. The 10-week project to restore the 1932-era windows is the first phase of Maryland Hall’s facility modernization that includes renovation of the theatre, construction of two theatre wings and the creation of a new community theatre.

Over \$3.5 million has already been committed to the \$18 million capital campaign to underwrite the renovations that will transform Maryland Hall into a professional, state-of-the art, 21st century home for the arts. The \$215,000 window restoration project was funded in part by a \$90,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Maryland Hall is located in the Four Rivers Heritage Area and will match the funds for this much-needed project.

During the window restoration project, which began on July 15, contractors will remove all eight windows and cover the window openings with plywood. The sashes will be taken off-site and restored. When that work is completed, they will be returned and placed in the window openings in small sections. Because Maryland Hall’s building has a historic easement, all restoration and renovation projects must be submitted and approved by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT). The window restoration project—part of the overall renovation project—received MHT approval in 2011.

More than 200 original windows were replaced between 2004 and 2005 in Maryland Hall’s classrooms and studios. The eight grand theatre windows and several other windows on the back and sides of the building are the last remaining windows needing modernization.

“For safety reasons and overall aesthetics of the theatre, the completion of this window restoration project is essential”, says Linnell Bowen, President of Maryland Hall. “The timing of

the project is driven by the continued exposure to the weather and further deterioration of the windows and to ensure minimal impact on programming.”

The theatre window project is expected to be completed in mid-September and will not affect summer arts activities or the start of Maryland Hall’s fall performing arts season.

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts is Annapolis’ comprehensive community arts center with a 35-year history of providing classes, workshops, performances, and exhibits to promote lifelong participation in arts education, the visual arts, and performing arts. Each year MHCA serves 100,000 people of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-economic levels through a broad range of arts-related programs. The main theatre at Maryland Hall hosts 125 concerts and events each year including performances by four Resident Companies: Annapolis Opera, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Live Arts Maryland and Ballet Theatre of Maryland.

For more information, go to www.marylandhall.org or call 410-263-5544, ext. 10.

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