

Senate President, and one delegate, appointed by the House Speaker (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-1001 through 9-1006).

COMMISSION ON ARTISTIC PROPERTY

Chairperson: Oden Bowie

Nancy Brennan; William Voss Elder III; Sara Barker Hanan; Dorothy McIlvain Scott.

Ex officio: Winfield M. Kelly, Jr., *Secretary of State*; Mary Pringle Symonds, *President, Historic Annapolis, Inc.*; Dr. Kenneth N. Weaver, *Director, Maryland Geological Survey*

Secretary: Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, *State Archivist*

Nancy M. Bramucci, *Curator*

State Archives
350 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-3915

The Commission on Artistic Property was created in 1969 (Chapter 111, Acts of 1969). It was incorporated into the State Archives in 1984 (Chapter 286, Acts of 1984).

The Commission keeps a continuing inventory of valuable paintings and other decorative arts in all State buildings in the Annapolis area. The Commission also provides for the location, proper care, custody, restoration, display, and preservation of these paintings and decorative arts. Every person, agency, or organization desiring to acquire a painting or other decorative art work for display in a State building or premises in the Annapolis area must secure from the Commission both prior approval and final acceptance of the painting or decorative art work. In such instances, the Commission considers the competence of the artist or creator, the proposed location, and the quality, historical significance, and appropriateness of the work.

The Commission may, with the approval of the Governor and the State Archivist, receive and accept gifts and loans of paintings and decorative art works. With the approval of the Governor, the State Archivist may accept gifts of money for the Commission from any source, public or private, and thereafter administer and expend the funds according to the conditions and terms of the gift.

The Commission consists of eight members appointed by the State Archivist with the approval of the Governor. At least one member must represent a cultural institution in Maryland. Three members serve ex officio. The State Archivist, with the approval of the Governor, designates the chairperson (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-1016 through 9-1023).

MARYLAND OFFICE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Director:

Dr. Gregory A. Stiverson, *Assistant State Archivist*

State Archives
350 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-3864

The Maryland Office for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution was established in March 1985 within the State Archives (General Assembly Resolution no. 506). The Office is responsible for State programs marking the bicentennial of the establishment of the federal government and of the writing and adoption of the Bill of Rights.

The Office planned and coordinated activities commemorating Maryland's role in the creation and adoption of the U.S. Constitution. Among these was the four-day commemoration of the Annapolis Convention Bicentennial in September 1986. The Annapolis Convention, which met in Maryland's capital city on September 11-14, 1786, issued the call for the Philadelphia Convention of 1787, charging it with the responsibility of devising a system of government for the United States that would be "adequate to the exigencies of the Union."

From May 25 to September 17, 1987, the Office coordinated Maryland's observance of the bicentennial of the Philadelphia Convention that drafted the U.S. Constitution. The Office also organized a four-day observance of the bicentennial of Maryland's ratification as the seventh state, April 28—May 1, 1988.

The Office recreated the fifteen-foot miniature ship *Federalist* as a focal point for Maryland's celebration of the Constitution bicentennial. Built entirely with private funds, the *Maryland Federalist* was christened at the Annapolis City Dock on June 13, 1987, and commissioned at Fort McHenry on June 14, 1987. The ship made its public debut in the Grand Federal Procession in Philadelphia on September 17, 1987, and will tour Maryland until 1991 before retiring to a museum as a permanent educational exhibit.

The Office has developed a variety of educational materials, including a week-long elementary school unit, *Maryland and the U.S. Constitution*, and a twelve-page newspaper, the *Maryland Bicentennial Gazette*, for high school students and adults.