

Projects & Events Awarded

- Accokeek Foundation, Inc. (MD) - \$24,437
 - o To support economic development in Southern Maryland and promote cultural tourism while deepening connections to regional heritage through a national traveling exhibit, a 250th anniversary celebration, and a 50th anniversary event honoring the Trail of Self-Determination at Piscataway Park.
- Alice Ferguson Foundation (MD) - \$100,000
 - o To expand heritage and eco-tourism in Accokeek, Maryland, and Piscataway National Park through interactive tools, guided kayaking tours, and educational exhibits highlighting the region's cultural and natural assets.
- Building Bridges Across the River (DC) - \$100,000
 - o To support recreation and conservation and provide river access for over 147,000 people, linking visitors to local trails while fostering deeper engagement with the Anacostia's natural and cultural heritage via the creation of a Kayak and Canoe Launch.
- Captain Avery Museum (MD) - \$25,000
 - o To boost economic development and cultural heritage tourism in South County, Maryland and increasing regional engagement through expanded outreach, programming, and capacity of the 2025 Oyster Festival.
- Chesapeake Conservancy (MD) - \$24,936
 - o To inspire stewardship, promote tourism, and elevate awareness of the Bay's significance through collecting and sharing personal stories from individuals connected to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, preserving its cultural and environmental heritage while fostering community engagement.
- County of Essex (VA) - \$19,238
 - o To enhance the celebration of the rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage of Essex County, fostering community engagement while driving tourism and economic impact through a three-day literary festival.
- County of Essex (VA) - \$100,000
 - o To boost tourism and outdoor recreation, support local economies, and strengthen community pride while highlighting local natural and historical resources of Essex County and its connection to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Friends of the National Arboretum (DC) - \$25,000
 - o To enhance public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay through a day of nature, history, and community celebration, promoting local businesses and regional tourism.
- Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, Inc. (MD) - \$25,000
 - o To enhance Montgomery County's premier cultural event by aligning it with the America 250 celebration and introducing new heritage tours focused on the Chesapeake Bay watershed and local waterways, fostering community pride and increasing tourism throughout the county.
- Historic Annapolis, Inc. (MD) - \$95,231

- o To enhance visitor experiences, promote longer stays, and boost the local economy by establishing a tourism ambassador program in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to educate frontline hospitality and cultural staff on the region's historical, cultural, and natural significance as a Chesapeake Gateway.
- Lancaster County (VA) - \$100,000
 - o To advance the development of nearly a 10-mile biking and walking trail linking three Chesapeake Bay coastal communities in Lancaster County, Virginia, encouraging outdoor recreation, tourism, and economic growth in the Northern Neck National Heritage Area.
- Lancaster County Conservancy (PA) - \$25,000
 - o To increase access to outdoor recreation while supporting both community celebration and sustained progress toward a more economically viable Chesapeake Bay through Lancaster Water Week 2026, which will mark its 10th anniversary alongside the 50th anniversary of the Conestoga River Water Trail and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, offering a powerful moment to honor the region's waterways and their impact on history, community, and the environment.
- Maryland Department of Agriculture (MD) - \$100,000
 - o To boost public appreciation for the Chesapeake Bay and support local economies while enhancing the visibility, sustainability, and strategic growth of Maryland's lands and waterfront communities through strengthening outreach of this statewide collaboration of connecting visitors to the state's agricultural, aquacultural, and outdoor recreation assets through themed trail experiences.
- Maryland Historical Trust (MD) - \$59,715
 - o To offer visitors a deeper understanding of life in Southern Maryland and the broader post-Civil War transformation of rural America through supporting the installation of long-term exhibit exploring the lives of Wallville residents from the 1850s to the 1950s, highlighting the region's rural Chesapeake heritage, including tobacco farming and maritime industries.
- Mayor and Council of Brunswick (MD) - \$10,000
 - o To boost local tourism and economic development through supporting an annual festival that connects visitors to Brunswick's railroad legacy, highlighting the region's cultural and natural heritage within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians Inc. (MD) - \$20,000
 - o To support the 33rd Annual Native American Festival hosted by the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, which showcases centuries of traditions, history, and cultural touchstones, connecting visitors from throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond with the rich history of the Eastern Shore.
- New York Folklore Society - \$95,300
 - o To enhance visitor experiences by revealing the region's deep cultural ties to the Chesapeake Bay watershed through its Indigenous histories and waterways by

supporting a place-marking project that connects residents and visitors to the Indigenous cultural heritage of New York's Susquehanna River watershed.

- Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. (MD) - \$18,745
 - o To support both economic growth and an exploration of the history of the surrounding communities through a series of seasonal public events that will promote tourism and outdoor recreation across the Patapsco Valley and showcase the region's history, nature, arts, and outdoor recreation while orienting visitors to the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area and its role within the Chesapeake watershed.
- Rock Creek Conservancy, Inc. (MD) - \$24,845
 - o To foster public engagement and strengthen community ties to Rock Creek Park through supporting a project to activate the closed Carter Barron Amphitheater in Rock Creek Park through community events that celebrate its cultural legacy and build momentum for its reopening, reconnecting residents with this vital Chesapeake Bay cultural resource.
- ShoreRivers (MD) - \$24,994
 - o To support rural economies and create lasting connections between people and place, encourage care for local waterways, and celebrate the Bay's rich legacy through community-focused, small-group educational experiences across Maryland's Eastern Shore that showcase the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay.
- The Menokin Foundation (VA) - \$25,000
 - o To enhance an annual festival which will highlight Menokin's historical and ecological significance while supporting sustainable tourism, rural revitalization, and Menokin's emerging role as a cultural and economic hub leading up to America's 250th anniversary.
- Town of Buchanan (VA) - \$25,000
 - o To strengthen the local economy while fostering a deeper connection to the area's natural and historical significance through supporting monthly festivals that celebrate local cultural heritage and emphasize the importance of the James River and Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore (MD) - \$100,000
 - o To increase water access to cultural, historic, and natural sites by constructing kayak facilities at Locust Point in Baltimore Harbor, boosting the local water recreation economy through adding to the Baltimore Blueway's network of water trails and public access points for paddle craft around the Baltimore Harbor, the Middle Branch, and the Patapsco River.