



## Five Projects Awarded the Maryland's First Grants to Support the Conservation of Public Art

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While artists and administrators often champion the importance of considering the long-term care and maintenance of public artworks in local collections, funding to support the conservation and restoration of aging works can be challenging to find. In 2020, the Public Art Across Maryland Program launched a new grant program to respond to these needs and directly support public art collection management work throughout the state. The Public Art Conservation grant offers funding for both conservation **planning** (\$5,000) and the **implementation** of conservation projects (up to \$50,000), and aims to encourage collection management best practices such as collaborative planning, community engagement, and working with professionally trained conservators.

The first round of projects to be supported by Public Art Conservation grant awards was selected by a panel in December 2020. A total of \$109,737 was awarded to five projects.

The **Maryland Transit Administration** was awarded a \$5,000 planning grant to develop an inventory and conservation assessment of artworks commissioned for the Baltimore Metro stations.

The **Baltimore Museum of Art** was awarded \$34,988 towards performing critically needed conservation treatment of “Four Dishes” (1967, Alexander Calder), and ultimate relocation back to public display in the Wurtzburger sculpture garden.

The **Chestertown Arts & Entertainment District** was awarded \$14,610 that will be used to cover the artist-led conservation and relocation of two sculptures, “*Butterfly*” by Constance Swaniker, and “*Reading Dog*”, by Jay Langemann. These two works will be relocated to a local elementary school, and a public library and are the first in a series of outdoor sculptures being donated to the town by generous private collectors Hanna and Peter Woicke.

The **City of Baltimore** was awarded \$22,209 to support the cleaning and restoration of the two historic limestone “*Sea Horses*” (1925, Edmond Amateis) on either side of the War Memorial Building, and facing Baltimore’s City Hall.

The **City of Rockville** was awarded \$32,930 to hire a professional conservator to restore two works in the City’s collection “*Untitled*” by William Calfee at Rockville Civic Center Park, and “*Spirit of Rockville*” by Dan Davidson at Courthouse Square Park.