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## **VISIT ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLISHES CIVIL RIGHTS GUIDE**

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (FEBRUARY 22, 2024)** – Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) announces the release of its [\*Civil Rights Guide for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County\*](#), spotlighting 60 historically-significant sites across the region that played pivotal roles during America's Civil Rights Movement. The guide commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed on July 2, 1964.

The guide serves as a tourism-focused resource, showcasing the area's rich heritage and providing detailed walking and driving maps to facilitate exploration of its cultural and historical landmarks. Embedded in the guide are QR codes directly connecting visitors to site-specific oral histories, where community members share their firsthand accounts of life during the Civil Rights Movement.

"The *Civil Rights Guide for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County* shares our community's historical narrative and will inspire our residents as well as enrich the visitor experience," said Kristen Pironis, executive director of Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. "Governor Wes Moore proclaimed 2024 as Maryland's Year of Civil Rights, and we are proud to be a part of that statewide effort by sharing the stories of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County."

The [\*Civil Rights Guide for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County\*](#) amplifies the organization's award-winning [Black History 365](#) tourism initiative, which celebrates the history, heritage, and contributions of Black Marylanders and the narrative of the African Diaspora in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

through immersive travel experiences. Visitors can access the guide online for free and engage with compelling narratives at [www.CivilRightsGuide.com](http://www.CivilRightsGuide.com) or obtain a printed version at the Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Visitors Center located at 26 West Street in downtown Annapolis, the Information Kiosk at Annapolis City Dock, and at Maryland Visitor and Welcome Centers across the region.

This guide was initiated through a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) in partnership with the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area (CCHA). The project involved extensive research, oral histories, and drawing from existing story maps such as *Explore the Civil Rights Era in Anne Arundel County, MD*, and *African American Heritage & Culture in the Four Rivers Heritage Area*. The collaborative effort integrates insights from an advisory group of stakeholders who played a crucial role in shaping the guide.

### **About Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County**

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) is a nonprofit, partnership-focused destination marketing and management organization dedicated to fostering a welcoming destination and promoting tourism for visitors, partners, and the community.

The tourism and hospitality industry in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County significantly impacts Maryland's economy. In 2022, visitor spending injected \$3.8 billion into the state economy, attracting more than 6.8 million visitors, and sustaining 25,708 jobs (both directly and indirectly), according to the 2022 Economic Impact of Tourism in Maryland Report. For more information, please visit [www.VAAAC.org](http://www.VAAAC.org).

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