



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**VISIT ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CELEBRATES THE INDUSTRY  
AND ITS WORKFORCE DURING NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK**

**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND** – Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) is proud to join in the nationwide celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW) from May 19 - May 25, 2024, celebrating the theme of “*TRAVEL. Powering the Economy. Connecting America,*” by announcing the Anchored in Hospitality Online Auction & Raffle. This online event is designed to benefit and bolster the hospitality industry and will directly support the work of the Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Foundation (VAAAC Foundation), a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 2023.

“There is no doubt that tourism drives economic impact and creates a quality of life for visitors and our residents. The workforce is the backbone of our industry, providing exceptional service and creating unforgettable experiences,” said Kristen Pironis, executive director of Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. “Through the Foundation, we aim to support the hospitality workforce to build an even brighter future for our industry and our region.”

According to the Economic Impact of Tourism in Maryland –2022 report, the travel sector is an integral part of Maryland’s economy, sustaining 25,708 jobs, both directly and indirectly, in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County alone. In 2022, 6.8 million visitors to the county injected \$3.8 billion into the state economy.

All funds raised through the VAAAC Foundation support mission-adjacent work in the hospitality and tourism sector, including education and training programs, job fairs, local student internships, and educational offerings.

The online auction & raffle will run concurrently with National Travel & Tourism Week, with bidding to begin on May 19 and closing on May 25. A variety of curated tourism packages and

experiences, generously donated by community and hospitality partners, are available for auction.

To learn more, donate, or support the Anchored in Hospitality Online Auction & Raffle, visit: <https://onecau.se/anchoredinhospitality>

For more information about National Travel & Tourism Week, follow VAAAC on LinkedIn at [@VisitAnnapolis](#).

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

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) is a nonprofit, partnership-focused Destination Marketing/Management Organization (DMMO) dedicated to fostering a welcoming destination and promoting tourism for visitors, partners, and the community. VAAAC's efforts are guided by four core priorities: cultivating and leading a diverse and inclusive hospitality and tourism community, collaborating with partners across the destination, driving prosperity and sustainability, and strengthening organizational capacity. For more information, please visit [www.VAAAC.org](http://www.VAAAC.org).

**About Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Foundation:**

The Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Foundation (VAAAC Foundation) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. The VAAAC Foundation aims to support and invest in the local hospitality and tourism workforce in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. For more information on the Foundation, please visit [www.visitannapolis.org/vaaac/who-we-are/the-foundation](http://www.visitannapolis.org/vaaac/who-we-are/the-foundation).

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