



Maryland
Board of Public Works

Public Comments
Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

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DOLEMAN BLACK HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC.

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Response for the Record

Board of Public Works – March 4, 2026

Item: 10-CGL – Capital Grants and Loans

Board of Directors of The Doleman Black Heritage Museum, Inc.

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Grant of 2024 – \$150,000

February 26, 2026

Good morning, Chair, Comptroller, and Treasurer.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Doleman Black Heritage Museum, Inc., I respectfully submit this statement for the official record in support of Item 10-CGL, the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan (Grant) of 2024 for \$150,000 for the Doleman Black Heritage Museum in Washington County.

We are deeply grateful to the State of Maryland for its continued investment in the preservation and elevation of African American history. This capital grant represents more than a financial allocation—it is an affirmation that the stories rooted in the historic Jonathan Street community in Hagerstown matter, are worthy of preservation, and belong within Maryland's permanent cultural landscape.

The funds will support the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Museum property, ensuring that our future home is structurally sound, historically preserved, and accessible to generations to come. We acknowledge and fully commit to compliance with Maryland Historical Trust consultation requirements and all applicable procurement and preservation standards.

The Doleman Black Heritage Museum safeguards more than 4,500 artifacts that tell the lived experiences of families in a once red-lined neighborhood whose stories are too often omitted from traditional archives. This investment strengthens our capacity to serve as an educational, cultural, and economic asset to Washington County and to the State of Maryland.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Comptroller Brooke Lierman, the Department of General Services, and the Board of Public Works for their leadership and stewardship. We stand ready to proceed responsibly and in full partnership with the State.

With gratitude and respect,

Ms. Janice Kelsh

Secretary, Board of Directors

The Doleman Black Heritage Museum, Inc.