
KEEPING HISTORY ABOVE WATER: ANNAPOLIS

An international gathering on adapting historic coastal communities to sea level rise
Hosted by the City of Annapolis with
Support from the Newport Restoration Foundation.

October 29 – November 1, 2017

Originally convened by the Newport Restoration Foundation in April 2016, *Keeping History Above Water* was one of the first national conversations to focus on the increasing and varied risks posed by rising waters on historic coastal communities and their built environments. *Keeping History Above Water* engages specialists from across the United States and the world to share experiences, examine risks, and discuss solutions with an emphasis on case studies and real world applications. *Keeping History Above Water* approaches the issue of rising waters – inclusive of sea level rise, tidal flooding, extreme precipitation, and subsidence – from a multi-disciplinary perspective in order to develop practical approaches to mitigation, protective adaptation, and resilience.

Given the leadership of Annapolis on cultural resource planning for rising waters through its *Weather It Together: Protect Our Historic Seaport* initiative, the City of Annapolis was selected by the Newport Restoration Foundation – a lead sponsor of *Keeping History Above Water* -- to be the next forum host city. This will be the final public outreach event of the *WIT* team and will build on and leverage the investment in the years long efforts to engage the public on this critical topic. The conference represents the last event in the planning phase efforts for the *WIT* team ahead of implementation in 2018. Practitioners and scholars will continue the dialogue, disseminate best practices, and engage new audiences. Leaders in the fields of historic preservation, business, culture, tourism, economics, urban planning, flood plain management, environment, sustainability, design, engineering, emergency management, and national defense will participate in lectures, workshops, roundtables and tours that focus on practical solutions to the hazards associated with rising waters.

Annapolis will host more than 240 conference participants from October 29 – November 1, 2017 for this international conference, building on the exploration in Newport of the consequences of rising waters, hazard mitigation planning and adaptation strategies in coastal communities worldwide. With Annapolis as host and the States of Maryland and Virginia as key sponsors, a special emphasis will be on flooding impacts in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Themes which will shape the content for *KHAW: Annapolis* are listed below.

- **When Natural and Cultural Resources Connect** – Address how natural resources integrated within a cultural or historical context can serve as an adaptation alternative to protect communities against rising waters.
- **Beyond Engineering** – There are two approaches solicited for this theme.
 - Examining adaptable, engineered solutions to rising waters along with non-structural adaptation strategies.
 - Considering the impact of adaptation on living cultures and intangible cultural heritage.
- **Policy and Politics** – Explore lawmaking and legal implications for communities exposed to flooding and engaged in coastal resiliency.
- **Economics of Rising Waters: Threats and Opportunities** – Identify how local economies are impacted by flooding hazards, how economic development plans address these impacts and/or what new business opportunities are created through community resiliency initiatives.

- **Rising Waters Impacts on National Security** – Share how defense communities are planning for long-term adaptation to flooding and sea level rise.
- **Educating and Empowering the Public** – Discuss community-level communication strategies (interpretive, artistic, digital, technological and social) for increasing public awareness regarding the impacts of rising waters.
- **Considering Codes** – Review examples of how zoning and building code regulations for floodplain management can either conflict with or cooperate with local, state or federal historic preservation regulations.
- **Messaging and Media** – Communicate the key role media plays in disseminating the science of sea level rise as well as the stories of individual and community resiliency efforts.

Audience

The target audience includes a geographically diverse mix of cultural and natural resource professionals, scientists, designers, engineers, planners, property owners and political leaders. Given the proximity of Annapolis to Washington, DC this forum will attract speakers and attendees from international firms, federal agencies, non-profits and the media. Anticipated Chesapeake Bay region participants include land-use planners, real estate, investment and economic development professionals, environmental advocates, private property owners, cultural resource specialists, local and state government officials and historic preservation staff and commissioners. *Keeping History Above Water: Annapolis* will also attract business leaders and innovators working to address adaptation and mitigation efforts as they relate to sea level rise.

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