

MICUA CAPITAL PROJECTS: Building on Success

In the 2007 legislative session, MICUA is requesting \$12 million in capital improvement grants from the State for construction and renovation projects at four member institutions. These colleges and universities plan to use the State grants to leverage over \$70 million in private capital investments. On a relative basis,

MICUA institutions receive about 3.5% of all State capital funds for higher education, down from 6% in fiscal 1995.

“Construction costs have risen rapidly over the past five years; at the same time, enrollment has increased and buildings are aging,” says MICUA



A rendering shows how MICA's Gateway Tower will transform the area.

State support for capital projects at independent colleges has been in decline for close to a decade. MICUA is seeking to reverse this trend, as the capital grant program is a cost-effective means for the State to accommodate enrollment growth and support economic competitiveness.

The capital improvement program for independent colleges began in 1976. Today, State support for an eligible MICUA capital project covers about 20% of the total project costs, compared to 40% a decade ago.

President Tina Bjarekull. “As a result, MICUA has a backlog of eligible capital requests of nearly \$330 million for the next five years. We prioritize requests through a very rigorous internal selection process and request funds for the projects that are most essential to our institutions and to the State.”

Maryland Institute College of Art seeks a grant for an ambitious project that will enable the art school to accommodate increased enrollment and provide Baltimore with a dynamic new landmark, revitalizing a struggling neighborhood. The proposed project—The Gateway—calls for construction of a mixed-use complex that will consist of 24,873 square feet devoted to academic and administrative programs, including studios, seminar room, career center, lecture hall, and student exhibition gallery.

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The site of MICA's proposed project is at the intersection of Mount Royal and North Avenues in Baltimore.

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The building will be constructed at the north end of MICA's urban campus—on a site that had two rundown brick buildings for decades—strategically located at the intersection of Mt. Royal and North Avenues. The handsome seven-story complex will become a “symbol of new energy to the 135,000 people a day who enter Baltimore City on the Jones Falls Expressway from the north,” says MICA President Fred Lazarus. “The Gateway's studio tower will announce that this imaginative new structure relates directly to art and education: two of Baltimore and Maryland's strengths.”

Enrollment at MICA has increased 24% over the past five years, and all students are required to complete projects outside of the classroom. The new building will provide seven floors

of specialized studio units that are accessible to students and faculty 24 hours a day. The estimated cost of this total capital project is over \$25 million;



The boiler rooms at St. John's College have been the site of numerous repairs in recent years.

MICA is requesting a \$3 million capital improvement grant from the State.

St. John's College traces its origins to King William School, established in 1696 in Annapolis to educate young men to take their place as leaders in the New World. The college was chartered by the State of Maryland in 1784. One of the oldest colleges in the State, St. John's faces considerable challenges in updating the campus's historic buildings, many of which were built before the Civil War.

The college needs to replace the existing central heating plant and associated infrastructure, and is requesting \$1 million in capital funds for the \$4.5 million project in order to eliminate the impending risk of a heating system shutdown. Such a shutdown would force classes to be cancelled in “at least one and possibly all three of our classroom buildings,” says St. John's President Christopher Nelson.



McDowell Hall at St. John's College dates back to the 1700s.

“All academic activities would come to a halt, as class time, rather than research or independent study, is the central focus of the academic program at St. John’s College.” St. John’s academic program, based on the reading and discussion of the great books of Western civilization, is unique in Maryland and in the U.S.

The project would provide new infrastructure for climate control in spaces used for and in support of the academic program. The existing central heating plant was built and service lines were installed in 1951, and in recent years the system has suffered numerous breakdowns and leaking steam pipes. These problems are expensive to repair, cause severe safety issues, and disrupt campus activities, according to college officials.

Mount St. Mary’s University is requesting a \$4 million grant to construct a 20,500 square foot addition to an existing building that serves the performing arts academic program. Flynn Hall, the original building, was

theatre departments; it was last renovated in 1985. This project represents the most significant capital improvement for academic facilities on campus in over 30 years; the estimated cost is over \$10

million. The Mount has contracted a Baltimore architectural firm to develop a plan to replace outdated and inadequate space with a state-of-the-art instructional and performance facility.

Mount St. Mary’s routinely opens its campus to the general public for theatre productions, concerts, studio art shows, recitals, and other artistic productions, which are increasingly in demand due to recent population growth and diversification in the region. At present, there is no dedicated facility for the



Flynn Hall at Mount St. Mary’s University was constructed in 1903 as a gymnasium and currently serves as a performing arts center.

visual and performing arts in northern Frederick County. “In addition to enhancing the University’s mission, an expanded fine arts facility would provide Mount St. Mary’s with an opportunity to better serve the cultural needs of a growing local and greater Frederick community,” says Mount St. Mary’s University President

Thomas Powell. “This request was submitted to align with the Bicentennial

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The interior of Flynn Hall reveals the need for renovation and expansion.

built in 1903 as a gymnasium and has been modified to house the music and

Gilman's existing classrooms have changed little since the 1940's with blackboards and a pull-down slide projection screen. Under the proposal, instructional technology will be improved to support passive and interactive computer-based presentations.

in 2008, when the Mount community will celebrate 200 years of service to our students and to society.”

Johns Hopkins University is seeking a \$4 million capital grant to assist in the \$31.5 million renovation of Gilman Hall, the university's first major academic building on the Homewood campus and its flagship structure. Constructed in 1915, Gilman Hall is home to a majority of the university's humanities departments. Renovation would allow for enhanced programming, the reunion of all humanities departments under one roof, and much-needed modernization of teaching and scholarship facilities.

Gilman's existing classrooms have changed little since the 1940's with blackboards and a pull-down slide projection screen. Under the proposal, instructional technology will be improved to support passive and interactive computer-based presentations such that an instructor can walk into any classroom or seminar room with a memory device and begin a presentation with access to real time data and web-based information sources.



Gilman Hall, built in 1915, is the flagship structure of Johns Hopkins' Homewood campus.

The Gilman renovation is part of the Johns Hopkins response to the “Call to Action and Leadership” issued by the Department of Defense in 2004, which urged the country to take action to improve the nation's foreign language capabilities and cultural competency.

“In response to the situation described in the Call to Action, we are developing concrete plans to increase the number of humanities students in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences by as much as 50 percent,” said Johns Hopkins President William Brody. “We also anticipate strategic increases in faculty, especially in disciplines that are of particular importance to today's world. The Gilman renovation will allow us to accommodate such increases and bring campus facilities for the study of humanities and social sciences to the same level as those for science and technology.” ■

