

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 3

RESOLUTION NO. 50 - 2025

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment - Kyla Nichole Cools – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kyla Nichole Cools to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board.

Introduced and read first time on March 3, 2025.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on March 17, 2025.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on April 7, 2025.

Certified by Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.336 and 16.1302 of the Howard County Code provide for a Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Kyla Nichole Cools as a member of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 7 day of April, 2025 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board to serve from the passage of this Resolution to April 7, 2028 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Kyla Nichole Cools
Ellicott City, Maryland

Kyla N. Cools

Professional Experience

Heritage Program Coordinator | Patapsco Heritage Greenway | January 2021-Present

- Manage and expand existing heritage program.
- Maintain relationships with stakeholders and initiate new stakeholder relationships.
- Review & provide feedback to stakeholders applying to Maryland Heritage Area Authority grants and mini-grants, as well as external funding opportunities.
- Create interpretive and promotional content about historical, cultural, and heritage aspects of PVHA.
- Organize & run the annual Patapsco Days celebration, including budget development, marketing, and programming.
- Supervise interns, event assistants, and volunteers in a variety of research and/or fieldwork activities.
- Collaborate with the environmental program manager to create programs and content emphasizing the intersections of environmental sciences with sociocultural and historical structures/legacies.
- Create a cemetery preservation program and collaborate with stakeholders to perform both environmental conservation and historical preservation work at historic cemeteries and burial sites.
- Establish an exhibition consultation and development program to assist local partners and stakeholders develop and design exhibits based on local histories.

Civil Rights Curatorial Team Member | College of Information Sciences, University of Maryland and National Park Service, National Capital Region | August 2020-August 2021

- Work with curatorial team members to identify places, objects, and themes that help explore the history, influence, and legacy of Black Civil Rights.
- Collaborate with the UMD College of Information Sciences KidsTeam program to pilot interpretive messaging and vocabulary.
- Work under supervisors to create exhibit prospectus and preliminary narrative and object labels in compliance with NPS standards.
- Communicate with regional curators to identify additional resources for research and possible stories, objects, and artifacts to feature in the exhibit.

Co-Director | Anthracite Heritage Project | University of Maryland | May 2017-May 2021

- Supervise undergraduate and high school student work in both the field and in lab/classroom settings.
- Advertise for Anthracite Heritage Project programs via various social media channels, field-specific web forums, and listservs.
- Interact with the public and demonstrate archaeological methods and findings at public events.
- Give talks and presentations regarding the Anthracite Heritage Project with co-directors and independently.
- Design, create, implement, and run engagement programs with high schools and community partners.
- Co-author reports for 2017 & 2018 seasons per guidelines required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Manage and edit Anthracite Heritage Project website and social media channels.

Education

- Anthropology | Ph.D. | Current | University of Maryland | 2019-Present, Projected completion: 2025
- Anthropology | M.A.A. | University of Maryland | 2016-2019
- Anthropology, Museum Studies Specialization | B.A. | Michigan State University | 2011-2015

Skills

Software packages

- Microsoft Office Suite Tools: Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, Outlook
- Adobe Tools: Acrobat, Muse, Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere Pro
- Data analysis/visualization: AutoCAD, ArcGIS, Atlas.ti, SPSS

Proficient with PastPerfect, Argus, and ICMS.

Brings delicious baked goods to office events.

