



Preservation
League of NYS



Council on
the Arts

City of Cohoes awarded a Preserve New York Grant

This grant will fund a Building Condition Report of the Cohoes Music Hall & Visitors Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBANY, NY, 07/26/21 — The City of Cohoes is one of this year's [Preserve New York](#) (PNY) grantees. Their **grant of \$16,500** will fund a Building Condition Report for the historic Cohoes Music Hall, and the National Bank Building in which it is housed. The Preservation League of NYS and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) are thrilled to help fund this important work.

Opened in 1874, the Cohoes Music Hall is the fourth-oldest operational music hall in the United States. It serves as a performance space for music and theater, as well as the focal point for community celebrations. In anticipation of its 150th anniversary, and the 50th anniversary of its re-opening after restoration efforts in 1974, the City of Cohoes is seeking to restore the majestic Cohoes Music Hall Theater and preserve the National Bank building in which it and the Cohoes Visitors Center reside. A \$16,500 grant from the Preservation League will enable the City to hire Lacey Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture and Preservation LLP to conduct a Building Condition Report that will provide a prioritized list of the separate projects required to complete this comprehensive revitalization.

"The Cohoes Music Hall is a gem in need of polish. Although work has been done over the years, both in the theater and in the National Bank Building in which it resides, clearly the building is suffering from deferred maintenance and lack of attention to its historic significance. Its architectural style, its history of hosting celebrated performers and performances, and its role as a gathering space for important celebrations and other moments of note in the life of our community, all make it worthy of our efforts to sustain it," said **Cohoes Mayor Bill Keeler**. "We thank the Preservation League of New York State for providing this essential funding so that we can work with Cohoes native Mark Thaler and other experts at Lacey, Thaler, Reilly Wilson Architecture and Preservation to get a comprehensive understanding of the work that needs to be done."

At its 2021 meeting, an independent grant panel selected **32 applicants in 25 counties to receive support totaling \$297,995**. Each grant supports important arts and cultural initiatives, as well as economic development related to our state's arts and cultural heritage. Many of these grants will lead to historic district designation or expansion, telling the stories of communities throughout the state and allowing property owners to take advantage of the New York State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. This is even more valuable now, with the NYS Commercial Historic Tax Credit recently expanded for

small projects, granting property owners a 30% credit. With the announcement of the 2021 awards, support provided by Preserve New York since its launch in 1993 totals more than \$3.3 million to 489 projects statewide.

The Preserve New York program is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League, made possible with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has generously provided additional funds to support nonprofit projects in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Since 1993, Preserve New York has been providing funds to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that need technical, professional assistance to guide a variety of preservation projects. The historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys funded through this program lead to positive outcomes across New York's 62 counties.

2021 PNY Grant Recipients:

Albany County: Village of Voorheesville/Town of New Scotland - \$10,000; City of Cohoes - \$16,500 | **Broome County:** Tri-Cities Opera Company, Inc. - \$6,000 | **Chautauqua County:** City of Jamestown - \$10,000 | **Chemung County:** Elmira College - \$10,000 | **Chenango County:** Earlville Opera House Inc. - \$8,000 | **Dutchess County:** Van Wyck Council on the Arts and Culture, Inc., dba Howland Cultural Center - \$10,000; Wassaic Project - \$8,160 | **Erie County:** University Heights Collaborative, Inc. - \$9,120; Western New York Minority Media Professionals, Inc. - \$10,000 | **Franklin County:** Malone Revitalization Foundation, Inc. - \$9,150 | **Greene County:** Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society - \$10,000 | **Monroe County:** Highland Park Conservancy - \$15,000; Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society - \$8,000 | **Montgomery County:** Village of Fort Plain - \$9,150 | **Nassau County:** Science Museum of Long Island - \$10,000 | **New York County:** Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation - \$12,000 | **Ontario County:** Town of Canandaigua - \$15,000 | **Orange County:** Chester Historical Society - \$5,200 | **Orleans County:** Medina Railroad Museum - \$8,000 | **Otsego County:** Otsego 2000 - \$12,500 | **Putnam County:** Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition - \$9,600; Town of Carmel - \$6,200 | **Rensselaer County:** City of Troy - \$9,100 | **Saratoga County:** Village of Round Lake - \$8,000 | **Steuben County:** Steuben County Historical Society - \$10,000 | **Suffolk County:** Town of East Hampton - \$5,600; Rocky Point Historical Society - \$6,685 | **Tompkins County:** Friends of Stewart Park - \$6,640 | **Ulster County:** Jewish Federation of Ulster County - \$9,440; Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen, Inc. - \$5,750 | **Warren County:** Hyde Collection - \$9,500

"We are proud to continue our partnership with the Preservation League of New York State to support projects that foster community, and celebrate our State's rich history" said **Mara Manus, NYSCA Executive Director**. "NYSCA remains dedicated to preserving New York State's cultural footprint and we look forward to seeing these vital preservation projects realized. Congratulations to all!"

"Navigating the difficulties and hardships of the past year has been a challenge for nonprofits and municipalities across the state," said **Erin Tobin, Vice President for Policy and Preservation and the Preservation League**. "The League is grateful to our program partners at NYSCA and the Gardiner Foundation for continuing to support Preserve New York, which will grant much-needed dollars to so many worthwhile preservation projects this year."

About the Preservation League of New York State

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts, and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs across the state.

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