



Preservation
League of NYS



Council on
the Arts

Philmont Beautification, Inc. awarded a Preserve New York Grant

This grant will fund a Cultural Resource Survey of the Village of Philmont

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JAMESTOWN, NY, 08/21/19 — Philmont Beautification, Inc. (PBI) is one of this year's Preserve New York (PNY) grantees. Their **grant of \$10,000** will enable PBI to hire Jessie Ravage of Cooperstown to complete a village-wide reconnaissance level survey of Philmont. This survey will help determine the boundaries of a potential State and National Register Historic District. This designation could ultimately benefit the work of PBI and residents by allowing them to use the Federal and NYS Historic Tax Credits for rehabilitation projects.

"This grant award will assist in advancing the Comprehensive Plan recommendation and the Summit Lake and its Watercourse BOA plan, including the vision to conduct a village-wide survey of historic buildings," said **John Gourlay, President, Philmont Beautification, Inc.** "It will enable the community and the Village of Philmont to evaluate the creation of one or more historic districts connected to the history of mills in the village. PBI is delighted to have been chosen for this grant award that will assist with hiring the consultant, Jessie Ravage, to conduct this survey with the participation of PBI and one of the community-based BOA Working Groups."

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.

Philmont was incorporated as a village in 1892 and by the early 1900s, seven different families had constructed seven different mills within the village boundary. Today, several of these mill buildings remain along with a variety of residential architecture, churches, an opera house, hotels and taverns, mill worker rowhouses, and a commercial streetscape. Following WWII, much of the mill industry left and the area fell into decline. PBI was formed in the early 2000s by a group of citizens who wished to revitalize the village.

The 2019 PNY grant cycle was the most competitive in the program's 26-year history. An independent jury met in June to review over 70 applications. After two days of deliberations, \$262,498 was awarded to 31 projects across 25 counties.

Preserve New York is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League of NYS. PNY enables the Preservation League to support projects in all of New York's 62 counties.

Since 1993, the Preserve New York grant program 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 that are funded through this program can have profound impacts on the sites they are studying.

With the announcement of the 2019 awards, support provided by PNY since its launch totals more than \$2.8 million to 438 projects statewide.

2019 PNY Grant Recipients:

Bronx County: Historic Districts Council - \$14,000; **Cayuga County:** Seward House Museum - \$10,000; **Chautauqua County:** Jamestown Renaissance Corporation - \$4,208; **Clinton County:** Town of Schuyler Falls - \$10,000; **Columbia County:** Philmont Beautification, Inc. - \$10,000 & Columbia County Historical Society - \$10,000; **Delaware County:** West Kortright Centre - \$4,764; **Dutchess County:** Village of Rhinebeck - \$7,875 & Red Hook Public Library - \$2,600; **Erie County:** Preservation Buffalo Niagara - \$20,000; **Essex County:** The Depot Theatre, Inc. - \$4,712; **Greene County:** Zadock Pratt Museum, Inc. - \$6,400 & Greene County Council on the Arts - \$13,191; **Lewis County:** Lewis County Historical Society - \$10,000; **Madison County:** Smithfield Community Association - \$13,017; **Montgomery County:** Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank - \$5,200 & Historic Amsterdam League - \$14,560; **Nassau County:** North Shore Land Alliance - \$12,000; **New York County:** Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation - \$10,000; **Rensselaer County:** Village of Castleton-on-Hudson - \$3,000; **Rockland County:** John Green Preservation Coalition - \$8,000; **Saratoga County:** Town of Corinth - \$10,000; **Schoharie County:** Jefferson Historical Society - \$6,883 & County of Schoharie - \$3,968; **Suffolk County:** Preservation Long Island - \$7,900 & Yaphank Historical Society - \$9,200; **Tioga County:** Village of Owego - \$8,000; **Warren County:** Richards Library - \$4,000; **Wayne County:** Baptist Rural Cemetery Association of Sodus Center - \$1,700; **Westchester County:** Village of Larchmont - \$10,000; **Yates County:** Village of Penn Yan - \$7,320

“NYSCA is proud to support the vitality and character of our communities through our Preserve New York partnership, which provides key resources to historic sites, buildings, and cultural centers statewide and underscores the importance of architecture and landscape design in community revitalization and economic development,” said **NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus**.

“Thanks to the League’s record of making effective preservation grants through Preserve New York and TAG, our program partner, the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), has increased regrant funding significantly over the past several years,” said **Erin Tobin, Vice President for Policy and Preservation and the Preservation League**. “At the same time, in response to growing demand, the League has successfully lined up additional support to leverage NYSCA funding and League resources. NYSCA and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation make these grants possible through their program partnership and financial support.”

The Preserve New York grant program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has provided additional support for projects in Nassau, Suffolk and Bronx Counties.

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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