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PRESERVATION BUFFALO NIAGARA LAUNCHES TRADITIONAL TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS INCREASED LOCAL DEMAND FOR PRESERVATION SERVICES

New Initiative Aimed at Training the Next Generation of Tradespeople Will Debut with a Historic Window Rehabilitation Training and Certification on March 12

Buffalo, NY – January 11, 2019: As sustainable building practices and historic preservation gain popularity, and as more and more Western New York homes are covered by significant preservation incentives, the number of older structures needing rehabilitation and restoration has skyrocketed. However, despite this clear upward trend, the number of skilled preservation trades craftspeople available for local projects has not kept pace with the market demand for these unique and highly technical services.

Preservation Buffalo Niagara's (PBN) new Traditional Building Trades Program is designed to address this critical need and is suitable for contractors, students, and professionals, as well as anyone interested in enhancing their training in the rehabilitation of historic properties.

Recognizing that working with historic building fabric requires a distinct set of skills, courses will be presented in five subject areas: Repair and Rehabilitation of Historic Windows; Energy Retrofitting of Historic Buildings; Maintenance and Repair of Historic Masonry Systems; Preservation Carpentry and Woodworking; and Repair of Historic Plaster and Stucco. In addition to including a general overview of historic preservation, each course will provide hands-on training with historic building materials, field work at historic buildings and in neighborhoods, and traditional classroom training. Participants can take all the courses or focus on individual offerings based on their interests and training needs.

"Western New York is blessed with a treasure trove of historic architecture and talented trades people, but as we have expanded interest in preservation, we have found that the supply of trained craftspeople has not caught up with demand," said PBN Executive Director Jessie Fisher. "We are very excited to bring this training to Buffalo and are looking forward to incubating the next generation of tradespeople. Preservation means job creation, and we are looking forward to creating a pathway into this satisfying and important"

The program is being offered in conjunction with the New York State Division for Historic Preservation (SHPO), which will issue certificates of completion for participants of the program. Additionally, those who complete courses will be listed in PBN's online database of preservation services and resources.

"We are pleased to join Preservation Buffalo Niagara in this workforce development initiative. The lack of skilled craftspeople to undertake work on older buildings was identified during the NYS Division for Historic Preservation's 2015-2020 statewide planning process," says Daniel Mackay, Deputy Commissioner of Historic Preservation at the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. "Our legacy communities are composed of building stock that far out-number those constructed after the post-World War II construction boom. Whether the property has landmark designation or not, these buildings require special skills that are currently being lost. For an entrepreneurial contractor, one only need to look at their built environment to see where the opportunities are."

The first course to be offered will be Repair and Rehabilitation of Historic Windows. Beginning on March 12, 2019, and running through May 11, the course will be taught twice a week and will include a hands-on field work component on a local historic building. Topics to be covered include:

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- Removal of glazing and remaining paint techniques;
- Preparing sashes for glaze and paint;
- Glass types, selection, and preparation;
- Glazing putty selection and practice with mixing and using;
- Window frame repair and preparation;
- Energy efficiency and energy modeling;
- Weathering windows, types of weather stripping, and storm windows;
- Window priming and painting; and
- Re-installing sashes to frames and hardware.

The course will be taught by Steve Swiat of Northwood Historic Restoration. With over twenty years of experience, Swiat has been one of the leaders of the historic window restoration community in Western New York, working on resources from individual homes in the City of Buffalo to National Park Service-owned historic sites.

“When properly rehabbed, retaining historic windows makes much more financial and environmental sense than replacing them,” said Swiat. “I am excited to work with PBN and the New York State Historic Preservation Office to pass this knowledge onto the next generation of crafts people.”

Participants should have basic construction skills and be looking to expand their knowledge in specific preservation-related trades and crafts. The cost of the windows course is \$750 prior to February 15, and is \$775 between February 15 and March 1. All course materials will be included. Because these courses are designed to be extremely hands-on, enrollment is strictly limited. Early registration is highly recommended.

Additional information as well as enrollment applications can be found at www.preservationbuffaloniagara.org/tbt.

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Preservation Buffalo Niagara identifies, protects, and promotes our unique architecture and historic legacy, and connects people to the places they love in Western New York.