



Preservation
League of NYS



Council on
the Arts

Preservation Buffalo Niagara awarded a Preserve New York Grant

This grant will fund a Cultural Resource Survey of Buffalo's East Side

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBANY, NY, 08/26/19 — Preservation Buffalo Niagara is one of this year's [Preserve New York \(PNY\) grantees](#). With this **\$20,000 PNY grant**, Preservation Buffalo Niagara will hire Bero Architecture of Rochester to complete an East Side historic context study. This study will help inform future preservation efforts, including potential historic districts and help ensure that a previously underserved area of the city has equal access to preservation protection and incentives.

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.

Buffalo's East Side initially developed in the 19th century but has continued to evolve through today. Comprised of multiple neighborhoods, each contain their own architectural and social history, while also illustrating Buffalo's post-World War II evolution and the history of the local African American community. The East Side currently has several local historic districts, one National Register Historic District, and many properties that are individually listed or eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Implicit and explicit policies regarding demolition and investment threaten the East Side's built environment. Residents and preservation advocates believe that recognition of their neighborhood's significance through formal preservation protection, which will also open up rehabilitation incentives, will help protect their community.

"This grant is a critical step forward to ensuring that the historic legacy of our entire community is understood and appropriately protected" said **Jessie Fisher, Executive Director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara**. "Ensuring that the benefits of preservation are applied equitably across our entire City and region are of primary importance to us here at PBN."

\$20,000 in matching funds will also be provided by New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who represents most of the area impacted by the study.

"This grant money will go a long way in preserving the history and ensuring the future of Buffalo's historically African-American neighborhoods," said **Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes**. "Thanks to the Preservation League of New York State, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and Bero Architecture, the foundation is being laid to help preserve an important part of our city's history for generations to come. The historic preservation status that other neighborhoods enjoy will soon assist more homeowners with financial support for repairs and beautification efforts."

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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