

State Announces \$3.46 Million in Capital Grants for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Public Historic Sites

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PROVIDENCE, RI – Governor Dan McKee, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) jointly announced today the recipients of 24 State Cultural Facilities Grants and 18 State Preservation Grants. Together, the projects represent some \$2.28 million from RISCA and more than \$1.18 million from RIHPHC for capital preservation work at public and nonprofit arts and performance facilities, museums, cultural arts centers and historic sites throughout the state.

“Rhode Island is rich in history, arts, and culture, which play a significant role in our economy in every city and town,” said Governor McKee. “Through this funding, our state will continue to be a leader nationally in historic preservation, and arts and culture. On behalf of the State of Rhode Island, our congratulations to these organizations, and thank you to RISCA and RIHPHC for their work to improve the quality of life in our State.”

“Rhode Island is recognized nationally as a leader in historic preservation and the arts,” said Jeffrey Emidy, Interim Executive Director of the RIHPHC. “These state grants are investments that build on our strengths.”

“Rhode Islanders recognized the significance of these investments in their community and their importance to our state’s economy,” said Faye Zuckerman, RISCA’s Director of Communication. “Our museums, cultural arts centers and performance spaces, which are open to the public, will receive the capital improvements they badly need.”

In March 2021, Rhode Island voters passed the Cultural Arts and State Preservation Grants Programs ballot measure, which authorized the state to allocate \$7 million in funding for arts, culture and historic facilities. Of the \$7 million, \$2 million was appropriated to RISCA for competitive grants while \$1 million went to RIHPHC to fund grants for capital improvements to key historic facilities. Carryover funds from the 2014 \$30 million ballot measure totaling \$460,930 were included in the grants being distributed. Both programs require grantees to secure matching funds for their projects.

Some examples of the 42 projects include:

- Teatro ECAS, Rhode Island’s only Spanish-language theatre, will renovate a new performance space in the Valley Arts District of Providence. \$204,420.
- The City of Central Falls will complete critical structural repairs to Cogswell Tower, built in 1904, located in historic Jenks Park. \$150,000.
- Historic New England will replace the roof and gutter system of the circa 1796 barn at Watson Farm in Jamestown. The barn is a rare 18th century structure still in use for farm activities, and also provides space for programming and farm tours. \$69,000.
- The East Providence Historical Society will install storm windows and complete exterior repairs at the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center in Rumford. Built in 1751, the house contains local history exhibits, an education center, library and meeting space. \$26,865.
- Exeter-based Tomaquag Museum will build a new campus in a partnership with the University of Rhode Island. The new facility will increase the Museum’s capacity and visibility. \$250,000.

- The Artists' Exchange, located in Cranston, will renovate its lower-level multipurpose room. This project will ensure code and safety compliance while expanding programming space. \$40,000.

List of Grantees

ORGANIZATION NAME	LOCATION	AWARD	GRANT NAME
Herreshoff Marine Museum	Bristol	\$112,000	State Preservation Grant
Linden Place	Bristol	\$28,200	State Preservation Grant
City of Central Falls	Central Falls	\$150,000	State Preservation Grant
Artists' Exchange	Cranston	\$40,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association	Cumberland	\$75,000	State Preservation Grant
Cape Verdean Museum	East Providence	\$100,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
East Providence Historical Society	East Providence	\$26,865	State Preservation Grant
Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum	Exeter	\$250,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Foster Preservation Society	Foster	\$11,900	State Preservation Grant
Historic New England	Jamestown	\$69,000	State Preservation Grant
South County Art Association	Kingston	\$128,535	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Newport Art Museum and Art Association	Newport	\$18,700	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Island Moving Co.	Newport	\$250,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Newport Performing Arts Center	Newport	\$50,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
La Farge Restoration Fund	Newport	\$94,109	State Cultural Facilities Grant
La Farge Restoration Fund	Newport	\$150,000	State Preservation Grant
Fort Adams Trust	Newport	\$122,500	State Preservation Grant
Preservation Society of Newport County	Newport	\$74,250	State Preservation Grant
Newport Restoration Foundation	Newport	\$30,000	State Preservation Grant
Pawtucket Public Library	Pawtucket	\$58,100	State Preservation Grant
Teatro ECAS	Providence	\$204,429	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Providence Performing Arts Center	Providence	\$100,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Rhode Island School of Design Museum	Providence	\$45,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Festival Ballet Providence	Providence	\$13,820	State Cultural Facilities Grant
DownCity Design	Providence	\$100,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
The Steel Yard	Providence	\$36,400	State Preservation Grant
The Steel Yard	Providence	\$53,178	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Dirt Palace Public Projects	Providence	\$49,880	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Community MusicWorks	Providence	\$84,275	State Cultural Facilities Grant
The Players	Providence	\$90,500	State Cultural Facilities Grant
AS220	Providence	\$61,976	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Wilbury Theatre Group	Providence	\$56,079	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Oasis International	Providence	\$150,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Museum of Natural History and Planetarium	Providence	\$88,500	State Preservation Grant
Rhode Island Historical Society	Providence	\$48,000	State Preservation Grant
Scituate Historical Society	Scituate	\$9,900	State Preservation Grant

South County History Center	South Kingstown	\$42,075	State Preservation Grant
Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre	Warwick	\$128,327	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum	Warwick	\$50,000	State Preservation Grant
Stadium Theatre Foundation	Woonsocket	\$73,133	State Cultural Facilities Grant
Beacon Charter Schools Corp.	Woonsocket	\$95,000	State Cultural Facilities Grant
RiverzEdge Arts Project	Woonsocket	\$41,300	State Cultural Facilities Grant
TOTAL		\$3,460,931	