



Cultural Conservation Grants

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In 1998, the State Legislature established the Conservation License Plate Trust Fund, to be funded from the sales of special license plates, commonly known as moose plates. The Trust supplements existing state environmental and cultural conservation and preservation programs. The Department of Cultural Resources is distributing a portion of its share of these funds through its three divisions (Arts, Library, and Historical Resources) as cultural conservation grants.

The State Arts Council has funds available to make grants for conserving publicly owned cultural facilities, documents, and/or artworks that contribute to New Hampshire's arts and cultural heritage. The State Library and Historical Resources divisions are also offering grant programs for conservation projects specific to libraries and historic properties. Contact the State Library (603-271-2393) or the Division of Historical Resources (603-271-3483) for more information on those grants. For arts and cultural facilities projects, contact Yvonne Stahr at ystahr@nharts.state.nh.us, or 603-271-0791.

Full guidelines and application forms may be found on the State Arts Council's website:
<http://www.nh.gov/nharts/grantsandservices/grants/organizationalsupport/conservation.htm>.

Who May Apply

New Hampshire municipalities and towns, county agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, or nonprofits that manage publicly owned historic cultural facilities, arts documents or artworks that contribute to the state's cultural heritage.

Maximum Grant Amount

Requests may be made for \$5,000 - \$20,000.

Required Match

Grants must be matched with in-kind contributions of goods or services or cash (or any combination of the two) on a two-to-one basis, i.e., a \$10,000 grant requires a match of \$5,000 in cash, or donations of goods or services equivalent to \$5,000, or any combination of cash and in-kind donations amounting to \$5,000.

Eligible Projects

- Projects that conserve publicly owned artwork or arts documents that contribute to New Hampshire's cultural heritage.
- Projects that preserve the historic fabric and function of cultural facilities while making those facilities, and the art programming that takes place in, them more accessible to the public, including people with disabilities.
- Projects that improve public access to historic artwork or arts documents while protecting and preserving the originals.

Definitions

For purposes of this grant, "historic" refers to those buildings, arts documents, or artworks 50 or more years old. "Cultural facilities" refers to buildings where art programming (exhibitions or performances) makes up at least 50% of the activities that take place in the building. "Arts documents" refer to a New Hampshire artist's or arts organization's papers, photographs, or recordings that are 50 or more years old, publicly owned or being prepared for donation to the state's NH Artist Archives. "Arts documents" include original manuscripts by New Hampshire choreographers, authors, or composers; original business papers and photographs that document an artist's work; and recordings of historic performances by New Hampshire artists. "Artwork" refers to original artworks, not reproductions. All artworks must be tangible.

Visual arts conservation includes: paintings (applied directly to building interiors or exteriors or portable, framed easel paintings), sculpture (freestanding and relief), decorative arts (crafts in fiber, clay, wood, stone, metal), graphic arts (e.g., etchings, engravings, woodcuts, wood engravings, silkscreens, drawings, photographs). Performing arts conservation includes: hand-crafted musical instruments, stage backdrops or painted curtains, and other items 50 or more years old that enhance music, dance, or theatre performances.

Sample Projects

- A historic structures report for an old town hall that a community group wants to turn into an arts center.
- Contracting with an archivist to prepare the papers of a New Hampshire art organization, founded prior to 1954, or a New Hampshire artist, for donation to the New Hampshire Artist Archives, a joint project of the NH State Council on the Arts and the NH State Library.
- The coating of windows to protect against damage from ultraviolet light on decorative textile arts exhibited in an historic property managed by the state division of parks.
- Conservation cleaning and treatment for a Civil War memorial by a noted artist in a national historic site located in NH.
- The conservation and exhibition of 19th century White Mountain School oil paintings and pencil sketches owned by a town library.
- The purchase of archival materials to store a collection of historic recordings of a contra dance caller from the 1940s donated to a state college or university archives.

- The restoration of an organ in an historic property owned by the town allowing it to be played for public performances.
- The preservation of original hand-painted stage curtains or scenery designed in the early 20th century for local opera houses or town halls.
- The restoration of a mural painted by a WPA artist in a U.S. post office located in New Hampshire.

Funding Criteria

- ◆ Art Historical Significance of Conservation Project
- ◆ Degree of Public Benefit
- ◆ Quality of Project

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