

PRESS RELEASE

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Historic Saranac Lake Awarded IMLS Museums for America Grant

SARANAC LAKE, NY — Historic Saranac Lake (HSL) is honored to announce that it has been awarded a Museums for America grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to plan for the long-term preservation of its collections. The \$20,650 award will fund the creation of a long-range Collections Preservation Plan for HSL's collections over the course of a year. This plan will include recommendations for environmental control, disaster planning, security, housekeeping, collection storage and housing, digital storage, reformatting, and conservation treatment, based on a 2011 assessment completed with a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant. The plan will not only look at next steps for the collection, but also update existing policies and set up long-term goals for the museum and its collections.

“We are excited to receive this grant and continue our work to ensure the long-term preservation of our collections. These artifacts help tell the story of Saranac Lake's unique history as a tuberculosis treatment destination, and help us connect visitors of all ages with the people who made Saranac Lake what it is today,” said Chessie Monks-Kelly, Museum Administrator. “The collections are always growing, and we want to make sure we have a plan to ensure that they are available to tell that story for generations to come.”

Through the agency's largest competitive grant program, Museums for America, IMLS announced \$19,189,929 in grants for museums across the nation. A total of 132 projects were selected from 558 applications requesting \$104,538,159 in funding, and the institutions receiving the awards are matching them with \$29,122,788 in non-federal funds. Of the 132 recipients this year, 45 museums are each receiving funds of \$25,000 or less through the program's category for smaller projects with no cost share requirements.

“Museums for America is instrumental in helping museums of all disciplines, all sizes, and all budgets across the country address opportunities identified by their organization as central to

achieving their missions,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “It is humbling to read the many applications about the varied ways museums are improving quality of life in communities large and small, and responsibly caring for culturally significant objects.”

About Historic Saranac Lake and the Saranac Laboratory Museum

Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit architectural preservation organization that captures and presents local history from their center at the Saranac Laboratory Museum. The Saranac Laboratory Museum is open year-round, Tuesday-Friday from 10-4, and Memorial Day through Columbus Day, Tuesday-Saturday from 10-4. Visitors can learn about Saranac Lake’s unique history as a tuberculosis treatment destination, and view “The Roaring Twenties: Check into a Grand Hotel,” an exhibit on the 1920s and the hotels of the era. To learn more, visit www.history.saranaclake.org.

About IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission has been to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. For the past 20 years, our grant making, policy development, and research has helped libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

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Image: Institute of Museum and Library Services logo



Image: The Saranac Laboratory Museum.