

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2023

Contact: Amy Catania, Executive Director
HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE
518-891-4606
amy@historicsaranaclake.org

HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE AWARDED MAJOR GRANT, TRUDEAU BUILDING CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Saranac Lake, NY — Historic Saranac Lake announced the beginning of construction at the Trudeau Building. The building will undergo complete rehabilitation for expansion of Historic Saranac Lake’s museum at the neighboring Saranac Laboratory.

Historic Saranac Lake has received a grant award totaling \$400,000 from the New York Council on the Arts (NYSCA). The grant provides the last funding needed for the rehabilitation of the Trudeau Building. “We are thrilled to be moving into the construction phase,” said Historic Saranac Lake Board President Amy Jones. “We have spent a lot of time planning and fundraising, and it’s finally time to get started.”

The firm leading the building’s rehabilitation is Bishop Beaudry Construction of Schenectady. “We are excited to be working with Bishop Beaudry,” said Executive Director Amy Catania. “They are a respected firm with demonstrated success in historic preservation. Working together with our architectural team, Kim and Jack Alvarez at Landmark Consulting, we know the building is going to turn out beautifully.”

Historic Saranac Lake has raised over \$5 million to support the acquisition of the building, architectural design, improvements at the neighboring Saranac Laboratory Museum, and rehabilitation of the Trudeau Building. Funds have come in the form of state and federal grants, historic preservation tax credits, as well as private support and foundation grants.

“We are extremely grateful for such widespread support for the project,” said Catania. “People understand how much this expanded museum matters to the cultural and economic life of the community.” Despite fundraising success, she added, more funds will be needed to open the museum. “Fundraising continues for the new exhibits and for a second phase of construction, to add a handicap lift to the laboratory.”

Built in 1894 as Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau’s home and medical office, the building was operated as medical offices until Historic Saranac Lake purchased it in 2019. Significant work will be performed inside and out to bring the historic building back to life and into a new use as

a museum and research library. Handicap accessibility and fire suppression will be installed. The blue vinyl siding will be removed and replaced with wood clapboards painted the original dark red. Site improvements will integrate the Trudeau Building with the neighboring Saranac Laboratory Museum to create one unified museum campus presenting the history of the Saranac Lake region. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for the summer, date to be announced.

This grant is part of a record capital project funding announcement by NYSCA, which totals over \$42 million to 144 capital projects across New York State.

“Strengthening our creative sector increases tourism, boosts our economy, and enhances the rich heritage and cultural life of New York State,” Governor Hochul said. “These record grants will support a wide range of diverse and innovative projects at our arts and cultural organizations across the state, helping ensure all who visit will continue to have wonderful experiences for years to come.”

NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus said, “We are grateful to Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature for this fifth year of significant capital funding. This investment affirms the pivotal role the arts and culture play in our state's economic prosperity. A round of applause to Historic Saranac Lake – your transformative project will ensure that our vibrant arts and cultural anchors continue to grow and thrive.”

NYSCA Chair Katherine Nicholls said, “These capital project grants are an investment from the people of New York to the people of New York and will have positive impact on our communities for many years to come. On behalf of the Council and staff, I congratulate Historic Saranac Lake and look forward to seeing all that will flourish from this project.”

“Congratulations to Historic Saranac Lake for receiving a \$400,000 grant from the New York State Council of the Arts,” said Assemblyman Billy Jones (D-Chateaugay Lake). “HSL works incredibly hard to preserve Saranac Lake’s history and tell the important stories of the many people who have called this place home. I am pleased that they are getting the recognition they deserve. It is also great news that HSL has moved forward with their plans for the Trudeau Building and hired Bishop Beaudry Construction to lead this project. I am proud to have helped secure funding for this transformation and look forward to the construction starting soon.”

About the New York State Council on the Arts

NYSCA preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit. NYSCA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development, and quality of life. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, NYSCA will award record funding in FY 2023, providing support across the full breadth of the arts.

NYSCA further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, NYSCA is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit <http://www.arts.ny.gov>, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, Twitter @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts.

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Images:

- Historic Saranac Lake logo
- NYSCA Capital Projects Logo
- Architectural Rendering of Trudeau Building after construction
- HSL staff Emily Banach and Chessie Monks-Kelly pose with grant signage in front of the Trudeau Building, April 2023.



