

Media Release

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HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE AWARDED TWO GRANTS FROM THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

February 16, 2021 Saranac Lake, NY Historic Saranac Lake (HSL) announced that it has been awarded two new grants from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). The two grants represent a significant endorsement from New York State for the Historic Saranac Lake's museum and public programs.

"NYSCA has been an essential, longtime partner," stated HSL Executive Director, Amy Catania. "NYSCA support has enabled us to build our organization and our programs over the years, to the point that we are now undertaking a major expansion of our museum. These grants come at a crucial time for us. They represent a huge vote of confidence in the future of Historic Saranac Lake."

One grant of \$25,000 per year for 2021 and 2022 will support the general operations of HSL's museum, the Saranac Laboratory on Church Street. (The museum is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, but looks forward to reopening this spring.) The general operating support grant will support HSL's ongoing collection care, museum exhibits, and museum programs.

Museum Administrator, Chessie Monks-Kelly, has worked over the last five years to organize and build HSL's collection. "With support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Northern New York Library Network, and now NYSCA, we are making huge strides in making our collections available to the public. We will soon be able to offer in-person research opportunities, expanded exhibits, and a searchable online catalog to connect our unique history with a worldwide audience."

In 2019, HSL purchased the neighboring historic Trudeau Building for expansion of the museum. "We look forward to establishing a two-building museum campus in the heart of downtown Saranac Lake that explores the story of Trudeau and tuberculosis as well

as the broader history of the Saranac Lake region,” explained Catania.

A project grant of \$15,000 from NYSCA’s Architecture and Design program will support HSL’s flagship program, the Cure Porch on Wheels. Historic Saranac Lake brings the Porch to the hamlets, neighborhoods, and special places of the North Country for programs that raise awareness of local architecture and history. The project grant will enable HSL to hire a new Cure Porch and Public Programs Coordinator in the spring of 2021.

In addition to the two new grants, in 2020 HSL received a NYSCA Workforce Investment grant through the Regional Economic Development Council. The second year of funding for the position has been released. The two year matching grant supports a new staff position, a Membership and Grants Manager. HSL hired Adam Guillette in early 2020 to fill the position. “We are happy to have NYSCA’s support for this second year,” stated Mr. Guillette. “We look forward to continuing to grow membership and fundraising efforts in the coming year to support the development of the new museum.”

Upon releasing news of awards in 2021, NYSCA stated, “The arts are central to the health of our state’s economy and individuals, and over these last eleven months we have been nourished by a resilient arts sector that continues to sustain us in the face of isolation and fear. From pivoting to exciting digital programming, to reimagining missions, and strengthening vital community services, the innovation of New York’s arts and culture sector is truly inspiring.”

Historic Saranac Lake’s programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Historic Saranac Lake’s Workforce Investment project is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts under Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council Initiative.

Founded in 1980, Historic Saranac Lake’s mission is to preserve and present area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

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Images:

- Historic Saranac Lake logo
- The Saranac Laboratory Museum
- Architectural Rendering of The Trudeau Building, future site of Historic Saranac Lake’s museum expansion.



