



The New Jersey Cultural Trust

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

October 14, 2004

The New Jersey Cultural Trust Awards Capital Historic Preservation Grants

(Trenton, New Jersey – October 14, 2004) The New Jersey Cultural Trust held its Annual Meeting today at the State House in Trenton. The Trust awarded \$150,000 to eleven capital historic preservation projects located throughout the State, completing the inaugural grant program which has now distributed a total of \$600,000.

“These initial grants demonstrate how the Trust can strengthen the financial foundations of cultural organizations in New Jersey as well as support important historic preservation projects,” stated Judi Dawkins, Trust Board Co-Chair. “This is a critical milestone in the life of the Cultural Trust.”

The New Jersey Cultural Trust was created in 2000 to build a permanent, stable and additional source of funding to support qualified private nonprofit arts, history and humanities organizations. The earnings of the Fund may be given in grants to build endowments, finance capital projects and provide support for institutional and financial stabilization. Grants are based on recommendations from programs administered by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the New Jersey Historic Trust to The New Jersey Cultural Trust Board.

“The Cultural Trust Fund exceeded the statutory threshold of \$20 million of contributed income with the FY 04 State appropriation, which enabled the Board to authorize the distribution of \$600,000 in interest earnings as grants to qualified arts, history and humanities organizations,” Co-Chair Josh Weston stated. “The entire New Jersey nonprofit cultural community will benefit from this innovative program.”

The New Jersey Historic Trust, working collaboratively with the Cultural Trust, designed the Capital Historic Preservation Program and recommended support for the eleven projects. The award recipients include three museums, two theaters, two historical society headquarters, an unchanged 18th century patterned brick house, a 1931 African American school, and an art museum housed in an historic mansion. (See list of approved projects.)

“Historic sites play a vital role in preserving, protecting and promoting New Jersey’s rich heritage. These awards will help stabilize important structures that provide a window to our unique past,” said Cultural Trust Executive Director, Barbara Moran. “The Cultural Trust was designed to support organizations needing a wide spectrum of assistance, which is clearly shown as the awardees exhibit diversity in size, location and type of projects. Through the grant programs the Trust demonstrates its positive influence on the cultural industry of New Jersey, now and in the future.”

In other business at today’s meeting, Judi Dawkins and Josh Weston were re-elected as Co-Chairs, Carol Cronheim as Vice Chair, and Deborah Bozarth was elected Secretary.

Organizations must be designated “qualified” by the Cultural Trust in order to be eligible to participate in funding programs. Qualification applications are processed on an on-going basis, under the rules of the Trust. A “qualified” organization must be a New Jersey nonprofit arts, history or humanities group that has operated for at least the last four years and has submitted appropriate financial information. Today the Board approved 13 more qualification applications, bringing the total number to 179. (See list of qualified organizations.)

The New Jersey Cultural Trust is a division of the Department of State. The mission of the Trust is to ensure a stable and healthy cultural industry in New Jersey that is sustainable under fluctuating economic conditions. The Trust Fund is a permanent, interest-generating fund that serves as an additional source of revenue to nonprofit arts, history, and humanities

organizations for specific purposes that are crucial to ensuring fiscal and operational health, stability and durability. The New Jersey Cultural Trust was established by P.L. 2000, c: 76 which is now N.J.S.A. 52:16A-72 et seq. and was signed into law on July 25, 2000.

Its fifteen-member board includes 6 members appointed by the Governor to 5-year terms, 5 ex-officio members including the New Jersey State Treasurer, the New Jersey Secretary of State, and the Chairs of the NJ State Council on the Arts, the NJ Historical Commission and the NJ Historic Trust, and 4 members selected by the Legislature. For more information, contact The New Jersey Cultural Trust office at 609-984-6767.

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