



Preservation  
League of NYS



Council on  
the Arts



ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER  
FOUNDATION

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## Philmont Beautification, Inc. awarded a Preserve New York Grant

*This grant will fund a State and National Register nomination*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALBANY, NY, 08/01/22** —Philmont Beautification, Inc. (PBI) is one of this year's [Preserve New York](#) (PNY) grantees. **Their grant of \$14,000** will enable PBI to hire Jessie Ravage of Cooperstown to complete a potential State and National Register nomination of the Village of Philmont Historic District for over 400 resources and properties. This designation could ultimately benefit the work of PBI, residents and business owners by allowing them to use the Federal and NYS Historic Tax Credits for rehabilitation projects. The Preservation League of NYS and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation are thrilled to help fund this important work.

"This grant award will enable the community and the Village of Philmont to evaluate and advance the creation of the Village of Philmont Historic District" said **John Gourlay, President, Philmont Beautification, Inc.** "PBI is delighted to have been chosen for this grant award that will assist with hiring the consultant, Jessie Ravage, to conduct this State and National Register nomination with the participation of PBI and the community-based Heritage Working Group."

A prior PNY grant award to PBI supported preparation of a [cultural resource survey](#) in the Village of Philmont. It reviewed 425 properties. The CRS, completed in January 2021, resulted in a [Resource Evaluation](#) by NYS SHPO determining a National Register-eligible historic district encompassing nearly all of the village's historic infrastructure.

The Village of Philmont developed around a power canal that ran a number of woolen and paper mills when George P. Philip began the "most ambitious waterpower development in Columbia County" in 1845 on what became known as "Factory Hill." (Peter Scott. *Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York*. Columbia County Historical Society). Philmont retains a variety of residential architecture—both in taste and scale—representative of the period of development from the mid-1840s through the second quarter of the 1900s. Churches, an opera house, hotels and taverns, mill worker row houses, and commercial buildings form a coherent historic streetscape.

At its 2022 meeting, an independent grant panel selected **22 applicants in 18 counties to receive support totaling \$235,920**. Each grant supports important arts and cultural initiatives, as well as

economic development related to our state's arts and cultural heritage. Many of these grants will lead to historic district designation or expansion, telling the stories of communities throughout the state and allowing property owners to take advantage of the New York State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. This is even more valuable now, with the NYS Commercial Historic Tax Credit recently expanded for small projects, granting property owners a 30% credit. With the announcement of the 2022 awards, support provided by Preserve New York since its launch in 1993 totals more than \$3.5 million to 510 projects statewide.

The Preserve New York program is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League, made possible with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has generously provided additional funds to support nonprofit projects in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Since 1993, Preserve New York has been providing funds to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that need technical, professional assistance to guide a variety of preservation projects. The historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys funded through this program lead to positive outcomes across New York's 62 counties.

### **2022 PNY Grant Recipients:**

**Albany County:** Heldeberg Workshop - \$8,000 | **Cattaraugus County:** Gowanda's Historic Hollywood Theater, Ltd.- \$8,400 | **Chautauqua County:** Village of Lakewood - \$13,440 | **Clinton County:** County of Clinton - \$12,000 and Town of Schuyler Falls - \$4,400 | **Columbia County:** Philmont Beautification Inc. - \$14,000 | **Dutchess County:** Cunneen-Hackett Cultural Center - \$13,320 and Town of Clinton Historical Society - \$17,000 | **Erie County:** Buffalo Lighthouse Assn. - \$14,000 and Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, Inc. - \$14,000 | **Herkimer County:** Village of West Winfield - \$19,375 | **Kings County:** Prospect Lefferts Gardens Heritage Council Inc. - \$7,423 | **Monroe County:** The Landmark Society of Western New York - \$9,560 | **Nassau County:** Town of North Hempstead - \$9,600 | **New York County:** Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation - \$12,000 and Landmark West! - \$3,402 | **Onondaga County:** Erie Canal Museum - \$8,000 | **Orleans County:** Cobblestone Society and Museum - \$8,000 | **Schenectady County:** Schenectady County Historical Society - \$13,000 | **Suffolk County:** Southampton History Museum - \$8,440 | **Ulster County:** Town of Marlborough - \$10,000 | **Washington County:** Friends of Camp Little Notch - \$8,560

"The Preserve New York program ensures arts and culture organizations continue to be beacons of New York's rich history. By preserving significant spaces and sites, we promote vitality and drive economic activity across our great state," **said Mara Manus, NYSCA Executive Director.** "NYSCA applauds the Preservation League of New York State for their stewardship of this crucial opportunity and extends our sincere congratulations to all awardees."

"The projects funded by Preserve New York exemplify the excellent preservation planning work being done throughout our state," **said Katie Comeau, Vice President for Policy and Preservation and the Preservation League.** "The League is grateful to our program partners at NYSCA and the Gardiner Foundation for their support for Preserve New York. With each of these grants, a meaningful historic place takes a significant step toward a more secure future, and we are pleased to be working with such dedicated project sponsors to make this work possible."

### **About the Preservation League of New York State**

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts, and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs across the state.

Connect with us at [preservenys.org](http://preservenys.org), [facebook.com/preservenys](https://facebook.com/preservenys), [twitter.com/preservenys](https://twitter.com/preservenys), and [instagram.com/preservenys](https://instagram.com/preservenys), and [youtube.com/c/PreservationLeague](https://youtube.com/c/PreservationLeague).

### **About Philmont Beautification, Inc.**

PBI has four core program areas that successfully integrate key elements of renewal in multifaceted development projects. The organization has spearheaded renewal in the Village of Philmont, NY for over 20 years. It provides opportunities for the community to come together to contribute and collaborate towards revitalization in the spirit and tradition of a rural barn raising. Since its inception in the early 2000s, PBI has made a substantial positive impact in the village through programming, community engagement, and the rehabilitation of 23 properties and over 40 revitalization projects, from Streetscapes to Brownfields, providing opportunities for collaboration with a unique community-based revitalization model.

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