

LOWER HUDSON CONFERENCE AWARDS \$124,755 STATEWIDE IN MUSEUM CONSERVATION TREATMENT GRANTS FOR 2008

Lower Hudson Conference (becoming Greater Hudson Heritage Network) has awarded \$124,755 in conservation treatment grants to 25 organizations, located in 22 counties, in association with the Museum Program of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), a state agency.

From Niagara County to Nassau County, from Cuddebackville to Caledonia, these re-granted funds will provide treatment by professional conservators to aid in stabilizing, preserving, and making accessible to the public an array of unique objects in collections of New York State's museums, historical and cultural organizations of all sizes.

From Albany to Auburn, 2008 grants will support treatment of 18th, 19th and 20th century oil paintings—such as a portrait of George Washington, and portrayals of trout-- with their carved and gilt wood frames, and a painted folk art tavern sign. Funds will conserve such diverse objects as 20th century photographs, objects of judaica, and a print from the Oneida Community. Textile treatments will be carried out on a 19th century silk mourning sampler, a local banner, civil war secessionist flag, silk wedding dress, and 18th century crewelwork. Leather and needlepoint-upholstered furniture, and a contemporary outdoor sculpture are among the artifacts stewarded by collecting and exhibiting institutions from Rochester to Riverdale to receive conservation treatment support through this year's program.

Grants are awarded for prioritized, urgently needed conservation of objects that, once treated, will impact public interpretive programs, exhibitions and education. Non-profit organizations with stewardship responsibility for cultural collections, (but without their own in-house conservation staff) were eligible applicants; state or federally owned collections are ineligible for support. Grant funding can treat paintings, works on paper, textiles, furniture, sculpture, ethnographic, historical and decorative objects, and may also support accompanying professional treatment of frames, supports, stands and mounts if integral to the final presentation of the object, after conservation.

Lower Hudson Conference, becoming a Greater Hudson Heritage Network, strives to provide support for conservation treatments that are executed on the highest professional level. The field of conservation is continually changing, with pioneering research and dissemination of findings on innovative materials and techniques. Although there are many paths into the field of conservation, we acknowledge practitioners who have demonstrated high levels of proficiency and advanced knowledge, adherence to the ethics and standards of the American Institute of Conservation (AIC), and are recognized for their expertise in the museum field.

An evaluation of the first five years of the Conservation Treatment Grant Program (2000-04) reported that these grants led to public impact outcomes beyond the actual conservation of museum objects, including heightened appreciation of the collections, and increased public awareness of the institution's role as steward, and has proven a spark to further institutional, strategic, financial and long-range conservation planning. Beyond these outcomes, grant recipients reported that Conservation Treatment funding prompted fuller use of collections (for exhibition, web content and loan), enhanced interpretive capability, and expanded opportunities to educate the public about art, history, humanities, the science of conservation, and museum work.

39 grant applications were received at LHC from institutions in 24 counties of New York State, requesting an aggregate of more than \$186,000 in grant support. 25 awards totaling \$124,755 were recommended by a peer panel of conservators, curators and museum professionals. Individual 2008 Conservation Treatment Grants range from \$1,253 to \$7,500.

Of the 25 funded institutions, 60% have annual budgets under \$350,000 (24% under \$100,000), and 40% have budgets over \$350,000 (24% over \$1 million). Institutional operating budgets of 2008's grant recipients range from \$20,000 to \$12 million per year.

Congratulations to these 2008 Conservation Treatment Grant Recipients:

Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany (Albany County).

\$ 7500 for conservation treatment of an 1858 oil painting *Palopel's Island/on the Hudson near Newburgh*, by George H. Boughton, and its original gilt frame; work to be done by conservators Montserrat LeMense and Hugh P. Glover of Williamstown Art Conservation Center.

Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, Canajoharie (Montgomery County).

\$ 6404 for treatment of two American landscape paintings: *Summer Pastoral (1838)* by Thomas Doughty, and *Sleigh Bells (1920)*, by Ernest Redfield; work to be done by conservators Montserrat LeMense and Matthew P. Cushman of Williamstown Art Conservation Center.

Big Springs Historic Society and Museum, Caledonia (Livingston County).

\$ 3325 for conservation of a pair of oil paintings *Speckled Trout* and *Rainbow Trout (1894)* by Lillian G. Annin, and their frames; to be treated by conservators Susan Blakney, Margaret Sutton and John Sutton of West Lake Conservators, Ltd.

Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn (Cayuga County)

\$7500 for treatment of the c.1850 oil *Portrait of the Seymour Boys*, by an unidentified New York itinerant painter, and its frame; work to be done by conservators Susan Blakney, Margaret Sutton, John Sutton and Chiara Giovanna Kuhns of West Lake Conservators, Ltd.

The Fenton History Center, Jamestown (Chautauqua County)

\$ 7400 for conservation treatment of Gov. Fenton's baroque style upholstered leather armchair (c.1865); work to be done by conservator Gwen Spicer of Spicer Art Conservation, LLC.

Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College Foundation, Flushing (Queens County)

\$ 2140 for conservation of a New York School abstract expressionist painting, *The Game* (1951), by Attilo Salemmé; treatment to be done by conservator Alexander Katlan of Alexander Katlan Conservator, Inc.

Grafton Community Library, Grafton (Rensselaer County)

\$ 7500 for conservation of an early 19th century "*Anti- Rent Movement*" banner ; work to be done by conservator Gwen Spicer of Spicer Art Conservation, LLC

Hillwood Art Museum, C.W. Post Campus, L.I.U., Brookville (Nassau County)

\$ 1320 for conservation of the oil painting *Brooklyn Bridge Fog*, by William Steeple Davis; treatment to be done by conservator Jonathan Sherman of Sherman Art Conservation.

Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, for Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton-on-Hudson (Westchester County)

\$ 6717 for treatment of the early 18th century oil *Portrait of Gertrude Van Cortlandt Beekman*, attributed to Evert Duyckinck III, and its original American frame; work to be done by conservators Shawn Digney-Peer and Marylou Davis.

Historical Society of the Town of Warwick, Warwick (Orange County)

\$5640 for conservation of a floral and plaid silk taffeta wedding dress (c.1840) and supportive mount; work to be done by Gwen Spicer, Spicer Art Conservation, LLC.

Judaica Museum of the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, Bronx (Bronx County)

\$ 6000 for conservation treatment of a genre painting, *Cohanim Blessing*, by Zygmunt Menkes; a Tunisian Torah Tik, and a fish-scale embroidered matzoh cover; work to be done by conservators Harriet Irgang Alden of Rustin Levenson Art Conservation Associates, Ltd.; Beth Edelstein and Sarah Barack of SBE Objects Conservation, llc; and textile conservator Judith Eisenberg.

LeRoy Historical Society, LeRoy, (Genesee County)

\$ 2345 for conservation of a 19th century oval gilt frame for ferrotypes ; work to be done by Susan Blakney and John Sutton of West Lake Conservators, Ltd.

Long Island Museum of American Art, History & Carriages, Stony Brook (Suffolk County).

\$ 7500 for treatment of an early 19th c. silk *Mourning Sampler for Her 7 Year Old Sister, by Mary Ann Hewlett of Great Neck* ; work to be done by conservator Mary Kaldany of the Textile Conservation Workshop. Eglomise glass mat and federal period gilded frame to be conserved by Jim Brewster of Presentations, Inc.

Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Rochester (Monroe County)

\$ 4800 towards the conservation treatment of a 20th c. minimalist outdoor sculpture, *Playground*, by Tony Smith; work to be done by conservator Adam Gray Nesbitt of Williamstown Art Conservation Center.

Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Museum of Art, Utica (Oneida County)

\$5515 for conservation of a *George Hunzinger needlepoint-upholstered arm chair* ; treatment to be done by Gwen Spicer, Spicer Art Conservation, LLC.

Neversink Valley Area Museum, Cuddebackville (Orange County).

\$ 6016 for conservation of a hand sewn 1861 secessionist US flag made by area resident Liana Austin Dolson; treatment to be done by conservators Mary Kaldany and Karen Nelson Clark of the Textile Conservation Workshop.

Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport (Niagara County).

\$7252 for treatment of the 1888 oil painting *A Pioneer's Clearing*, by local artist Emery A. Philleo; work to be done by conservator Tracy Dulniak of Great Lakes Art Conservation of NY, LLC.

Oneida Community Mansion House, Oneida (Madison County).

\$1253 for conservation of a lithograph portrait of *Charles Fourier*, by *Cisneros*; treatment to be done by paper conservator Michele Phillips, West Lake Conservators, Ltd.

Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center, Syracuse (Onondaga County).

\$ 7500 for conservation treatment of the painted *Portrait of Moses Dewitt Burnet (c.1841)*, attributed to *Charles Loring Elliott*; work to be done by conservators *Susan Blakney, John Sutton and Margaret Sutton*, West Lake Conservators, Ltd.

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure (Cattaraugus Co.).

\$ 2955 for conservation of an oil painting, *Two Women in an Interior (The Gossips)*, by *Lillian Genth* ; work to be done by conservator *Andrea Chevalier* of *Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA)*.

Schenectady County Historical Society, Schenectady (Schenectady County).

\$ 4233 for conservation of the painted folk art *tavern sign for the Jacob Mabee Inn* ; work to be done by conservator *Sandra Webber* of the *Williamstown Art Conservation Center*.

Southold Historical Society, Southold (Suffolk County).

\$ 3080 for conservation of an 18th c. crewelwork bed hanging fragment, and its mount; treatment to be done by conservators *Patsy Orlofsky and Katherine Barker* of the *Textile Conservation Workshop*.

Staten Island Historical Society, Staten Island (Richmond County).

\$ 3145 for the conservation treatment of *photographs by Alice Austen*; work to be done by conservator *Monique Fischer* of the *Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)*.

Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead (Suffolk County).

\$ 2530 for conservation of the oil *Portrait of Hannah Carman Smith (1831)* , by *Shepard Alonzo Mount*; treatment to be done by conservator *Alexander Katlan*.

Wilderstein Preservation, Rhinebeck (Dutchess County).

\$ 5187 for conservation of the portrait of *George Washington*, attributed to *Gilbert Stuart*, and its gilt frame; treatment to be done by conservators Thomas Branchick and Hugh Glover of Williamstown Art Conservation Center.