



Oysterponds

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED GARDINER FOUNDATION GRANT

The Oysterponds Historical Society (OHS) is pleased to announce that the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has awarded OHS a grant of \$53,330 to develop a comprehensive collections care plan.

“Thank you to the Gardiner Foundation board and to Gardiner Foundation Executive Director Kathryn Curran for this grant,” said Co-Presidents of the OHS Board Ed Caufield and Leslie Koch. “With their support, OHS will be able to develop the right plan to protect and preserve our collections.”

OHS holds some of the most significant and deepest collections representing a single community on Long Island. The collection holds objects that exemplify life in Orient and East Marion from the seventeenth century through the present day, including archival documents and photographs, fine art, textiles, baskets, furniture, carriages, sleighs, and an iceboat. OHS actively uses its collection for research, educational programs, and seven new summer exhibitions each year – an extraordinary number for a museum of this size.

OHS is committed to preserving its collections for future generations, requiring a careful assessment of priorities, risks, and resources. OHS faces a need for more and better quality space for its collections and curatorial staff, which will be integrated into a campus plan that provides for a welcoming visitor experience, safe storage for collections, and programming and exhibition space. The goal is to provide the best possible care for the collections and to maximize the use of existing resources.

The grant from the Gardiner Foundation allows the Society to bring in consultants to assess the collections, evaluate the condition of buildings on the OHS campus, and develop a comprehensive plan for properly housing the collections. The consultants will work with members of the OHS Board and OHS staff.

Consultants include Michael Devonshire and Kurt Hirschberg from Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, a leading full-service architectural firm in New York focused on the preservation of

historic buildings. Devonshire and Hirschberg will be joined by Rainey Tisdale, co-founder of the Active Collections movement, which seeks to develop new, more sustainable, and audience-centered approaches to museum collections stewardship.

OHS is very grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation (www.rdlgfoundation.org) for funding this project. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, supports the study of New York State history.

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OHS MISSION AND DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Oysterponds Historical Society (“OHS”) is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the Orient and East Marion community as part of the American story and to celebrate and share its culture and heritage through education, exhibition, and scholarship.

Founded in 1944 and located in the heart of Orient, New York, on the bucolic North Fork of Long Island, OHS pursues our mission from our centrally located campus, comprising greenspaces and seven historic buildings that house a remarkable collection of more than 75,000 artifacts, documents, works of art and historical objects. OHS’s collection, much donated by families who have lived in the community for generations, is widely considered the best collection of local history on Long Island.