



**Council on
the Arts**



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

Monday, May 23 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The History Center in Tompkins County Awarded \$4,710 from NYSCA and MANY
Partnership Grants for Capacity Building**

[ITHACA NY]—The History Center in Tompkins County is extremely excited to announce that they have received \$4,710 in grant awards from the NYSCA & MANY Partnership Grants Across NYS for Capacity Building. The awarded funds will be used to upgrade technology used by staff, volunteers, and visiting researchers in our Research Library and Exhibit Hall.

The Museum Association of New York (MANY) in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) awarded a total of \$502,114 to 103 grantees to assist New York museums with capacity building.

“We thank NYSCA for this partnership and this opportunity to rapidly distribute much-needed funding to New York’s museums,” said **Erika Sanger, Executive Director, MANY.**

"The continued financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it difficult to prioritize technology upgrades while we navigate other significant financial challenges. The Capacity Building opportunity could not be offered at a more critical time. Our whole team is excited for the work these upgrades will enable for our local history community." **Ben Sandberg - Executive Director, The History Center in Tompkins County.**

This grant partnership with NYSCA was developed in direct response to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Partners for Public Good (PPG) study "[Market Analysis and Opportunity Assessment of Museum Capacity Building Programs](#)" report published in March 2021.

Capacity Building grants were awarded in amounts up to and including \$5,000 to help museums respond to pandemic-related challenges, build financial stability, strengthen board

and community engagement, update technology, support leadership, and change systems to address diversity, equity, access, inclusion, and justice. Awards were made to museums of all budget sizes and disciplines.

The History Center will use the awarded funds to replace two staff laptops, two laptops in our Research Library used by visiting researchers and volunteers, and a laptop for our volunteer docents at the front desk of our Exhibit Hall. The new staff computers will replace models from 2014 and 2016 respectively, while the current Research Library laptops and the front desk laptops both pre-date the Obama administration's first term in office. The funds to replace these computers will directly enable all parts of our local history community to be active stewards of our collections, create engaging public exhibits and digital content, and support the needs of on-site and remote researchers.

“The arts and culture sector is facing a multi-year recovery process after two years of unimaginable challenges,” said **Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA**. “We are grateful to MANY for their stewardship of this opportunity that will ensure New York State museums continue to grow and thrive. We send our congratulations to all grantees on their awards.”

Partnership Grants for Capacity Building are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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About The History Center in Tompkins County

The History Center in Tompkins County is a generation-to-generation education and research center focused on engaging the public with the history of Tompkins County (located in the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation) and the Finger Lakes region. The History Center helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future. The History Center is located within the Tompkins Center for History & Culture, a collaborative visitor center and event space on the Ithaca Commons. Learn more at thehistorycenter.net and follow @TompkinsHistory on any platform.

About the Museum Association of New York

The Museum Association of New York is the only statewide museum service organization with more than 700 member museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquariums. MANY helps shape a better future for museums and museum professionals by uploifting best practices and building organizational capacity through advocacy, training, and networking opportunities. Visit www.nysmuseums.org and follow MANY on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @nysmuseums

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The Council on the Arts preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work, and visit. The Council upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development, and quality of life. Through its core grant-making activity, the Council on the Arts

awarded more than \$100 million in FY 2022. NYSCA's statewide grants program supports the visual, literary, media and performing arts and includes dedicated support for arts education and underserved communities.

The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit <http://www.arts.ny.gov>, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, Twitter @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts