



Community Investment Act Funding: An Update



As many of our readers know, most of the SHPO's grants are funded by the [Community Investment Act Fund \(CIA\)](#). Created in 2005, the CIA provides funding for open space, affordable housing, farmland preservation, and historic preservation. Since 2005, the SHPO had granted over \$20 million to eligible municipalities and non-profits.

For many years, the SHPO's CIA account has had a surplus of funding, but recent investments in our state museums and large public service projects like the on-going digitization of our records, as well as changes to the way the funds are allocated has depleted the SHPO's annual allotment and past surplus. As a result, our constituents may see changes in the way the SHPO administers our grants in the coming months, starting with the Historic Restoration Fund Grant - more information below.

Any questions about our funding and the SHPO's administration of our grants can be directed to Jonathan Kinney, Director of Operations and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at jonathan.kinney@ct.gov.

Program Announcement Historic Restoration Fund Grant

The Historic Restoration Fund Grant program will be shifting from a rolling application schedule to a semi-annual application schedule. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis contingent upon the availability of funding. Applications must be submitted by May 1, 2021 to be considered at the July 1, 2021 meeting and November 1, 2021 to be considered at the January 1, 2022 Historic Preservation Council meeting. Please contact Erin at Erin.Fink@ct.gov to schedule a virtual pre-application meeting.

On November 4, the Historic Preservation Council awarded grants to the following the following organizations.

- **Ancient Burying Ground Association** for an online database of extant gravestones in the Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford
- **1636 Heritage Partnership** for a plaster conservation study for the First Church of Christ in Hartford
- **Thompson Congregational Church** for architectural plans and specifications to support restoration
- **The Simsbury Historical Society** for a condition assessment of the Phelps House and Tavern in Simsbury
- **Historic Neighborhood Preservation** in Stamford for Organization Website design
- **Norwich Historical Society** for a condition assessment for the Diah Manning House in Norwich
- **Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society** for services of a structural engineer to identify issues and prepare plans for stabilization and repairs to barns on the Thomas Darling House property in Woodbridge
- **The New Britain Museum of American Art** for an assessment of exterior condition of the Grace Judd Landers House in New Britain
- **The Town of Bolton** for a master plan for the restoration, development and reuse of the Bolton Heritage Farm in Bolton

Congratulations to all grant recipients!

Other Grant News

Also, at its November meeting the Historic Preservation Council agreed to continue waiving the match normally required for [Survey and Planning Grants](#), including the Partners In Preservation Grant. Grants awarded until June 3, 2021 will not require a match.

News from the Museums





Henry Whitfield State Museum

Museum staff recently met with conservators conducting the site visit component of the museum's Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) grant, provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. Donia Conn (collections) and Eric Gradoia (buildings) spent two days touring the museum and interviewing staff. They are now writing a comprehensive report that will provide recommendations and priorities for future work at the museum to improve collections care and aid staff in developing a long-range preservation plan.



Eric Sloane Museum

Another busy month at the Eric Sloane Museum is in the books. We are happy to announce the museum collection continues to grow, after an incredibly generous donation of a private collection of original art work by Eric Sloane. These early works from the 1930's highlight the importance of cloudscapes and aviation throughout the artist's career, aiding future interpretation of his life and work.

The staff continues to be hard at work preparing the exhibits, programs and galleries for a grand reopening, Spring 2021!

Follow the links to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with everything going on!



Prudence Crandall Museum

The Prudence Crandall Museum is undergoing some archaeological work as part of the renovation process. Led by State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, the dig is already revealing artifacts that may have been used at Crandall's school. A larger dig is in the planning stages for 2021.

Photos:

Above: Museum Guide Erica Cialella (L) and Museum Intern Valerie Chase (R) screen soil for artifacts.

Below: Museum Curator Joanie DiMartino holds the most significant find of the dig so far—a portion of a slate pencil.



The Department of Economic and Community Development, including the State Historic Preservation Office continues to work remotely. We will be sure to inform our constituents when we plan to return to the office. In the meantime, staff contact information can be found [here](#).

Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office

