



Council on  
the Arts



## Wainscott Heritage Project awarded a Preserve New York Grant

*This grant will fund a Reconnaissance Survey of the Hamlet of Wainscott*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EAST HAMPTON, NY, 08/01/23** — Wainscott Heritage Project is one of this year's [Preserve New York](#) (PNY) grantees. Their **grant of \$14,400 will fund a Reconnaissance-level Survey of the Hamlet of Wainscott**. 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.

"We are overjoyed to receive this funding that enables us to undertake a Cultural Resource Survey of Wainscott, a project that is critical to the preservation of our historic hamlet," said **Esperanza León, a member of the Wainscott Heritage Project board of directors**. "Our organization was founded with the mission to preserve the history and cultural character of Wainscott by protecting its historic structures and significant viewsheds, and we have understood from the start that a survey was an essential first step."

The **Wainscott Reconnaissance Survey** will be carried out by **Sarah Kautz Consulting Corp. (SKCC), the preservation consultant** selected by Wainscott Heritage Project. A reconnaissance survey is the first step towards identifying historic properties and understanding their significance within local, state and/or national historic contexts. Its purpose is to establish basic historic and/or architectural contexts associated with the development and physical character of an area. SKCC will focus on identifying previously undocumented periods and types of resources to better understand the evolution of Wainscott's built environment up to about 50 years ago, especially the impacts of suburbanization during the early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The final report will include a selected inventory of historic properties accompanied by maps and photographs, as well as historic and/or architectural contexts and recommendations for further study. Recommendations might include potential updates to existing State/National Registers of Historic Places nominations, or Intensive-Level Surveys to seek evaluations of eligibility for the State/National Registers from the State Historic Preservation Office.

In addition to documenting roughly 150 properties and developing historic contexts for their significance in accordance with the criteria for the State/National Registers of Historic Places, SKCC will help raise public awareness and support for this project by conducting two public meetings to gather input from

local stakeholders, as well as two public meetings to present findings and next steps. The consultant will also assess the potential for use of financial incentives for property owners, including State/Federal Historic Tax credits and preservation easements from the Community Preservation Fund of the Town of East Hampton.

At its 2023 meeting, an independent grant panel selected **19 applicants in 17 counties to receive support totaling \$279,936**. 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. With the announcement of the 2023 awards, support provided by Preserve New York since its launch in 1993 totals more than \$3.7 million to 529 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 building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys funded through this program lead to positive outcomes across New York's 62 counties.

#### **2023 PNY Grant Recipients:**

**Albany County:** Shaker Heritage Society, \$20,000 | **Cattaraugus County:** Leon Historical Society, \$6,720 | **Chautauqua County:** Patterson Library, \$16,000 | **Essex County:** Fort Ticonderoga Association, \$18,800 | **Franklin County:** Harrietstown, \$13,600 | **Green County:** Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society, \$20,008 | **Livingston County:** Village on Nunda, \$12,980 | **Madison County:** Oneida Community Mansion House, \$18,940 | **Monroe County:** Connected Communities / Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition, \$20,000 | **Nassau County:** Long Beach Historical & Preservation Society, \$7,876 | **New York County:** Historic Districts Council, \$16,000 | **Orange County:** The Fullerton, \$12,000 | **Otsego County:** Otsego Land Trust, \$14,780 | **Suffolk County:** The Center for Environmental Education and Discovery, \$10,632; Wainscott Heritage Project, \$14,400 | **Ulster County:** The Center for Photography at Woodstock, \$14,000; Village of New Paltz, \$14,000 | **Warren County:** Silver Bay YMCA, \$11,200 | **Westchester County:** Historic Hudson Valley, \$18,000

"The breadth of these projects across our state will safeguard the rich and diverse history of New York for generations to come," said **Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA**. "We applaud the Preservation League of New York State for this critical preservation program. From all of us at NYSCA, a hearty congratulations to the grantees and our gratitude for the essential work you do."

"This year's Preserve New York grant cycle was one of the most competitive in the program's history," said **Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of NYS**. "The 19 projects funded truly rose to the top and represent a great cross-section of historic resources found across the state. From a Shaker Washhouse upstate to the Little Caribbean neighborhood in Brooklyn, each project helps tell the story of New York's rich history."

"The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is delighted to have partnered once again with the Preservation League of New York State to support preservation projects on Long Island. These awards prepare our stewards to professionally assess the needs of future renovation and restoration of their historic site, thus saving them as educational tools for future generations," said **Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.**

### **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 Wainscott Heritage Project**

Wainscott Heritage Project (WHP) was formed in 2021 by a small group of concerned citizens resolved to preserve the history and cultural character of Wainscott, a hamlet in the Town of East Hampton. The founding purpose to save the "Little House," which had served as tenant housing for African American farm workers since the 1930s at the former Strong Farm on Wainscott Hollow Road, led to a greater mission of protecting Wainscott's historic structures and significant viewsheds. WHP aims to encourage programs that foster and maintain an appreciation for the hamlet's traditions and sense of community. WHP is a 501(c)(3) incorporated charitable organization.

Learn more at [wainscottheritageproject.org](http://wainscottheritageproject.org) and on [instagram.com/wainscottheritageproject](https://instagram.com/wainscottheritageproject).

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