

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED GRANT FOR COLLECTIONS CARE

Orient, New York, September 25, 2018 - 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.

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. It 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 brings in consultants to assess the collections, evaluate the condition of buildings on the OHS campus, and develop of comprehensive plan for properly housing the collections. The consultants will work with members of the staff including Curator Bill McNaught and Collections Manager Amy Folk, who is also Southold Town Historian.

Consultants include Michael Devonshire and Kurt Hirschberg from Jan Hird Pokorny Associates. Michael is an architectural conservator with over forty years' experience in the field of historic preservation. He currently serves on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the New York State Historic Preservation Board. Kurt is an architectural designer with over twenty years' experience and a local preservationist active with several historical societies. Michael and Kurt will evaluate existing building conditions as they relate to collections care and storage.

Michael and Kurt 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. Rainey has provided interpretive, strategic, and collections planning services to museums throughout Europe and North America. She was a Fulbright scholar in Helsinki. Rainey will be instrumental in evaluating the current state and future needs of different parts of the collections.

Upon completion of the collections care plan, the next step is raising funds for its implementation and integration into a comprehensive campus plan, adapting existing spaces and creating new spaces as needed for collections storage.

The OHS is very grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation (www.rdlgfoundation.org) for supporting this project. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, supports the study of New York State history. Thanks are also due to OHS Trustee Ann ffolliott for her support for this successful proposal.

For more information, please call (631) 323-2480 or visit www.oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org.

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