



ALICE AUSTEN HOUSE



Alice Austen House | 2 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10305-2002
Museum Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 12pm–5pm | Saturday, 11am–5pm
www.aliceausten.org | 718-816-4506

Historic Richmond Town | 441 Clarke Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306-1198
Village & Museum Hours: Friday–Sunday, 11am–4pm
www.historicrichmondtown.org | 718-351-1611

FOR INQUIRIES:
Victoria Munro, Executive Director
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Alice Austen House & Historic Richmond Town Awarded funding from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

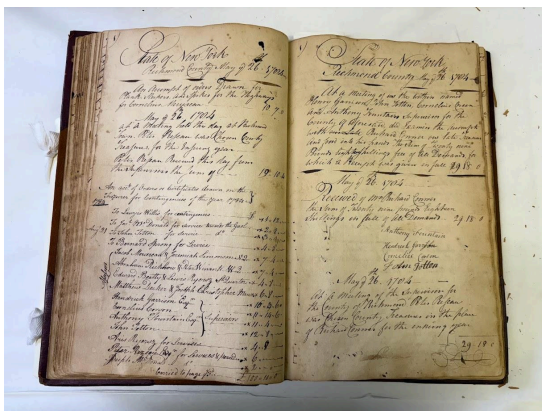
New York, NY—The Alice Austen House Museum (AAH) and Historic Richmond Town (HRT) proudly announce the funding of two major projects for their organizations from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

The AAH will begin work in 2026 to bring the Austen collection fully online from repatriation of a near-complete archive of photographs by seminal American photographer [Alice Austen](#) (1866–1952). This landmark acquisition, transferred from **Historic Richmond Town**, includes more than 2,600 cellulose nitrate negatives, over 2,000 glass plate negatives and 1,500 photographic prints, along with more than 300 yet-to-be-digitized items. Representing the most comprehensive record of Austen’s life and work to date, these materials will now be preserved and interpreted at her beloved former home and studio.

“This transfer marks a pivotal moment—not only for our institution, but for the broader cultural landscape—at a time when LGBTQ+ communities face renewed threats of erasure. Museums must lead the way in preserving and amplifying these vital legacies, and we are proud to do so. As we celebrate our 40th year as a museum open to the public, welcoming Alice’s work back home is both historic and deeply moving.” **Victoria Munro Alice Austen House Executive Director**



Image: *E. Alice Austen, The Darned Club, October 29, 1891.* Donated to the Historic Richmond Town in 1945, the original glass plate negative and image of this [iconic photo](#), taken on the lawn of Clear Comfort, is one of the many items returning home 80 years later.



Historic Richmond Town will begin work on a pivotal exhibition, *Founding Principles: The Declaration of Independence, Civics, and Staten Island*, opening in June 2026 in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. The exhibition will explore the origins of local government and the basic tenets of American democracy, including civil liberties, the separation of powers, and the impact of government at every level. Featuring objects and primary source materials from Historic Richmond Town’s 60,000+ collection, the exhibition will highlight the contributions of activists and civil servants, encourage civic participation, and underscore the vital importance of civic engagement at every stage of life.

Image: *Richmond County Supervisors’ Book, 1766–1804.* Collection of *Historic Richmond Town*. Encompassing the entire Revolutionary War, the British Occupation of Staten Island (July 1776–November 1783), and the earliest years of local government in the United States, this rare book is one of many significant artifacts that will be exhibited.

“The historic village that is now a museum, Richmond Town, served for nearly two centuries as the civic center of Staten Island. This historical identity uniquely suits us to start a conversation about political history and civic life,” states **Gabriella**



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Leone, Curator of Historic Richmond Town. "We're so grateful to the Gardiner Foundation for supporting our work to explore Staten Island's community history in this meaningful way."

The Alice Austen House and Historic Richmond Town extend their heartfelt thanks to The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for their generous support of these two exciting and meaningful projects

ABOUT THE ALICE AUSTEN HOUSE MUSEUM

The Alice Austen House Museum fosters creative expression, explores personal identity, and educates and inspires the public through the photographs, life, and historic home of American photographer Alice Austen (1866–1952). A bold, early American photographer, Austen captured the world around her with curiosity and clarity, leaving behind a rich visual archive of 19th- and early 20th-century life.

Today, the museum keeps her pioneering spirit alive as a vibrant cultural center and photographic resource, providing education programs for New York City students, dynamic exhibitions, and year-round cultural, horticultural, and public programs. Located in a Victorian Gothic cottage — Austen's lifelong home — the museum sits within a nationally landmarked, fifteen-acre waterfront park that is also a designated site of LGBTQ+ history, honoring the 55-year relationship between Alice Austen and her life partner Gertrude Tate.

In addition to preserving Austen's remarkable legacy as one of America's earliest and most prolific female photographers, the museum embraces contemporary themes through programs that explore sustainability, community engagement, and alternative photographic practices. The park's gardens, including the Queer Ecologies Community Garden Project, are deeply integrated into museum life, continuing Austen's connection to nature as a founding member of the Staten Island Garden Club. Through initiatives that pair environmental awareness with artistic expression, the Alice Austen House offers a meaningful, relevant space for reflection, learning, and creative exploration.

www.aliceausten.org

ABOUT HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN

Historic Richmond Town interprets and restores a living history village, operates a historical museum, and collects and preserves material culture to inspire engagement with and understanding of Staten Island's diverse histories. The organization maintains and preserves 38 historic structures, including the largest collection of the oldest houses in New York State, and oversees over 112 acres of preserved land across four unique sites on Staten Island. It also safeguards more than 60,000 historic artifacts, 50,000 photographs, and 1,400 linear feet of archives. Through a wide range of creative and interpretive public programs, workshops, exhibitions, and guided tours, Historic Richmond Town immerses the public in centuries of history.

www.historicrichmondtown.org

ABOUT THE ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER FOUNDATION

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, supports the study and preservation of Long Island history



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and its role in the American experience. The Foundation reflects the lifelong passion of Robert David Lion Gardiner, who served until his death in 2004 as the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner’s Island, New York. The Gardiner family has owned Gardiner’s Island since 1639, when it was granted by King Charles I of England.

The Foundation’s purpose is to educate the public throughout New York State, particularly in the Town of Islip and Suffolk County, about local culture, art, and traditions; to promote understanding and appreciation of Islip’s societal heritage, especially during the nineteenth century; to support historical societies in developing and maintaining collections of relevant documents and artifacts; and to encourage the preservation, restoration, and exhibition of facilities that protect and share this history for future generations.

<https://rdlgfoundation.org/foundation/>