Hilltop House and Studio at Stone Quarry Art Park Awarded a 2021 Technical Assistance Grant

Preservation efforts across 14 counties were selected to receive funding totaling over $62,000

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ALBANY, NY, 1/10/22 — The Preservation League of New York State and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts, Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area are thrilled to announce the recipients of their 2021 Technical Assistance Grants. The Dorothy Riester House and Studio (Hilltop House and Studio) at Stone Quarry Art Park has received a grant to fund a historic finishes analysis of the Hilltop House.

“The Hilltop House is an exquisite example of an artist-crafted mid-century site. The Technical Assistance Grant from the Preservation League of New York State and their program partners allows us to work with Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc. to identify the exact finishes used in the exterior and interior of the home. This project will provide us with a clear understanding of the original palette of finishes, and reinforces the important contributions made by mid-century architecture to the greater history of building construction and design.” said Sarah Tietje-Mietz, Director of the Hilltop House and Studio. “Honoring Riester’s vibrant and playful use of colors and finishes in her home’s design is crucial for us as we undertake preservation projects. This Technical Assistance Grant allows us to move forward with the highest standards in our work as dedicated stewards and advocates for the site.”

An analysis of approximately 10 finishes employed in the Hilltop House, which includes the finishes employed on the walls (both interior and exterior) beams, window and door framing, and decorative accents, will be undertaken by Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc., and is one piece of a larger effort to address preservation projects in the home and studio. Constructed between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, this intact example of mid-century vernacular architecture, artistry and craftsmanship reveals information about materials and formulas created and used in the residential building industry specific to the mid-century, as well as the distinct palette created by an artist for her residence. This project will make visible the process of current scientific preservation technologies and opens the conversation of their relevance to structures of the recent past. As part of its commitment to equity and inclusion, Stone Quarry will allocate 5% of the project budget to support an artist collaboration with the project, a commitment which allows Stone Quarry to incorporate diverse perspectives in every facet of the organization—from programming to capital projects.

During this grant cycle, 17 projects representing 14 counties across the state have been selected by an independent panel of preservation professionals. A total of $62,953 was awarded.

The 2021 grantees are:

- Albany County: Albany County Historical Association, Ten Broeck – Olcott Carriage Barn
- Allegany County: Cuba Friends of Architecture, Palmer Opera House
- Cortland County: YWCA Cortland
- Erie County: Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, Inc.
The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League of New York State. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area has provided $10,000 additional support for the five projects within the National Heritage Area boundary. Three nonprofit projects on Long Island received Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation funds, totaling $11,960. The TAG program supports arts centers, historic sites, music halls, theaters, libraries, and other cultural nonprofit or municipal entities that steward historic buildings throughout New York State.

With the announcement of the 2021 awards, support provided by TAG since its launch in 2012 totals $533,974. These grants have directly advanced the efforts of 172 preservation projects.

“Our Technical Assistance Grants can have long lasting impacts on cultural organizations across the state. Year after year, we love seeing how these grants jumpstart preservation projects that might not otherwise have been possible,” said Preservation League President Jay DiLorenzo. “We are grateful for the continued partnership of the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as the generous support of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.”

“Technical Assistance Grants promote the longevity of New York State’s outstanding arts and culture spaces by providing critical dollars for preservation initiatives. Cultural organizations are central to the well-being of towns, villages, and cities across our state, and we are so pleased to once again work with the Preservation League of New York State.” Mara Manus, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts. “On behalf of the entire NYSCA Team, we congratulate all recipients on their awards!”

"The New York State Council on the Arts congratulates all TAG awardees," shared Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. “Investing in preservation projects promotes our state’s health and history and ensures that our state’s cultural anchors will continue to grow and thrive. Council is keenly aware of the importance of these preservation projects and looks forward to seeing them come to life.”

“TAG provides an avenue for us of evaluating and funding different projects that are important to our partners. Congratulations to all the recipients!”, said Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Executive Director Scott Keller. “We are continually impressed with both the quality and quantity of the applications for this program.”

“The restoration and preservation of our historic sites can be a daunting project. The Preservation League of NYS’s TAG awards are an invaluable aid to our historic stewards. They prepare them to better understand the needs of their historic sites,” said Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Executive Director Kathryn M. Curran. “Our partnership with the League helps these groups to submit stronger, solid applications to RDLGF for potential future support. I would like to offer a special thanks to the
dedicated panelists for their time and efforts in the review the applications and to the staff of the Preservation League who are so available and willing to work with our stewards to help them in this process.”

**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://www.facebook.com/preservenys), [twitter.com/preservenys](https://twitter.com/preservenys), [youtube.com/c/PreservationLeague](https://www.youtube.com/c/PreservationLeague) and [instagram.com/preservenys](https://www.instagram.com/preservenys).

**About the Dorothy Riester House and Studio**

The Dorothy Riester House and Studio (Hilltop House and Studio) at Stone Quarry Art Park (Art Park) is the artist-built home and studio of artist, author, and preservationist Dorothy Riester and her husband Robert Riester. The mission of Stone Quarry encompasses the preservation of the Hilltop House and Studio and the interpretation and promotion of Dorothy Riester’s life and work. Stone Quarry stewards the Riester’s story to nurture and inspire in others an appreciation for the craftsmanship of mid-century modern architecture and design, and a reverence for the ever-changing relationship between art and nature. Inspired by the relationship between art and nature, Stone Quarry Art Park seeks to educate and engage the public through its exhibitions, collections, interpretation, and community outreach program in the arts. Set among 104 acres of conserved land and groomed trails, the Art Park is dedicated to providing a unique environment for showcasing art by emerging and established artists, in natural and gallery settings. [sqhap.org/hilltophouse](http://sqhap.org/hilltophouse)

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