

PROGRAM/DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE
August 2025 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Upward Mobility Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational purposes.

Neighborhood Funders Group: \$55,000

The Neighborhood Funders Group's Integrated Rural Strategies Group (IRSG) seeks funding to strengthen rural organizing infrastructure by supporting immigrant-led organizations that serve hundreds of families of farm, service, and construction workers. The project provides urgent financial support, technical assistance, and capacity building to help these organizations adapt to increased immigration enforcement while continuing their advocacy and direct service work.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Historic Preservation Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable/educational purposes.
- *Elizabeth Gibson Holahan Fund for Historic Preservation I*: A prominent decorator and preservationist bequeathed her historic East Boulevard home and residual estate to the Community Foundation, creating this fund for historic preservation.
- *Lloyd E. Klos Historical Fund*: To support historical preservation, education, and information.

Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum: \$5,000

The Saunders Finger Lakes Museum (SFLM) is seeking funding to secure adequate staffing and expand program development as personnel costs directly impact the organization's ability to develop meaningful programs, foster community engagement, and provide educational experiences that address the cultural needs of rural communities where access to arts, culture, and leisure opportunities is limited.

Geneva Historical Society: \$5,000

The Geneva Historical Society's East Tenant Cottage will host rotating seasonal exhibits, including upcoming displays on historic preservation for the nation's Semi-quincentennial and slavery at Rose Hill to commemorate the 200th anniversary of New York's abolition of slavery. Exterior restoration is required to complete the project.

Ontario County Historical Society: \$5,000

The Ontario County Historical Society's Phase I Stormwater Mitigation project addresses critical infrastructure needs by redirecting downspouts that currently empty directly along the building foundation, causing basement flooding, damp collection storage areas, and dangerous ice formation on visitor walkways.

Orleans County Historical Association: \$5,000

The Orleans County Historical Association (OCHA) operates Mount Albion Cemetery. The cemetery's 1875 Gothic-style chapel, built of locally sourced Medina Sandstone, has served as the entrance focal point for 150 years but requires urgent restoration due to a failed Vermont

slate roof that has rendered it unusable for funerals, memorial services, and educational programming, though the structure remains sound and well-intact.

South Wedge Planning Committee: \$4,000

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) will pilot a new Historic Educational Programming series designed to promote and expand public knowledge of the region's diverse history. Each event will be carefully curated to highlight underrepresented stories, promote civic pride, and foster intergenerational learning. Programming will include guest speakers, walking tours, and interactive discussions.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church: \$5,000

St. Mark's restoration project will address the crumbling focal point area by removing damaged cap anchors and replacing the chimney cap, removing eroding flashing and installing new base and counter flashings, replacing a damaged ridge cap, securing loose slates, and installing new wood trim to replace rotting sections at the roof edge below the chimney area, ensuring this historic space can continue serving the community safely.

Flower City Arts Center: \$20,000

Flower City Arts Center will rehabilitate and preserve the exterior of its historic firehouse building located in the upper Monroe Avenue neighborhood through repairing/re-glazing windows and painting/repairing decaying window trim in a manner that preserves the original work while up-leveling its aesthetic appeal and restoring functionality.

Friends of Ganondagan: \$11,500

Haudenosaunee Roots, Culture & Living Traditions is a series of cultural programs designed to engage communities across Greater Rochester in Haudenosaunee culture and living traditions to foster connection and honor the history and contributions of the original people of this region.

Friends of the Schooner Lotus, Inc: \$10,000

Friends of the Schooner Lotus, Inc. (FOTSL) is seeking matching funds for a grant from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) that requires a 25% match. The project will continue ongoing restoration of the historic Schooner Lotus, a 1918 wooden sailing vessel.

Galen Historical Society: \$10,000

The Galen Historical Society is looking to preserve two historic museums in Clyde, NY - the Brick Church Museum and the Mill Museum - through foundation repairs and brick repointing to ensure their long-term preservation.

Genesee Country Village & Museum: \$7,200

This project will encompass the exterior painting of and pathing repairs/regrading for GCV&M's Quaker Meeting House. These efforts build upon other recent preservation work to the Meeting House completed in 2024 and early 2025. As a historically significant structure in the Historic Village, ensuring its longevity allows future generations to engage with the cultural and religious history of the Quaker community.

Genesee - Orleans Regional Arts Council: \$15,000

GO ART! is seeking funding to complete critical exterior preservation work at Seymour Place, its historic headquarters in downtown Batavia, including roof and copper repair, masonry repointing, restoration of porch brackets and cornice, and structural stabilization.

Genesee Valley Council on the Arts: \$19,262

The Genesee Valley Council on the Arts (GVCA) is undertaking a critical preservation initiative to convert an existing yoga studio into a secure storage facility for its nationally significant collection of Works Progress Administration (WPA) artworks.

Landmark Society of Western New York: \$15,520

Landmark Society seeks support for building and maintaining a new Landmark Society website. This project will improve access to resources about the region's historic assets as well as information about educational opportunities and other programing.

Milly's Pantry: \$10,000

Milly's Pantry, a not-for-profit charitable organization that serves in-need children through programs that address food insecurity and academic readiness, owns and operates a building located within the Penn Yan Downtown Historic District. Grant funding will support exterior masonry restoration work needed to preserve the building's historic elements.

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum: \$10,000

The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum is restoring the only existing Rochester subway car for both display and proposed operation on the museum's railroad. The car was used on the Rochester Subway from 1938 until 1956 and was donated by The Rochester Transit System in 1956 following abandonment of the Rochester Subway.

Rochester School for the Deaf: \$17,000

Our Hands Tell the Story: Celebrating the History of Rochester School for the Deaf is a commemorative oral history project marking RSD's 150th anniversary in 2026 with American Sign Language (ASL) as the primary language through which these stories are told and preserved.

Smith Center for the Arts: \$10,000

The Smith seeks funding to install handrails for the stairs in the balcony of the 130-year-old Smith Opera House and raise the rail of the lower edge of the balcony to ensure patron safety. This project will improve accessibility and safety for thousands of patrons, including young children and those with limited mobility, who attend performances at this historic venue.

Sodus Bay Historical Society: \$8,500

The Sodus Bay Historical Society seeks funding to preserve a section of the lighthouse tower. A large piece (lintel) of concrete fell from over the tower window, and it needs to be repaired before water seeps in and destabilizes the concrete.

University of Rochester: \$10,000

This University of Rochester project engages the city of Rochester's deep connection to migration and documents key historic spaces for the city's Puerto Rican community and creates educational programming to share that information.