



**Council on  
the Arts**



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW YORK

**May 23, 2022**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Caitlin Playle, Events and Communications Coordinator  
315-686-4104 | [caitlinplayle@abm.org](mailto:caitlinplayle@abm.org)

Megan Eves, Assistant Director for Programs and Communications  
518-273-3400 | [meves@nysmuseums.org](mailto:meves@nysmuseums.org)

**Antique Boat Museum Awarded \$4,787 from NYSCA and MANY Partnership Grants for Capacity Building**

**[Clayton, NY]**—The Antique Boat Museum (ABM), North America’s premier freshwater boating museum based in Clayton, NY, announced today that it has received one of the Partnership Grants for Capacity Building from the Museum Association of New York and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Museum Association of New York (MANY) in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) awarded a total of \$497,114 to 102 grantees to assist New York museums with capacity building.

“We thank NYSCA for this partnership and this opportunity to rapidly distribute much-needed funding to New York’s museums,” said **Erika Sanger, Executive Director, MANY.**

Antique Boat Museum Executive director, Rebecca L. Hopfinger said, “These types of grant funds are incredibly helpful to museums of our size. We often are unable to budget for special projects that make an impact to the mission but may not impact ordinary day to day operations. Having the technology in place to facilitate the digitization of our permanent collection now is critical in securing long-term accessibility.”

This grant partnership with NYSCA was developed in direct response to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Partners for Public Good (PPG) study [“Market Analysis and Opportunity Assessment of Museum Capacity Building Programs”](#) report published in March 2021.

Capacity Building grants were awarded in amounts up to and including \$5,000 to help museums respond to pandemic-related challenges, build financial stability, strengthen board

and community engagement, update technology, support leadership, and change systems to address diversity, equity, access, inclusion, and justice. Awards were made to museums of all budget sizes and disciplines.

The ABM is using the NYSCA and MANY Partnership Grant for Capacity Building to purchase additional digital storage space for our digital collections and equipment to establish a second digitization station in the Lou Smith Library and Marion Clayton Link Archives. The additional storage space and equipment add to the state-of-the-arts Digitization Laboratory from Digital Transitions Cultural Heritage that was recently installed in the Curatorial Studio through the gift of a generous museum benefactor and supporter. The Digitization Laboratory and new storage space and equipment purchased with the Partnership Grant expand ABM's capacity to meet the demand for digitally based content and access to the Museum's archival collections.

"The arts and culture sector is facing a multi-year recovery process after two years of unimaginable challenges," said **Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA**. "We are grateful to MANY for their stewardship of this opportunity that will ensure New York State museums continue to grow and thrive. We send our congratulations to all grantees on their awards."

Partnership Grants for Capacity Building are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

# # #

### **About the Antique Boat Museum**

Located on the St. Lawrence River in upstate NY, ABM features a collection of over 300 antique and classic boats and thousands of recreational boating artifacts. Each summer the 4.5-acre waterfront campus comes alive with numerous educational programs and special events, including the longest running antique boat show in North America. For more information, please visit the Museum's website at [abm.org](http://abm.org).

### **About the Museum Association of New York**

The Museum Association of New York is the only statewide museum service organization with more than 700 member museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquariums. MANY helps shape a better future for museums and museum professionals by uplifiting best practices and building organizational capacity through advocacy, training, and networking opportunities. Visit [www.nysmuseums.org](http://www.nysmuseums.org) and follow MANY on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @nysmuseums

### **About the New York State Council on the Arts**

The Council on the Arts preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work, and visit. The Council upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development, and quality of life. Through its core grant-making activity, the Council on the Arts awarded more than \$100 million in FY 2022. NYSCA's statewide grants program

supports the visual, literary, media and performing arts and includes dedicated support for arts education and underserved communities.

The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit <http://www.arts.ny.gov>, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, Twitter @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts