



New Hampshire  
State Council on the Arts

## ARTS Conservation License Plate Grant

Projects occurring between December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025

**Letter of Intent Deadline: May 3, 2024**

**Grant Application Deadline: June 21, 2024**

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) provides grants under the Conservation License Plate Program, commonly called the “Moose Plate” program, for the conservation of publicly owned artworks, artistic elements of publicly owned historic cultural facilities that serve as sites for arts programming, projects that improve public access to significant publicly owned artwork or arts documents, and projects that make publicly owned historic cultural facilities and the arts programming that takes place in them, more accessible to the public.

The NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) receives a percentage of the “Moose Plate” funds raised from the sales of Conservation License Plates. These funds are directed back into communities through grant programs facilitated by the State Library, Division of Historical Resources and the State Arts Council to promote, conserve, and protect New Hampshire’s natural, cultural, and historic resources. Interested applicants should apply for funding from the Division whose criteria and eligibility requirements best match their project activities. In any given fiscal year, an organization can only apply to **ONE** Division (State Library, Historical Resources or State Arts Council) for a single project.

### Maximum Grant Request

Requests may be made for \$2,000 - \$20,000. No match is required. We encourage applicants to include in-kind or cash match as part of their budget to increase the strength of their application, collaboration with community partners and enhance the funding of their project. *All grant categories and amounts are subject to change, depending upon availability of funds for any fiscal year.*

### Who May Apply

New Hampshire municipalities and towns, county agencies, state agencies (other than the State Library, Division of Historical Resources and the State Arts Council), federal agencies, or nonprofit organizations that:

- Have submitted all required reports on past State Arts Council grants.
- Are in “Good Standing” with the State Arts Council and the NH Attorney General’s Office.

Please note: The artistic or historic cultural resource must be publicly owned in order to be eligible for Moose Plate grant funding. A non-profit organization is eligible to apply if they manage the artistic or historic cultural resource (on behalf of the public entity), but the public entity owns it.

### Eligible Projects

- Projects that conserve **publicly owned artworks** that contribute to New Hampshire’s cultural heritage. Artwork can be located inside and outside the facility and include paintings, photographs, theater curtains, and sculptures. For information on contacting conservators, [click here](#).
- Projects that maintain or **conserve artistic elements of publicly owned historic cultural facilities** including historic murals, stenciling, stained glass windows, light fixtures, weathervanes, ornamental plaster work, wood paneling, moldings & trim work, ornamental hardware (e.g.

hand wrought iron hinges, latches, etc.), or specialized flooring (e.g. tile mosaics, inlay or parquet hardwood, etc.). Conservation or replacement of historic elements should be accomplished by professional conservators and/or traditional craftsmen/artisans who have proven expertise in this work. Replacement with commercially mass-produced and available products is not eligible for this funding. For information on locating potential contractors, craftsmen, artisans, etc., [click here](#).

- Projects that **improve public access to significant publicly owned artwork or arts documents**, while protecting and preserving the originals.
- Projects that **make publicly owned historic cultural facilities and the arts programming that takes place inside and/or outside of the facility more accessible to the public**, including people with disabilities (e.g. ramps, lighting, elevators, etc.).

***This grant does not support:***

- Projects for privately owned artwork, arts documents, and/or historic cultural facilities.
- Projects for the creation of a new artwork or cultural facility.
- Engineering studies or reports. Note: NH Land and Community Investment Program (LCHIP) has grants for these types of reports.
- Projects that allot for future conservation or preservation work.
- Projects that are receiving other Conservation License Plate grant funds.
- Projects that are receiving other State Arts Council grant funds.
- More than one application per applicant during the grant period (July 1 - June 30).

***Sample Projects***

- Conservation cleaning and treatment for a Civil War memorial in a national historic site located in New Hampshire.
- Conservation and exhibition of 19th century White Mountain School oil paintings and pencil sketches owned by a town library.
- Purchase of archival materials to store a collection of historic recordings of a contra dance caller from the 1940s donated to a state college or university archives.
- Preservation of original hand-painted stage curtains or scenery designed in the early 20th century for local opera houses or town halls.

***Definitions***

For purposes of this grant:

- **Historic** – 50 or more years old.
- **Cultural facilities** – publicly-owned buildings that regularly provide or plan to regularly provide arts programming, defined broadly as events, exhibits, workshops, and community programming in the visual arts and crafts, music, dance, theatre, media, or literary arts.
- **Arts documents** – publicly-owned artist(s') or arts organization's papers, photographs, or recordings.
- **Artwork** - original tangible artworks; not reproductions.
- **Artistic elements of buildings** - aspects of buildings that were created or built by a skilled craftsman and contribute to the historical and cultural nature of the building such as historic murals, stenciling, stained glass windows, light fixtures, weathervanes, ornamental plaster work, wood paneling, moldings & trim work, ornamental hardware (e.g. hand wrought iron hinges, latches), or specialized flooring (e.g. tile mosaics, inlay or parquet hardwood).

- **Visual arts conservation** – the conservation of interior or exterior paintings, murals, mosaics; sculpture (freestanding and relief); decorative arts (crafts in fiber, clay, wood, stone, metal); and graphic arts such as etchings, engravings, woodcuts, silk screens, drawings, or photographs.
- **Performing arts conservation** - the conservation of hand-crafted musical instruments; stage backdrops or painted curtains; and other items that enhance music, dance, literary, or theatre performances.
- **Publicly-owned** - artwork, facilities, or documents that are owned by a municipality or a town; county agency, state agency (other than the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and its Divisions), or a federal agency.

## Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are used by reviewers to rank applications for this grant category on a 100 point scale:

### ***1. Artistic and Historical Significance of Conservation Project (40 Points)***

- Significance of artwork, arts documents, and/or historic cultural facility to New Hampshire's cultural heritage.
- Artistic/architectural quality of artwork/facility elements to be conserved /preserved.

### ***2. Public Benefit and Access (35 Points)***

- Documentation of public ownership.
- Degree to which the historic cultural facility or artwork is imminently threatened by damage, as well as the nature of that threat.
- Degree to which the project will preserve or make accessible the historic cultural facility, documents, or artwork for public use and benefit.
- Degree to which the historic building is used or has the potential for use as a cultural facility.
- Evidence of ADA compliance: This grant’s funding criteria requires ADA compliance in that grantee programs, services and cultural facilities are accessible OR a plan to make them accessible is in place and being followed.

### ***3. Quality of Project (25 Points)***

- Quality of the project design and goals.
- Quality of consultants or conservation professionals, craftsmen, etc.
- Realistic budget and timetable for project.
- Administrative capacity to plan, implement and complete the project.
- Marketing or promotional plan for project.

## Application Review Process

A panel with expertise in conservation and preservation meets to review and rank applications according to the funding criteria listed above. Whenever possible a State Arts Councilor attends the meeting. The panel's recommendations are then forwarded to a committee that includes the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Commissioner and Division Directors for review and approval. Funded projects will be included in the Department's annual report to the State Legislature on distribution of these funds. If a grant of \$10,000 or more is recommended, or the applicant’s cumulative total of grants received from the State Arts Council for that fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) is \$10,000 or

more, the grant recommendation also must be submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for final approval.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the State Arts Council's [grant information sessions](#), view the [instructional videos](#) and discuss their proposals with the appropriate grant coordinator before writing and submitting applications. Applicants should also review the [legal and reporting requirements](#) relevant to State Arts Council grants.

## How to Apply

The Conservation License Plate Grant program begins with a *Letter of Intent (LOI)*. The *Letter of Intent* is a mandatory first step to determine an applicant's eligibility and whether the proposed project will meet the grant program guidelines. **The *Letter of Intent* must be postmarked or emailed no later than May 3, 2024** in order for the applicant to be eligible to submit a full grant application. The artistic or historic cultural resource to be conserved must be publicly owned by the LOI deadline. It can be emailed as an attachment to [Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov). The Grant Coordinator will contact the applicant within one week of receipt of *the Letter of Intent* and confirm if the project is eligible. The *Letter of Intent* does not replace the full grant application nor guarantee funding.

The *Letter of Intent* must be no longer than one page and include:

- Applicant name.
- Project Coordinator name, title, and contact information.
- Acknowledgement that the proposed artistic or historic cultural resource to be conserved is publicly owned by a New Hampshire municipality, town, county agency, state agency or federal agency.
- Short project description.
- **For Cultural Facility Applicants only:** Intent or Statement on Determination of Eligibility for National or State Registers.

## For Cultural Facility Applicants Only

### Determination of Eligibility for the National or State Register of Historic Places

The authorizing legislation for Conservation License Plates, NH [RSA 261:97-c, I\(a\)](#), requires any publicly owned buildings receiving Conservation License Plate funds to determine the facility eligible for the State or National Registers of Historic Places. **In order to receive funding, the property must be determined eligible.** Applicants must contact [Megan Rupnik](#) at the [Division of Historical Resources](#) for more information about the Determination of Eligibility process. Please consult the [Determination of Eligibility Committee meeting schedule and deadlines](#). Typically, the applicant will **receive a determination of eligibility 4-6 weeks after the Division of Historical Resources receives the completed forms**. Arts Conservation License Plate Grants for facility projects **will not be paid until the Determination of Eligibility process is complete** by the Division of Historical Resources. The Determination of Eligibility process must be complete by the grant application deadline.

**All facility applicants must contact [Brandee Loughlin](#) at the Division of Historical Resources** about the best way to submit any plans for cultural facility projects. Review of plans for compliance with the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#) is **required**. Typically, the Division of Historical Resources will respond to applicants' project plans no later than two weeks after the plans are submitted. If the project is planned as a multi-year phase project, the Division of Historical Resources needs to approve the current project plan (updated project scope) for this grants cycle. Please include in your application copies of any correspondence with the Division of Historical Resources. Arts

Conservation License Plate Grants for facility projects **will not be paid until the review of project plans** is complete by the Division of Historical Resources.

## Submitting the Application

After the *Letter of Intent* has been reviewed and the project determined eligible, you will be invited to submit a full application. NHSCA uses an online application system, [Submittable](#). **The application must be submitted by June 21, 2024.**

- Watch [instructional videos](#)
- Complete the [Online Application](#)
- Download and fill out the budget form in either [PDF](#) | [Excel](#)
- Answer the narrative questions and upload
- Provide support materials

Drafts of narrative questions and budgets may be reviewed if **submitted by email at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline**. First time applicants are especially encouraged to submit drafts. When emailing a draft, please clearly indicate **Draft for Review** in **bold** type on the submission. The Arts Council is now using an online application system, Submittable. **The online system cannot be used to submit drafts as outlined above.**

## Required Support Materials

All required documents can be uploaded to the online system. Please follow the upload instructions [here](#). Please make a copy for your files.

- The letter of public ownership, if the applicant is not the owner of the artwork(s) or cultural facility.
- A minimum of four images of the facility or conservation project to be funded; two must be general views of the historic facility or artwork and the other two must document the threat or damage. Please include an image index with titles and descriptions for each of the images.
- A one-page professional biography or resume of the project coordinator.
- Resumes of conservation professionals, consultants, and/or background on the traditional craftsmen/artisans to be engaged with a listing of successfully executed projects similar in content and scope.
- Two bids or a single bid on the proposed project. Bids should encompass what the proposed work is and how much it will cost. If you are going with a single bid, please explain your justification in your narrative. (see narrative question 3)
- Board-approved financial statement for most recently completed fiscal year (if applicant is a nonprofit).
- Organizational Work Samples, including but not limited to photos, audiovisual materials, programs, or brochures, that show the organization's artistic programming. See [Preparation of Work Samples](#) for instructions on preparing work samples/support materials.
- List of current board members (if applicant is a nonprofit).
- [National Endowment for the Arts Brief Accessibility Checklist](#)

### ***Additional Required Support Materials for Historic Cultural Facility Applicants Only***

- Facility plan of at least two years in scope, including immediate and long-term building maintenance. (if available).
- Correspondence with the Division of Historical Resources concerning eligibility for the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.
- Correspondence with the Division of Historical Resources regarding the review of project plans for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- A historic structures report or building assessment report (if available).

### **Application Deadline**

Applications must be completed online by 11:59 pm on **June 21, 2024**. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. The office is closed all state and most federal holidays. Late applications will not be accepted. The Council cannot accept applications transmitted by e-mail and is not responsible for uncompleted online applications or paper applications lost in transit. Errors and omissions may affect a panel's evaluation of the application, so please follow instructions and prepare the application carefully.

### **Notification of Award**

No formal announcement regarding a funding decision and/or grant amount will be sent to any applicant until Fall 2024. At that time applicants will receive official notification of the determination, as well as panel comments. Whether or not a grant is awarded, these comments should help in the development of future applications.

Please note if you are awarded and accept this grant, the applicant name and grant details will be listed in the relevant Fiscal Year [Grant Report](#) in order for us to be transparent about how public grant funds were expensed. If you have any questions, please reach out to the grant coordinator.

### **Payment**

The NHSCA disburses funds appropriated from public sources, both federal and state. Checks are issued by Administrative Services of the State of NH, not the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources or the State Arts Council. Upon receipt of properly executed grants forms, the State of New Hampshire generally pays grants under \$10,000 to grantees within 4 to 6 weeks. If a grantee is awarded \$10,000 or more or has received other State Arts Council funds that brings the cumulative total received within the state's fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) to \$10,000 or above, grants need to be approved by the Governor and Executive Council; consequently, payment can take up to 12 weeks or longer. All awards are subject to availability of state and federal funds. Therefore, we ask grantees to plan cash flow accordingly.

Recipients of grant awards will be required to provide the following along with the signed grants paperwork:

- Proof of general liability insurance
- Proof of worker's compensation insurance (unless recipient organization is all volunteer)
- Current Certificate of Good Standing from the NH Secretary of State (*For 501 (c) 3 non-profits only*)
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from [SAM.gov](#).
- Certificate of Board Resolution
- Resume and Annual Salary of Administrator
- Geographic Areas Served by Organization

- A one-page financial statement of organization's most recently completed fiscal year
- List of Board of Directors (*For 501 (c) 3 non-profits only*)

### **Important**

- All grant agreements must be returned by January 15th of the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) they are awarded. Failure to return the grant agreement by that date may result in cancellation of the grant and reallocation of funds.
- Payment of a grant will be withheld if final reports for previous grants are not in compliance with policy below.

### **Project Changes and/or Amendments(s)**

You are required to carry out a project consistent with the application that was submitted and approved for funding. Changes must be submitted to the grant coordinator for review and approval, and include changes to dates, budgets, project scope or content, personnel or artists involved, or other changes that differ from the original application. Changes must be approved prior to implementation.

Amendments or change requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, and approval is not guaranteed. Until you receive written approval from the grants coordinator, you may only incur costs consistent with the terms and conditions of the awards in effect at the time of your request. The Arts Council has the right to request additional information, such as an update on specific activities including a revised budget or itemized list of actual expenditures, as needed. All financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and all other non-federal entity records pertinent to your grant award must be retained for a period of four years.

### **Grant Period & Reporting Requirements**

The project period for ARTS Conservation License Plate Grants is December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025. A final report is due 30 days after the completion of your project, but no later than December 31, 2025. An extension of up to two months may be requested. The request for extension must be made, *in writing, before* the deadline for filing has passed and submitted to the grant coordinator responsible for administering the grant. The request for extension should briefly state why the extension is necessary and the date the report will be submitted. Failure to submit the final report by the required or extended date will result in the organization becoming ineligible to apply for NHSCA funding for two years. Additionally, failure to submit the final report may result in a withholding of funds from any currently awarded NHSCA grant.

### **Questions**

Contact Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator, [Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov) or 603-271-0795.

### **Questions about the online application system at Submittable?**

Submittable Technical Support, [support@submittable.com](mailto:support@submittable.com)  
<https://submittable.help/>

### **Narrative Questions**

*The total narrative portion of the application should not exceed four typed pages. Margins (not less than 1"), fonts (not smaller than 12 point), and spacing should provide easy reading for the panelists. Please*

*number and respond to the following questions in the order in which they appear noting the section titles in bold. It is recommended that you label and number the sections in the narrative.*

**1. Verification of public ownership:** Arts Conservation License Plate grants are for the conservation of publicly owned artwork/s and historic cultural facilities. Please clearly document that the artwork(s) or facility is publicly owned. If the applicant is not the owner, include a letter in your application explaining the relationship between the owner and the applicant and the authority under which the applicant will be the grantee of record to undertake preservation work on the facility or artwork. The letter must be on the owner's letterhead and state that the item is publicly owned, expected to be kept in the public trust in perpetuity and be signed by the owner's authorizing official.

**2. Reason for undertaking the project:** Describe the proposed project and project goals in detail. Please respond to either or both of the situations below as appropriate. Keep in mind that some of the panelists will not be familiar with your artwork or historic cultural facility and its significance to the state's cultural heritage.

- **For conservation projects:** Describe the historical and artistic significance of the publicly owned artwork/s and/or the artistic elements of the historic cultural facility that will be conserved through this project. Discuss the resource's current condition and the nature of the threat. If applicable, describe the types of arts programming that typically take place in your cultural facility.
- **For projects that will improve public accessibility:** Describe how the project will improve accessibility while maintaining the publicly owned cultural facility's historic/artistic integrity. Describe the types of arts programming that typically take place in your facility.

**3. How you will accomplish this project:** Please be specific about the plan for the project. Describe the proposed public accessibility improvement or preservation and/or conservation work. What are the proposed improvement or conservation methods and why are they in keeping with best practice? Include a clear project timetable. Note the names and qualifications of the project team and specialists who will be working on the project such as staff or board administrators/coordinators, architects, conservators, builders, craftsmen, suppliers, etc. Include information on how they are selected. Discuss the two bids or a single bid on the proposed project, including why you choose to go with one over the other. If you are going with a single bid only, please explain or provide justification for the single bid (see Required Support Materials section above).

**4. Sustained public benefit:** Include specific detail on the public use and benefit this project will bring to the community and New Hampshire. After this project is completed, how will the resource be cared for and made accessible to the public in the future? What is the marketing or promotional plan to showcase the project? Note: If you have a plan for continued care of the artwork or facility that will reduce the nature of future threats or damage, include it with your application packet or in your narrative.