

Y. Dutchess County Historical Society – Clinton House Renovations (W371)

September 14, 2010

Grantee: Dutchess County Historical Society (the “Organization” or the “Society”)

ESD Investment: A grant of up to \$55,000 to be used for renovations to the Clinton House.

Project Location: 547 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County

NYS Empire Zone (or equivalent): N/A

Project Completion: January 2012

Grantee Contact: John R. Pinna, Trustee
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Project Team: Project Management Gregory E. Fitzgerald
Affirmative Action Denise Ross
Environmental Soo Kang

Project Description:

Background

The Dutchess County Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit membership organization founded in 1914 in Poughkeepsie. The Society’s mission is “to preserve and share the history of Dutchess County from its earliest peoples to the present.” The Organization occupies and operates two historically significant 18th century residential structures, the 1767 Glebe House, owned by the City of Poughkeepsie and operated by the Society as a house museum, and the 1770 Clinton House (the “House”), a two-and-a-half story Georgian stone structure that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1900, the Daughters of the American Revolution (“DAR”) bought the House and transferred ownership to the State of New York. Both parties jointly operated the House until 1979, when the Society signed an agreement to occupy the House, which is maintained by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“NYSOPRHP”). The House now serves as the Society’s office, meeting space, library, and exhibit space. With the reopening of part of Main Street in downtown Poughkeepsie to automobiles, the House, which previously received few visitors, has become a destination location. In 2003, the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property conducted an Architectural Assessment of the House and determined that a lack of funding and poor space planning resulted in a grossly inefficient use of space, inadequate and haphazard wiring and lighting, and poor environmental conditions. These conditions have undermined the overall quality of the building, which is inextricably linked to the Society’s mission.

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The Project

This project will include renovations and upgrades to internal wiring and mechanical systems, installation of a climate control system, renovation of the attic to accommodate storage, and repair of plaster walls throughout Clinton House. The Society will work with NYSOPRHP to select a contractor for the renovations and upgrades. The project will begin in fall 2010 and is expected to be completed in January 2012. Once the project is completed, the Organization will have additional attic space for safe storage of the historical collection, improved computer access for public research and for school children, and an upgraded electrical system.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Building Renovation and Upgrades	\$55,000	ESD Grant	\$55,000	100%
Total Project Costs	\$55,000	Total Project Financing	\$55,000	100%

Environmental Review:

ESD staff has determined that the project constitutes a Type II action as defined by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and the implementing regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. No further environmental review is required in connection with the project.

Due to the building's inclusion in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places, ESD has confirmed that the project sponsor initiated consultation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. ESD will ensure that consultation is completed with OPRHP in accordance with a Letter of Understanding.

Affirmative Action:

ESD’s Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action policy will apply. The Society is encouraged to use its best efforts to include minorities and women in any job opportunities created by the project, and to solicit and utilize Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises for any contractual opportunities generated in connection with the project.

Statutory Basis – Community Capital Assistance Program:

The project was authorized in accordance with Chapter 84 of the Laws of 2002 and reappropriated in the 2010-2011 New York State budget.

Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee’s certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.