



For Immediate Release: March 26, 2012

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**USAN AND CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS PRESENT CHECK TO FIRST
BUFFALO AVENUE HERITAGE DISTRICT MICRO-GRANT RECIPIENT**

Tatler Club receives more than \$9,850 for rehab of historic Porter Mansion in Niagara Falls

USA Niagara Development Corporation (USAN) and the City of Niagara Falls today presented its first Building and Facade Improvement Program Micro-Grant to The Tatler Club. The \$9,855.40 check will be used as a matching grant to reimburse The Tatler Club for the rehabilitation of the historic Porter Mansion in Niagara Falls.

“Thousands of people visit Niagara Falls each year, making it critical that the city’s historic-commercial neighborhoods are targeted for restoration,” said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. “I congratulate the Tatler Club for its commitment to the preservation of the Porter Mansion. It is through programs such as USAN and Niagara Falls’ micro-grant initiative that we will be able to revitalize commercial and residential property; attract visitors, residents and businesses; and foster economically viable communities.”

“This initiative is geared to assist individual property and small business owners to maintain and upgrade their historic properties,” said City of Niagara Falls Mayor Paul A. Dyster. “The members of The Tatler Club have shown tremendous fortitude in preserving a local architectural and historic treasure and I commend them.”

“The Tatler Club, formed in 1926 by the wives of executives of big industry in downtown Niagara Falls, has been dedicated to the preservation of this beautiful old house since its early days,” said Tatler Club President Beth Waters. “We are thrilled to receive this grant as it allows us to continue to serve as stewards of a beautiful building that is an important part of the region’s history.”

With the City and USAN’s assistance, The Tatler Club was able to replace the mansion’s storm windows, paint the exterior trim and doors and repave the driveway.

“We’re very pleased to be able to partner with the Tatler Club and contribute to preserving their historic building,” said USA Niagara Development President Christopher J. Schoepflin. “It is our hope that all residents and businesses within the Buffalo Avenue Heritage District talk with us about participating in this unique neighborhood grant program.”

The Building and Facade Improvement Program is jointly funded by the City of Niagara Falls and USAN and is intended to stabilize existing structures in the Buffalo Avenue Heritage District by providing financial assistance to property owners and business operators. Grants of up to \$10,000 per project are available, with applicants matching at least 100 percent of the requested amount. The goal of the micro-grant program is to first bring the exterior of the buildings in the Buffalo Avenue Heritage District up to code through building improvements, and then to enhance the look of the neighborhood through facade improvements.

For more information on the Building and Facade Improvement Program, visit: <http://www.usaniagara.com/UploadedFiles/projectpdfs/MicroGrantApplication.pdf>

USAN, a subsidiary of Empire State Development Corporation, is solely dedicated to the support and promotion of economic development initiatives in Niagara Falls by leveraging private investment and encouraging growth and renewal of the tourism industry in the City of Niagara Falls. For more information, visit www.usaniagara.com.

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