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ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2.2 MILLION IN 2018 GRANTS TO SUPPORT NEW YORK HISTORY PROJECTS

Hampton Bays, NY (November 15, 2018) – The [Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation](#) today announced it has awarded \$2.2 million in private grants to fund projects that will explore and preserve the history of Long Island and the New York City Region, bringing its yearly grant awards to \$5.3 million, a record for the Foundation.

The Gardiner Foundation was established in 1987 to support the study of New York State history, inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.

"We are carrying on the tradition begun by Robert David Lion Gardiner of supporting organizations making a significant contribution to understanding our communities and their origins," said Kathryn Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. "These groups – whether colleges and universities or local non-profits – are each dedicated to ensuring history is a living, evolving educational process, helping us appreciate how these lessons from the identity of whom we are today."

Among the awards is a nearly \$300,000 grant to The [Lt. Michael Murphy Navy Seal Museum](#) to support Phase I of the construction of an institution in Suffolk County, NY. The Museum is dedicated to the memory of Murphy, 29, who died trying to save fellow soldiers during a gunfight with the Taliban in Afghanistan, and preserving the history and honor of the United States Navy Seals.

The other recipients and grant amounts are:

- The [Greater Hudson Heritage Network](#), to assist the conservation of art and artifacts to historic non-profit organizations in Nassau and Suffolk counties (\$150,000 over three years);
- The [Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.](#), for the creation of an interactive exhibit using touchscreen monitors that focuses on the technology and dynamics original Fresnel Lens built in 1826 (\$10,700);
- The [Ward Melville Heritage Organization](#), for the creation and staging of "The Courageous Women of the Revolutionary War," recounting the actions of women who played a pivotal role in the birth of the nation (\$18,000);
- The [Museum Association of New York](#) for its work in advocating and supporting the cultural community across New York State (\$10,000);
- The [Caroline Church of Brookhaven](#), for the ongoing restoration of its 1887 carriage shed for hosting educational groups (\$10,900);

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- The [Research Foundation of the City of New York](#), to support four fellowships that will help to update its historical archives and offer public programs and workshops on Long Island (\$249,566 over three and a half years);
- The [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#), for increased school programs in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island and growth of its teachers seminars through 2020 (\$500,000 over two years);
- [Long Island University](#), for the cataloguing and digitizing of Robert Moses Archives, including his private notes, memos and other unpublished documents, which has the potential to significantly change the historical understanding of his motivation in his work (\$695,071 over three years).

“These projects are important and historically significant,” said Joseph R. Attonito, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. “History teaches important lessons about our past and thus informs our future. These impactful projects are noteworthy in impacting regional historic growth, and we look forward to their work being completed.”

Earlier this year The Gardiner Foundation awarded grants to 23 other institutions, including:

- Babylon Beautification Society
- Preserve Long Island
- Sagtikos Manor Historical Society
- Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Research
- New York University
- Oysterponds Historical Society
- St. Joseph’s College
- Cradle of Aviation
- Long Island Museum
- Long Island University
- Walt Whitman Birthplace
- Long Island Traditions
- New-York Historical Society
- Jamesport Meeting House
- Celebrate St. James
- Humanities New York
- Garden City Historical Society
- Cutchogue New Suffolk Historical Society
- University of Rochester
- Webb Institute

For more information on the work of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, visit <https://www.rdlgfoundation.org/index.php>.

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Photos & images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m11bgku8wj35731/AAAlyd5N-GvnyQdG9k-T3x-ua?dl=0>

About the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of New York State history. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history. For more information, please visit www.rdlgfoundation.org.

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