



preservation initiatives grant

2014 GRANT PROJECTS



BRIGHTWOOD CAR BARN FUND



SHERIDAN THEATER (6221 Georgia Avenue, NW)
APPLICANT: DC INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL
FUNDING AWARD: \$9,600
PROJECT TYPE: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

As the oldest independent film festival in Washington, the DC Independent Film Festival has a storied history of presenting extraordinary films. With experience in this field and a strong commitment to community-level programs, the DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF) will undertake an oral history collection, education and communication project around the Sheridan Theater situated in Ward 4 at 6221 Georgia Avenue. Designed by John Eberson in 1937, the theater is a fine example of Eberson's "Classic Moderne" streamlined designs that integrates stores in the "Park 'n Shop" section. The historic Sheridan Theater, with a fully preserved exterior, has many tales to share through storytelling and the collection of photographs and other memorabilia. These stories will shed light on the building's important role in Washington, DC as a neighborhood movie theater open until 1968.

MID-CENTURY MODERN & RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES FUND



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: SLATE ROOF REPAIR & REPLACEMENT
(728 23rd Street, NW)
APPLICANT: ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FUNDING AWARD: \$50,000
PROJECT TYPE: BRICKS & MORTAR

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a cultural and architectural landmark in Washington, DC. Founded in 1867, this post-bellum church was the home of Washington's first African-American Episcopal congregation. Originally founded by members of the Church of the Epiphany, the church was designed by James Renwick, one of America's most distinguished 19th century architects. Since opening its doors in the mid-19th century, the Parish's ministry, through education and community services, has touched the lives of countless residents of Foggy Bottom and throughout the city. There have been only minor modifications to Renwick's design since the first service. The structure retains original features including gas light fixtures, altar, pulpit and pews, and stained glass windows venerating the rich African influence of the founders of this historic Parish. With support from the grant, St. Mary's Church will execute a bricks and mortar project to repair and replace the slate roof of this late 19th century structure. The present dire condition of the roofs over the main sanctuary and other church structures constitute a threat to the organization and this project will help to ensure that the church remains a treasured resource in the community.

2014 GRANT PROJECTS (CONTINUED)



SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART (3211 Pine Street, NW)
APPLICANT: SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART
FUNDING AWARD: \$5,000
PROJECT TYPE: PRESERVATION PLANNING

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The concrete mosaics on the interior of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart are more than eighty years old. Although there are some areas of efflorescence from previous roof leaks, the interior is in stable condition, but is stained from years of dust and grime, which dim the rose colored walls and multicolored murals that decorate the interior, making them difficult to perceive and appreciate. Grant funding will support the hiring of local contractor Bryan Blundell, as well as the Armbruster Company to advise a gentle cleaning process that can be executed by volunteers. Robert Armbruster has restored many Earley structures, including the Baha'i Temple (Wilmette, IL), the Parthenon (Nashville, TN), and Meridian Hill Park. Blundell will survey the conditions and develop a cleaning approach using the gentlest means possible, and will lead a workshop to demonstrate the techniques to a group of volunteers, including parishioners, owners of other Earley buildings, preservationists, architectural historians and other interested community members. A resulting project manual will describe the process, to allow for future training. Armed with this approach, the volunteer project manager at the Shrine will develop a staging plan, and will organize volunteers to perform a staged cleaning of the interior from the floor up to the cornice at the springing point of the ceiling vault.



MID-CENTURY MODERN CHURCHES OF SOUTHWEST DC
APPLICANT: SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY, INC.
FUNDING AWARD: \$7,500
PROJECT TYPE: RESEARCH

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a research and documentation project on Southwest Washington DC's six modernist churches, namely:

- St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (600 M Street, SW)
- Riverside Baptist Church (680 I Street, SW)
- Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th Street, SW)
- Westminster Presbyterian Church (400 I Street, SW)
- St Matthew's Lutheran Church (demolished; formerly at 222 M Street, SW)
- Friendship Baptist Church (900 Delaware Avenue, SW)

This project aims to establish the historic significance of the churches and document the history and cultural heritage of its congregations. The purpose of this project is purely research and documentation, because at least 2 of the churches are not supportive of a landmark nomination. The final product will be a self-published book about each of the above mentioned churches. SWNA will organize a community event to launch the book and will print postcard invitations to be distributed to the churches and the community. At the event, SWNA will distribute free copies of the book to the first 100 attendees.

2014 GRANT PROJECTS (CONTINUED)



APPLICATION NAME: GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW)
APPLICANT: GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FUNDING AWARD: \$30,000
PROJECT TYPE: BRICKS & MORTAR

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Grant funding will support efforts to repair and restore stone arches around the doors and windows of Grace Church Georgetown. Completed in 1867, these elements were constructed of local blue gneiss and local Seneca sandstone that are highly to severely degraded due to the age of the church. Aeon Preservation Services LLC has been selected as the consultant for conservator services. In June 2013, Robert Silman Associates reviewed the project and provided the church with elevations and details of the work needed. The masonry improvements require the removal of any stone that is at risk of failure. These efforts will support the first stage of a multi-phase renovation to stabilize and restore the front façade.



APPLICATION NAME: ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH TUCKPOINTING PROJECT
APPLICANT: ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW)
FUNDING AWARD: \$12,500
PROJECT TYPE: BRICKS & MORTAR

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Originally constructed in 1895, with additions completed in 1904, St. Margaret's is one of the oldest buildings in the Sheridan-Kalorama neighborhood. The building initially served as an anchor for the community that has since grown around it and today, serves a wide range of Washingtonians through its programs and worship. St. Margaret's Episcopal Church will undertake a bricks and mortar project focused on tuckpointing work at the exterior of the congregation's 19th century bell tower. Restoration of the historic brick building's mortar joints will play an essential role in the rehabilitation of a century-old structure. It will ensure its optimal appearance and stability for decades to come.



APPLICATION NAME: LILLIAN & ALBERT SMALL JEWISH MUSEUM (701 3rd Street, NW)
APPLICANT: JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
FUNDING AWARD: \$3,000
PROJECT TYPE: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Funding will support special "Last Call" programs in and about the historic synagogue stewarded by Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (JHSGW). Due to the Capitol Crossing development over Interstate 395, the historic synagogue (designated as the Adas Israel Synagogue) will be inaccessible for five to seven years. A series of "Last Call" programs will enable residents to learn about a significant element of the city's architecture and history through the story of its oldest Jewish house of worship. Dr. Samuel Gruber, the country's leading expert in American synagogue architecture, will present two programs in Spring 2015. The first of Dr. Gruber's programs will be a three-hour, scholarly seminar that will focus on synagogue and religious architecture in the United States and how this 19th-century synagogue fits within that context. Dr. Gruber's second program will focus on the relocation of synagogue buildings. This topic coincides with the history of the Adas Israel Synagogue, which first moved in 1969, and is schedule to be moved again in 2016.

2014 GRANT PROJECTS (CONTINUED)



APPLICATION NAME: SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH/VIDEO PROJECT (816 3rd Street, NW)
APPLICANT: DC BAPTIST CONVENTION/SECOND BAPTIST
FUNDING AWARD: \$3,000
PROJECT TYPE: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Designed by Appleton P. Clark, Jr in 1894, Second Baptist Church is the second oldest African Baptist Church in Washington, DC. The Second Baptist Church will undertake a film project that will chronicle the history of the church. Grant funding will also support the creation of a professional brochure that will be used to inform visitors about the history of the congregation and late 19th century church. In an effort to document the oral history of the church, members will work to interview members, families, neighbors, Pastors and organizations that have had ties to the congregation. After completion of the video and brochure, the church will invite the public, neighborhood associations, the media, the DC Preservation League, Mt Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District, DC Baptist Convention and other businesses in the community to a reception to screen the film.



DCPL STAFF SPECIAL MERIT PLANNING GRANT AWARD

FAITH TABERNACLE CHURCH (300 A Street NE)
RECOMMENDED PROJECT TYPE: PRESERVATION PLANNING
FUNDING AWARD: \$6,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Faith Tabernacle United Holy Church of America, Inc. is a predominantly African-American Church located in the Capital Hill Historic District. The organization has maintained this location as its primary place of worship for over four decades. The church is in need of a comprehensive preservation project and the grant funding will support the creation of a preservation plan to guide future preservation, restoration and rehabilitation projects for the exterior the building, which was originally built in 1858, and enlarged c.1892.