



More preservation funding headed to Staten Island's historic spots

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By [Stephanie Slepian/Staten Island Advance](#)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Let's hear it for Staten Island's historic spots.

The Alice Austen House Museum in Rosebank received \$120,000 and the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden in Livingston received \$100,000 as part of the remaining cash in an online vote.

They were among 40 citywide sites -- also including the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society in Rosebank and the Rossville AME Zion Church -- in a race for \$3 million in the Partners in Preservation competition, a joint venture between American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The top four popular vote winners were announced May 22: The Brooklyn Public Library, Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and the Bartow-Pell Mansion in the Bronx.

They shared \$1 million.

A Partners in Preservation advisory committee split the remaining \$2 million among 16 organizations.

"We're thrilled," said Carl Rutberg, executive director of the Alice Austen House. "There are a lot of things we will be able to do from shutters to chimneys. If we hadn't gotten this money, I don't know what we would have done. Not only are we getting a lot of money, but it is coming at the right time."

To Rutberg's surprise, the Alice Austen House ranked No. 7 in the online vote.

"I think if you had told me when this started that we would be No. 7 and that we would receive \$120,000, I would have said, 'that's not what's going to happen.' This is due to the

passion so many people feel about the Alice Austen House."

The Staten Island Museum, which earned the No. 16 spot in the online vote, has earmarked its \$100,000 to the renovation of a staircase in Building A of Snug Harbor, the museum's new home.

"We were thrilled to be selected among this illustrious group of organizations and were overwhelmed by the community support we received," said museum president Elizabeth Egbert.

"I would like to thank the thousands of people who voted for the Staten Island Museum and helped us earn this prestigious grant. The fans and friends of the Staten Island Museum really stepped up to support us and we are truly grateful to them, our staff and our Board of Trustees who worked so hard to spread the word and to American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for bringing much deserved attention to historic preservation in New York City and especially Staten Island."

Both the Staten Island Museum and the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society -- No. 24 -- pocketed an additional \$10,000 for improving their number of votes during the contest's final stretch.

The remaining sites each received \$10,000 for participating, including the Rossville AME Zion Church, which ranked No. 29 in the voting.

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