



GVSHP

GREENWICH VILLAGE
SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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December 2, 2005

Ms. Joanna M. Pestka
Vice-President for Capital Planning and Facilities Operations
New York Public Library
476 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2788

Re: Jefferson Market Library Restoration

Dear Ms. Pestka,

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) was formed in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village. Now in our twenty-fifth year, we continue to care deeply about the integrity of the Village's historic structures. Like many Villagers, we are concerned about the state of Jefferson Market Library's historic and incredibly significant façade. We would like to assist Library in its effort to raise the needed funds to repair and restore the façade as quickly as possible before the façade materials further deteriorate and the conditions worsen.

At the Jefferson Market Library public meeting on November 29, I mentioned that GVSHP would be happy to assist the Library with researching grants and other funding opportunities for the restoration of the Library's façade. I have put together a list of potential funding sources specifically for the restoration of historic structures owned by not-for-profits and local governments. I have included basic information and criteria for each of the funding sources, as well as a web address and telephone number for each so that you can easily learn more.

If the Library needs assistance with any of these grants, GVSHP would be delighted to help in any way we can. As noted, one potential funding source, Save America's Treasures, may require the building to be designated a National Historic Landmark, which the Library is not currently. However, we believe that the Library would certainly qualify as a National Historic Landmark, and we would be more than happy to work with the Library to see this status conferred upon the building, whether it is to assist with this grant or simply to help this wonderful building get the recognition of its historic significance it deserves.

The following is the list of potential funding sources:

National Trust for Historic Preservation/Home and Garden TV Restore America Grants

- Available to not-for-profits and public agencies;
- Intended to further the restoration or rehabilitation of a historic structure;
- In the past, the grants have funded the restoration of commercial properties. However, the 2006 grants focused solely on residential properties (the deadline was November 30, 2005). The focus of the 2007

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grants has not yet been publicized, and it is possible that these grants will again fund the restoration of commercial properties.

- Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000;
- Grants may be used for professional services fees or bricks and mortar expenses.

Website: http://www.nationaltrust.org/restore_america/ra_grants.html
Phone: National Trust's Northeast Office, (617) 523-0885

National Trust for Historic Preservation Other Grants

- Has a variety of funding sources available, including the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, which provides not-for-profit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors;
- The National Trust also provides consultation on other grants sources.

Website: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/grants.html>
Phone: National Trust's Northeast Office, (617) 523-0885

New York Landmarks Conservancy, Historic Properties Fund

- Offers low-interest loans and project management assistance to owners of historic residential, not-for-profit, religious, and commercial properties throughout New York City – mostly in low- to moderate-income communities;
- Loans generally apply to exterior work or structural repairs and range from \$20,000 to \$300,000;
- The property must be a designated New York City landmark or listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places – the Library meets both of these criteria;
- The Conservancy also offers assistance in finding other funding sources.

Website: <http://www.nylandmarks.org/>
Phone: Karen Ansis, (212) 995-5268

New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture, Planning & Design/Capital Projects Grants

- Provides funding for capital projects to support the improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation of existing buildings owned or leased by not-for-profit cultural institutions receiving programmatic funding from the Council;
- Funds only construction costs and does not cover professional consultant fees;
- Grants range from \$5,000 - \$50,000;

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- Loans of up to \$100,000 are made at a low interest rate. Groups may apply for both a grant and a loan for a maximum combined amount of \$150,000.

Website: <http://www.nysca.org/public/guidelines/architecture/index.htm>
Phone: Anne Van Ingen (212) 741-7013

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grants

- Available to not-for-profits and municipalities;
- Property must be listed on the State and National Register, which the Library is;
- Goal is the preservation and improvement of historic structures;
- Are especially interested in endangered historic properties;
- Are matching grants – cannot exceed 50% of the cost of the project.

Website: <http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/programs/historic.asp>
Phone: Merrill Hesch, (212) 866-2599

Preservation League of New York State/Preserve New York Grant Program

- Available to not-for-profits or a unit of a local government;
- Funding available for cultural resources surveys, historic structures reports, and historic landscape reports. They do not fund the preservation and conservation work per se, but could fund the Library's conditions report;
- Grants range from \$3,000 - \$15,000.

Website: <http://www.preservenys.org/fundinghome.htm>
Phone: Tania Werbizky, (607) 272-6510, or Lorraine Weiss, (518) 462-5658 x 12.

Save America's Treasures grants

- Available to not-for-profits and government agencies;
- For preservation and conservation work on nationally significant historic properties;
- The historic property must be threatened or endangered, and the application must document the urgent preservation and/or conservation need;
- Projects must substantially mitigate the threat and must have a clear public benefit;
- Many of the past recipients of the grants have been National Historic Landmarks (NHL), which the Library is not. However, GVSHP would be willing to help the Library seek NHL status if it will help your likelihood of getting a grant;
- In 2004, the average grant amount awarded to historic properties was \$277,000.

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Website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/application.htm>
Phone: (202) 354-2020, ext. 1
Email: NPS_treasures@nps.gov

Other Sources

- Many banks, corporations, and private foundations fund preservation projects. The following is a short list of places with which GVSHP is familiar, although there are no doubt many other options the Library can pursue for funding:
 - o Deutsch Bank
 - o Independence Community Bank
 - o Verizon
 - o The Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 - o The Booth Ferris Foundation

I hope this list proves helpful. GVSHP is happy to assist the Library in any way we can to make the long-needed restoration of the Jefferson Market Library façade a reality as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman
Executive Director

