



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

## News Release

MEDIA CONTACT: KIMBERLY RAWSON  
413-445-4467, [KARAWSON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KARAWSON@GMAIL.COM)

### **Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Program Names Four New Sites to Membership**

500 Capp Street/David Ireland House (San Francisco, CA), James Fitzgerald Legacy/Monhegan Museum of Art and History (Monhegan Island, ME), Edward Hopper House Museum and Study Center (Nyack, NY), and the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation (NY, NY) Join Unique National Network of Historic Sites

**Stockbridge, Mass. (Feb. 12, 2018)** – The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced today that four new members have been accepted into their Historic Artists' Homes and Studios (HAHS) program. Executive Director Donna Hassler and HAHS Program Manager Valerie Balint administer the program, which is funded in part by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, through Chesterwood, the former summer home, studio and gardens of America's foremost sculptor of public monuments, Daniel Chester French.

All four new members are the preserved homes and studios of significant American artists and are open to the public.

The new members include historic sites in New York, Maine and California.

The childhood home of painter Edward Hopper (1882-1967) in Nyack, New York, where the artist had his first studio overlooking the Hudson River, and the Greenwich Village home and studio of sculptor and arts educator Chaim Gross (1904-1991) are among the new members.

A home and studio on Maine's Monhegan Island, a locale that has drawn artists and writers for centuries, is also joining the program. The home and studio, built by painter Rockwell Kent (1882-1971) was later occupied by his cousin, painter Alice Kent Stoddard (1883-1976), and ultimately by his friend, painter James Fitzgerald (1899-1971).

The recently preserved and opened home of late conceptual artist David Ireland in the Mission District of San Francisco has also joined the program. The 1886 Italianate-style home was transformed by Ireland into a site-specific artwork, widely considered the centerpiece of his career.

“These diverse sites and the stories of the artists who created in these spaces help to advance the collective narrative of our country’s extraordinary artistic legacy,” said HAHS Program Manager Valerie Balint. “Adding these to our consortium continues to enhance a national conversation about visual arts, cultural identity, and the power of place, all of which are seminal to the work of the HAHS network and the National Trust.”

The HAHS program is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the places where art was made in America. “The ability to present Edward Hopper's formative years through the HAHS lens strengthens the message of our mission and will help guide our future,” said Jennifer Patton, executive director of the Edward Hopper House Museum and Study Center. Trustee Wendy Bartley adds, “We feel very fortunate to join HAHS and take our place among the homes and studios of some of America’s greatest artists. We have much to learn from other HAHS members as we continually explore ways to animate for our visitors the sense of Hopper’s early emotional and artistic development.”

The Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation, recipient of the 2015 Village Award from the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, has long championed the importance of the vision of artist Chaim Gross as preserved in his home and studio in Greenwich Village, according to Executive Director Sasha Davis. “Our mission, centered on research, exhibitions, and educational activities, all around our historic building and art collections, is incredibly well paired with the mission of the HAHS program to further the preservation and interpretation of artists' spaces through collective dialogue and shared challenges,” Davis said.

“Rockwell Kent and James Fitzgerald both sought remote locations as a source for insight and inspiration, choosing to live on an outer island, 12 miles off the Maine coast, where they created some of their finest work,” said Robert Stahl, executive director of The Fitzgerald Legacy, which operates the home and studio of Rockwell Kent through the Monhegan Museum of History and Art. “We view being a part of the National Trust’s HAHS program as an important opportunity to increase the public’s awareness of

and accessibility to this site, enabling visitors to experience the interplay between the raw beauty of the island and the creative process of these artists.”

“David Ireland’s sphere of influence and the importance of his house to Bay Area cultural history cannot be overstated,” said Carlie Wilmans, executive director of the 500 Capp Street Foundation. “Ireland’s ideas and creative spirit are ingrained in his home, which is San Francisco’s only historic artist home. It’s an extreme honor to be accepted into the esteemed HAHS and further extend the experience of Ireland’s art and legacy.”

“These institutions are engaging in innovative programming, important scholarship, and responsible preservation initiatives, offering a transformative experience for their visitors,” said Balint. “We are delighted they have accepted our invitation to be part of the program and look forward to working with them.”

For more information on the new HAHS member sites, see <http://500cappstreet.org/>, [www.rcgrossfoundation.org](http://www.rcgrossfoundation.org), <https://monheganmuseum.org/the-museum-association/history/326-2/> and <http://www.edwardhopperhouse.org/>

### **Image Captions**

1. Third floor living room at the Renee and Chaim Gross Home in Greenwich Village, Courtesy Renee and Chaim Gross, © Sotheby’s.
2. David Ireland, 500 Capp Street (interior view, upstairs living room). Photo: Henrik Kam, 2015; courtesy The 500 Capp Street Foundation.
3. Edward Hopper House in Nyack, New York is the birthplace of Edward Hopper. It was built in 1858 by his maternal grandfather, and served as his primary residence until 1910. Courtesy Edward Hopper House Museum and Study Center.
4. The view from Rockwell Kent’s former home on Mohegan Island, Maine. Photo: © Robert Stahl, 2017.

### **About the Historic Artists’ Homes and Studios Program**

The Historic Artists’ Homes and Studios network is a peer-to-peer coalition of sites that brings these museums together to conserve the legacy of creativity in the visual arts in America. Since its establishment by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1999,

HAHS has developed into a successful community of practice, working with 40 member sites that serve tens of thousands of visitors in nearly every part of the United States. This network of sites leverages the knowledge and experience of individual members to benefit the entire coalition in critical areas, including historic preservation, visitor and community programming, and communications. For more information, see [artistshomes.org](http://artistshomes.org)

### **About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. For more information, see [SavingPlaces.org](http://SavingPlaces.org)

### **About Chesterwood**

Chesterwood, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation is the former summer home, studio and gardens of America's foremost sculptor of public monuments, Daniel Chester French (1850-1931). French is best known for his sculptures of the *Minute Man* (1871-75) and the seated figure of Abraham Lincoln (1911-22) for the *Lincoln Memorial* in Washington, DC. Situated on 122 acres in the idyllic hamlet of Glendale near Stockbridge, MA, the property and its buildings were donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation by French's only child Margaret French Cresson (1889-1973). Chesterwood is recognized as both a National Historic Landmark and a Massachusetts Historic Landmark. For more information, see [chesterwood.org](http://chesterwood.org).

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