

THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation awarded \$18,000 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Dorothy C. Radgowski Learning Through Women’s Achievement in the Arts Grant

Feb. 9, 2023, New York City—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award of \$18,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Dorothy C. Radgowski Learning Through Women’s Achievement in the Arts Grant.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is pleased to announce the establishment of a new grant program that will celebrate the roles of significant women in art history, by funding the creation of new educational programming for young students (K-5) at historic sites and museums across the country.

The newly-created *Dorothy C. Radgowski Learning Through Women’s Achievement in the Arts Grant* is a joint effort of Where Women Made History (WWMH), and Historic Artists’ Homes & Studios (HAHS), both programs of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Like HAHS itself, the new grant program aims to support the constellation of one-of-a-kind museums set within the historic residences or working spaces of notable American artists. This new financial support will enable sites to put women at the center of their interpretive story, highlighting their accomplishments, histories, and integral roles in the worlds of art, history, and historic preservation.

The initial cohort of grants will support four creative projects bullet-pointed below, which range from the exploration of largely unknown aspects of an iconic artist; amplification of the artistic accomplishments of a woman artist whose talents have been consistently overshadowed by her husband; presenting the fuller personal and artistic journeys of women whose lives all intersected at one artist’s home and studio, but whose complex narratives have been largely unrecognized; and bringing to the forefront the many women who were involved in a successful studio practice.

- *SaltLife: Students Create Kinetic Sculptures and Soundwalk Inspired by Art and Home of Helen Torr* at the Helen Torr/Arthur Dove Cottage (Heckscher Museum of Art) in Centerport, NY. Students will visit the Dove/Torr Cottage, learn how the natural world and local ecology affected the life and art of Helen Torr, and create kinetic sculptures and a soundwalk for a public art installation. (\$18,000 grant)

- *Renee Gross in Mid 20th-Century Greenwich Village* at the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation (RCGF), New York, NY. Drawing on Renee Gross' life story and experiences as an immigrant, a pandemic survivor, an activist and organizer, and a philanthropist, and the lives of the many women artists in her orbit, RCGF will develop educational resources for K-5 students to provide them access to a small site and histories that would otherwise not be accessible. (\$18,000 grant)
- *Centering Women in STEAM through Classroom, Field Trip, and Digital Learning for 4th Graders* at the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park/Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Cornish, NH. This place and collections-based project shines a light on the many women involved in the creative process associated with sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens through the development of science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) focused lesson plans for 4th grade students and education professionals. (\$14,500 grant)
- *Looking Closer with O'Keeffe: STEAM Learning Experiences at Georgia O'Keeffe's Home & Studio, Abiquiu, NM.* At the artist's former home, now owned and operated by the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, underserved and predominantly Spanish-speaking students from the local elementary school system will be inspired through immersive educational field trips and family tours rooted in sensory experiences that address accessibility. New STEAM learning opportunities will celebrate this icon of modernism, and acknowledge her own sensory challenges, while building stronger relationships with the local community. (\$18,000 grant)

Educational programs developed at each site through the grant program will subsequently be published on the National Trust and the HAHS websites as models to inspire other historic sites to make stories of women's achievement an integral part of their storytelling and interpretation.

Looking beyond this initial cohort of grants, the program has already identified several additional projects for potential funding during the summer of 2023, with the goal of awarding and administering at least \$100,000 in grants in its first year.

About Chaim Gross

Chaim Gross (1902-91) was an American sculptor whose prolific career spanned seven decades. He is known primarily for his direct carvings in wood as well as his bronzes, often of families or acrobats. His work is in public and private collections throughout the United States, with a significant portion at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. A philanthropist as well as a collector, Gross donated hundreds of objects to museums worldwide. He collected broadly, with a focus on the work of his American contemporaries and African arts.

About the Foundation

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1989. The Foundation's mission is to further the legacy of Chaim Gross through high-quality research, exhibitions, and educational activities around the historic building and art collections for audiences in New York City and beyond. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website at www.rcgrossfoundation.org.

About WWMH

Where Women Made History is a multi-year campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, dedicated to uncovering and amplifying the powerful, but often overlooked, role of women and their impact on our nation's history. The WWMH campaign's objective is to bring new resources and attention to women's history sites—galvanizing support for the preservation of these places and inspiring a new generation of women leaders. Read more about WWMH [here](#).

About HAHS

The Historic Artists' Homes & Studios program was first established more than twenty years ago with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to bring together historical sites associated with American artists and to share solutions for common issues. The ever-growing HAHS coalition now includes a total of 61 historic sites across 25 states, each preserving the home and working studio of a significant American artist. More than half of all HAHS sites are associated with women artists. Read more about HAHS [here](#).

###

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. Read more at SavingPlaces.org.

***For more information about the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation,
please contact Sasha Davis, Executive Director, at
sashadavis@rcgrossfoundation.org***