

THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation awarded \$200,186 by the New York State's Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program (EPF)

Nov. 17, 2023, New York City—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award of \$200,186 from New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Environmental Protection Fund: Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grants (OPRHP: PKS: A/P/D; HP: A/P/D; HAS: A/P/D). The Foundation will restore the street-facing facade and roof of 526 LaGuardia Place, the historic home and studio of sculptor Chaim Gross and his wife Renee. The project will retain the building's 19th-century character while preventing water infiltration.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that more than \$57 million has been awarded to support 238 projects across New York State through the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Round XIII included Empire State Development grant funds and Excelsior Jobs Program tax credits, which was made available on a continuous and competitive basis to support the immediate needs of communities. Over \$46 million in funding from these programs will support impactful projects that align with each region's strategic goals. Round XIII also included two new micro grant programs: the Craft Beverage Micro Grant Program and the Not-for-Profit Capital Grant Program which awarded over \$9.7 million to support 170 craft beverage manufacturers and non-profit organizations throughout the state.

The Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program (EPF) provides matching grants on a competitive basis for the acquisition, planning, and development of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas located within the physical boundaries of the State of New York. Parks is for the acquisition, development and planning of parks and recreational facilities to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects. Historic Preservation is to acquire, improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects. Heritage Areas is for projects to acquire, preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures identified in the approved management plans for Heritage Areas designated under section 35.03 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, and for structural assessments or planning for such projects.

"New York State is supporting our growing communities by investing in shovel-ready projects that will encourage job creation and help boost local economies," **Governor Hochul said.** "The range of these projects reflects crucial Regional Economic Development Council input from the stakeholders who know their local

assets and industries best, helping us to make strategic investments to create opportunity in our communities, both now and for the future.”

Governor Hochul’s announcement and the full list of awardees can be found here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-57-million-awarded-through-round-xiii-regional-economic>

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a vibrant organization that gives visitors the unique experience of entering the artist’s studio, thereby gaining a more complete understanding of the artistic process. The combination of artist’s studio and interpreted living space is a rare example of an architecturally significant building that contains both an artist’s creative interior and his historically-installed collection in New York. The benefit of seeing art objects within their historic context cannot be overstated. Fundamentally, the interior tells a narrative about the history of American art from an artist’s point of view—a story that cannot be conveyed by larger museums. House & Studio tours, offered again after closure due to COVID, deepen the visitor’s engagement with Gross and the 20th-century New York art scene.

The Foundation’s temporary exhibitions on topics related to Gross, his milieu, and works in the collection on the second-floor have included topical exhibitions like *Artists and Immigrants, Building Identity: Chaim Gross and Artists’ Homes & Studios in New York City, 1953-1974*, and those that highlight the significance of the African Arts in the collection such as *Nigerian Sculpture*. In order to be accessible, exhibitions such as *Teaching Through Touch: Works by Chaim Gross* were designed with visitors who may be low vision or blind in mind.

The Foundation also offers special educational programming surrounding themes of exhibitions or current research. Lecture and discussions take place 8-12 times per year. The Foundation also offers monthly Access programming virtually and onsite. As the Foundation is education-centered, the largest constituencies are retiree groups, educators, and high school to graduate level students.

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.

***For more information about the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation,
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