



**Annual Report - 2020**



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



The Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission received a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

## Grants & Grant Programs

### 1. NJ State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) Local Arts Program (LAP): \$75,864

- Submitted FY2019 and FY2020 NJSCA LAP Final Report.
- Submitted FY2020 NJSCA LAP Interim Report.
- Received \$71,464 (\$5,000 increase from FY2020) for FY2021.
- Administered 2020 NJSCA LAP Re-Grants: 9 awards totaling \$48,500
- Administered \$17,964 LAP funds for Local Arts Development programs, including Art Goes to School, senior music workshops, Central Jersey Jazz Festival, Music Under the Stars (Hunterdon Symphony), and workshops.
- CARES Act Grant Addendum: Received \$9,400 in federal CARES Act funding
  - Re-granted \$4,700 each to two Hunterdon County arts organizations



### 2. Hunterdon County Special Projects Grants (SP) for Arts and History

- Administered on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners for special projects in history or the arts.
- Awards granted for 3 arts projects and one history project, totaling \$22,500.

### 3. New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) County History Partnership Program (CHPP) \$20,195:

- Administered 4 CHPP re-grant awards totaling \$15,195 (\$5,000 retained for administrative allowance).
- Submitted 2019 NJHC CHPP Final Report.
- Submitted 2020 NJHC CHPP Interim Report.
- Received \$30,195 for FY2021 (\$10,000 increase from 2020).

### 4. Hunterdon County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grants

This program is administered by Planning Department staffperson Bill Millette, for the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC). The Commission reviews submitted grant applications to assist POSAC: Review panel members are drawn from among Commission members with experience overseeing or implementing historic preservation projects

## Programs

- Ongoing - Commissioners and staff attend events/activities of its grantees to monitor progress and show support of arts/history in Hunterdon County.
- Art Goes to School had limited impact in 2020 due to COVID school closings
- February and March, Andy Wasserman provided five music workshops to senior residences and care centers throughout Hunterdon County (NJSCA Local Arts Program funds).
- Essay contest put on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Created YouTube channel to post grant workshops. Held FY2021 workshops for Special Project, LAP, and CHPP grants between September 2020 and January 2021.

- The Historical Marker Committee continues to meet regularly for the development and approval of new factual content and updated signage, to review marker applications, and in conjunction with efforts to launch HuntHistory.org.

### **Staff Professional Development/Training/Conferences**

- Quarterly meetings of the Association of New Jersey County Cultural & Heritage Agencies (ANJCCHA). NJSCA and NJHC staff use these meetings to provide updates on grants, programs, and statewide initiatives
- Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALFHAM) June 2020 Annual Conference
- Archaeological Society of New Jersey (ASNJ) Speaker Series
- ESRI Annual Conference in July 2020

### **New Staff:**

Lauren Lembo started as a full-time employee for the Cultural & Heritage Commission (Analyst Trainee) on June 1, 2020, primarily focusing on regrants and ongoing outreach/research projects.

### **Audience Engagement or “Outreach”**

Although Facebook statistics were up January – June by 18%, they went down overall for the year, with “likes” down 11% and “follows” down 8% since Jan. 1, 2020. This is likely due to less activity on the page, as staff focused on direct outreach to constituents via email and the telephone.

Staff sent over 1,000 emails and/or forwarded electronic info to constituents informing them of professional development opportunities, COVID-19 support, diversity resources and webinars, programs of interest and calls for artists, suggestions for how/where to publicize their events and programs, grant workshops and resources, and pertinent news or announcements.

Staff responded to emailed requests for information on topics such as Teen Arts, grant opportunities, local genealogical history, local African American history, stone bridges, Hunterdon County history books, and local women’s history.

The Commission’s electronic and USPS mailing lists are constantly under review. Begun by Planning staff, and continued by Commission staff, we have created specialized mailing lists for teachers, artists, grantees, arts and history organizations, and local contacts to increase efficiency and to target key constituencies for mass mailings.

Carrie Fellows is copied on Section 106 review and other communications from the NJ Historic Preservation Office regarding Hunterdon County properties. When possible, she attends hearings on Hunterdon properties that come before the Historic Sites Council, and the NJ State Review Board.

### **Collaborative Activities**

Ms. Fellows meets frequently with local agency directors working in related fields, including HC Economic Development, HC Parks & Recreation, HC Chamber of Commerce, Flemington Community Partnership and the Hunterdon Creative Team to collaborate and exchange ideas on initiatives of mutual interest.

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area/NJ250: Ms. Fellows was appointed to the NJ250 Advisory Board for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.