



SHPO Strategic Plan Update

The SHPO has completed a draft of its 5 year strategic plan. The draft is posted to our website and we welcome your feedback. The public comment period will be open for thirty days, so if you'd like comment on the draft plan, please send an email to Julie.carmelich@ct.gov using the heading **SHPO Strategic Plan** by October 18, 2018.

[Click Here to Review the Plan](#)

State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Celebrating 10 years!

The State's historic rehabilitation tax credit program provides for a **25% tax credit** on eligible expenditures associated with the rehabilitation of historic structures. An additional 5% is available for projects that include an affordable housing component. Since 2008, **103 historic buildings** have been rehabilitated into a mix of housing and non-residential use. **Twenty-three municipalities** have benefited from the program.



The Impact: 10 Years and Counting

The program has generated **\$145,011,529.00 in tax credit vouchers**, which leveraged **\$566,976,213.00 in private investment**, and created:

- 2,747 new residential units
- Including 1,005 affordable housing units
- Over 950,000 SF in commercial space

Photo: Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Bridgeport

SHPO Fellowships

If you attended our conference back in May, you will remember that we offered two paid fellowships for a professional activity to enhance the recipient's career. Well, the awardees are back and sharing all that they

learned. Congratulations and well done, Christina and Elizabeth!

**Christina Smith -
Executive Director,
Groundwork Bridgeport**

This summer I participated in the 5-week New York Botanical Garden Summer Intensive program in Landscape Design. The schedule included classes about Landscape Design History, the art of drawing up landscape plans (Graphics I and II), Landscape Design Concepts as well as a few classes on the identification and selection of plants (Basic Plant ID and Plants for Landscaping).



The Landscape Design History course was the portion most relevant to the project I'm working on as part of an initiative led by a few members of the Fairfield Garden Club to restore a portion of Seaside Park located in Bridgeport, CT. A marine park, it was designed by landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux of Central Park fame. My work on this project relates to the mission of the organization I oversee, Groundwork Bridgeport, whose focus is on improving the physical landscape of Bridgeport as a path towards urban regeneration.

I went through centuries of landscape design history at whirlwind speed, learning about everything from the geometric forms and paradise style of Persian Gardens, the ornate and formal style of the Baroque through to the Piet Oudolf, naturalistic style of today. We learned about how gardens reflected the social, political, and other aspects of the time, whether covering the scented Elizabethan chamomile benches used to mask the body odors of the day (reflecting the limited technology of the period) to how axial paths were a symbol pointing to monarchical power (and supposedly that all paths of Versailles led to Louis XIV bedroom - or at least that's what I remember being said!). Caitlin Merritt, the course instructor, and an adjunct instructor at Sacred Heart University, was a wealth of knowledge.

The course was intense - 8+ hours of coursework and homework for 5 days a week, for 5 straight weeks - and only represented a small portion of the full course load to complete the Landscape Design Certificate at NYBG but it provided a basis for understanding landscape designs of the past and today and how the physical landscape shapes our world.



**Elizabeth Holt -
Preservation Services
Officer, New Haven
Preservation Trust**

I attended a two-day professional grant development workshop at The Grant Training Center in Washington D.C. The workshop provides institutions and individuals the

highest quality support in the process of applying for and managing grant funding. Based in Arlington, Virginia, they hold workshops throughout the United States. Students were provided with a comprehensive workbook, resource directory, sample grants, and guided questions to assist in completing a grant proposal.

Grants are essential to the operation of non-profit organizations. I chose to attend this workshop to gain insight into the process of finding, applying to, and managing grant money. I believe this skill will help me be a more effective volunteer, board member, and employee of non-profit organizations now and in the future. Here's what I learned:

- Be proactive, not reactive. Applicants often run into trouble when they wait until the last minute to apply for a grant. The application process for large and competitive grants can take months, so be prepared in advance. Search for potential grants for your organization before you need the money and leave yourself time to review the application and make necessary edits before you submit.
- The heart of the proposal comes down to 4 sentences, your goal (1) and objectives (2-4). These sentences need to be clearly stated with details that leave no questions for the reviewer. You must explain how the money will be used and how the actions will help you reach your goal. Objectives should be translatable to a monetary amount. For example, "...to enhance the understanding of students..." cannot be monetized. Instead, be specific. For example, "conduct a three hour workshop for 50 students...". After reading the proposal, the reviewer should not have any doubt that the money you are requesting can adequately fund your objectives.
- The grant proposal should not be about what the grantor can do for you, but what you can do for the community if you receive the grant. Receiving grant money for your organization, of course, helps the organization, but ultimately the money should be translated to a service that helps the public.

And, here are some great resources for helping with your grant application.

Resources

[Grant Training Center Blog](#)

[Grant Watch](#)

[Grants.gov](#)

[Grant Space](#)

News from the Museums



Copper Mine

Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine has had a great summer! We were floored by the visitation for our grand opening and other special events. Thank you for coming to visit this East Granby treasure!

Some upcoming events to watch out for include, *Escape from Newgate*, a

full day of reenactments from the 5th CT Regiment on September 29th and a Halloween celebration October 26th-27th. Old New-Gate closes for the season on October 29th, so come out and enjoy the beautiful fall weather with us. Find our upcoming events on Facebook or (<http://www.cultureandtourism.org>).



Upcoming Events

Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit Workshops

The SHPO will be hosting workshops around the state about the Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. The tax credit provides for a 30% return on expenses associated with rehabilitating owner-occupied one- to four-family homes listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. These hour-and-a-half workshops will detail the program's benefits, qualifying work, and application process. Join SHPO to learn more about this unique funding opportunity for private homeowners and help the office spread the word in your community! For questions, you can contact Alyssa Lozupone: alyssa.lozupone@ct.gov and 860.500.2426.

- September 19, 6:30pm, St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall in New Britain (295 Arch Street), in partnership with the New Britain NRZ
- September 24, 6:00pm, Woodstock Town Hall (415 CT-169), in partnership with the Woodstock Historic Properties Commission
- October 3, 5:30pm, Litchfield Historical Society (7 South Street, Litchfield)
- November 5, 6:30pm, Cyrenius H. Booth Library (25 Main Street, Newtown)