



**Historic Hudson Valley Receives Federal Grant for Philipsburg Manor Millpond Restoration**  
***\$438K National Endowment for the Humanities Infrastructure and Capacity Building***  
***Challenge Grant supports dredging at significant 18<sup>th</sup>-century living history site***

**Sleepy Hollow, NY** (February 12, 2024) -- A \$438,979 Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will help Historic Hudson Valley restore and dredge the millpond at Philipsburg Manor, a National Historic Landmark in Sleepy Hollow owned and operated by Historic Hudson Valley. The non-profit education organization uses the site to educate schoolchildren and adults about the history and impact of slavery in the colonial North. With this challenge grant, NEH requires Historic Hudson Valley to raise approximately \$1.4 million in matching funds, nearly \$400,000 of which has already been committed by several of its generous supporters.

A series of storms, including Hurricane Ida, deposited large amounts of sediment and debris into the millpond, disrupting the water flow necessary to power the waterwheel of the site's working gristmill. This disturbance hindered Historic Hudson Valley's ability to showcase the skilled labor and knowledge of Caesar, the enslaved miller who operated the mill in 1750. The NEH grant will help fund the multi-million-dollar capital project to remove sediment and restore the millpond to the appearance and

function it held when first created by the Philipse family in the mid-1600s, as well as help protect the property from future storm damage.

“We are thrilled to have been awarded a major infrastructure grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities,” said Peter Pockriss, chief operating officer of Historic Hudson Valley. “With the help of this grant, we can offer visitors and schoolchildren the opportunity to experience hands-on, interactive demonstrations of the mill, providing another visceral connection to the past during our tours. We thank the NEH for this significant boost to our ongoing campaign that will help us protect this site, which is so critical to sharing the story of our nation’s history. We look forward to working with our community of supporters to raise the remaining funds for this important work.”

Philipsburg Manor, which was home to 23 enslaved individuals in the 1750s, is an essential resource for teaching about Dutch colonization, the institution of enslavement in the North, and the impact this history had on the settlements that became New York City and New York State.

Historic Hudson Valley is honored to have been the recipient of a number of significant grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities over the years, from the 1998 award that allowed the organization to reinterpret Philipsburg Manor around the stories of the enslaved individuals who lived and worked there in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the Webby Award-winning online interactive documentary *People Not Property: Stories of Slavery in the Colonial North*, which launched in 2019. A grant from the NEH also supported the development of *Kofi’s Fire*, a digital graphic novel to be released shortly that tells the story of Kofi, a man enslaved by the Philipse family who was tried and executed for his alleged role in the New York Conspiracy of 1741.

*The Philipsburg Manor Millpond Restoration Project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.*

#### **Details: Philipsburg Manor**

Philipsburg Manor is at 381 North Broadway (Route 9) in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., two miles north of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. Public tours are offered May-December. Information: 914-366-6900, [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).

#### **About Historic Hudson Valley**

Historic Hudson Valley, Westchester County’s largest cultural organization welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors a year through school programs, tours of National Historic Landmarks, and large-scale events like the Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze. From its lower Hudson Valley base of operations, the organization focuses on delivering quality educational and entertaining experiences, striking a balance between tradition and vision, from preserving the past, to contextualizing it in creative ways for 21st-

century audiences.

**About the National Endowment for the Humanities**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).



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