

For Immediate Release - September 30, 2015

Department of Economic and  
Community Development



## DECD ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO ENHANCE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES IN THE STATE

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) announced today it will provide \$1,990,386 in grants to 20 nonprofit organizations that sponsor cultural and historic sites in the state.

Through the Good to Great Program, administered by DECD's Offices of Arts and Historic Preservation, grants are being awarded to eligible organizations that promote science, art, culture, or the history of Connecticut.

"Connecticut has a rich cultural history. By making these investments, we're ensuring that our museums and other cultural sites remain unique, world-class places to visit and become much more compelling experiences for visitors," Governor Malloy said. "Connecticut is an incredible place to live and visit – and we're working hard today so that our state has an even brighter future tomorrow."

Good to Great was created in 2014 to fund improvements that will significantly enhance cultural and historic sites and the way people enjoy them. Specifically, the program will target smaller and mid-sized cultural organizations that have received limited state funding in the past.

Funding, which ranges from \$50,000 to \$125,000 grants, can be used for a variety of activities including construction, exhibit designing and installation, planning and marketing. This pilot program has a 25% cash match requirement. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

Recipients are listed in the following table.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Town</b>
<b>Fairfield Museum</b>	\$125,000	Fairfield
<b>Noah Webster House &amp; West Hartford Historical Society</b>	\$125,000	West Hartford
<b>Wilton Historical Society</b>	\$125,000	Wilton
<b>I-Park</b>	\$110,000	East Haddam

<b>The Institute Library</b>	\$125,000	New Haven
<b>P.L.A.C.E.</b>	\$60,000	Hamden
<b>Hygienic Art</b>	\$125,000	New London
<b>Kidsplay Children Museum</b>	\$125,000	Torrington
<b>Torrington Historical Society</b>	\$77,250	Torrington
<b>New London Maritime Society</b>	\$125,000	New London
<b>Milford Arts Council</b>	\$60,000	Milford
<b>Landmark Community Theater</b>	\$100,000	Thomaston
<b>The Friends of Booth Park</b>	\$60,000	Stratford
<b>New Britain Arts Alliance</b>	\$70,000	New Britain
<b>Gunn Memorial Museum</b>	\$100,000	Washington
<b>Stratford Stage Group</b>	\$125,000	Stratford
<b>Hartbeat Ensemble</b>	\$83,850	Hartford
<b>Bethel Historical Society</b>	\$69,286	Bethel
<b>Friends of the Wood Memorial Library &amp; Museum</b>	\$75,000	South Windsor
<b>Shoreline Arts Alliance</b>	\$125,000	Guilford/Madison

“Interest in the program was very strong, as DECD received 46 applications. From those we had to choose the strongest projects that fit our criteria,” said Catherine Smith, commissioner of DECD. “DECD is prioritizing funding for projects that demonstrate a clear vision of how individual sites and organizations can improve the customer experience, effectively tie together local, regional or statewide cultural assets, and promote more visitors. Our state’s commitment to assisting communities in leveraging their cultural assets is core to the new Good to Great pilot program.”

State Senator John Fonfara was a driving force behind the creation of the program. “I am happy to have been part of the effort to bring important resources to assist our state's historical and cultural treasures,” he said.

“DECD believes strongly in enabling local arts and cultural leaders to identify the right path forward for their treasured cultural assets,” noted Kristina Newman-Scott, Director of Culture for DECD. “Good to Great assists thoughtful local leaders to move forward with projects that transform the experiences of their visitors and underscore the importance of arts and culture to the state's future.”

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Contact: Jim Watson

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

[Jim.Watson@ct.gov](mailto:Jim.Watson@ct.gov)

860-270-8182 (office)

860-306-3737 (cell)