

# Arts organizations primed to spend state grants on projects in 2015



Onondaga Historical Association will establish the Skanonh- Great Law of Peace Center at 6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway in Liverpool. It will be a Haudenosaunee heritage center and will be located in the existing visitors' center of the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois (familiar to many as the French fort). Exhibits and More has designed the exhibits, above, in the 10,000-square-foot building. The center will promote heritage tourism, primarily focused on the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people. *(Image courtesy of Exhibits and More)*

[Print](#)



By [Melinda Johnson | mjohnson@syracuse.com](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on December 19, 2014 at 11:30 AM, updated December 19, 2014 at 12:14 PM

0

Reddit

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Central New York arts and heritage organizations **received state grants** through the Regional Economic Development Council last week. Here's a closeup look at the plans for a few of

the groups. In several cases, you can see the original grant request and the total project cost.

**Onondaga Historical Association** received two \$80,000 grants for **Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center** Build Out Project. Requested \$80,000 for total project of \$500,000.

The two grants, totaling \$160,000, will help OHA begin the final phase of creating a Haudenosaunee heritage center in the existing visitors' center of the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois (familiar to many as the French fort) on Onondaga Lake Parkway. In May renovation of the 10,000-square-foot interior will begin the building's transformation into the Ska-nonh Great Law of Peace Center.

Last year, OHA received \$50,000 in Regional Economic Development Council funds for Phase 2 of the project. OHA hired King & King Architects for the building's redesign and Exhibits and More created the exhibits. Philip Arnold, Ph.D., and Richard Hill developed the content for the exhibits.

"This is a facility that gives validity to oral history, which is rare," said Gregg Tripoli, OHA executive director. To honor this oral history tradition, Tripoli said a major component of the center will be a film of the Haudenosaunee people sharing their stories.

He expects the exhibits and the building will be completed by November. OHA continues to raise funds and seek grants for the project.

**Syracuse Opera**, The Gloria Denied Project, \$47,600.

Syracuse Opera will partner with **Clear Path for Veterans**, based in Chittenango, to present "Glory Denied." The opera, by Tom Cipullo, is based on the **book "Glory Denied: The Saga of Jim Thompson, America's Longest-Held Prisoner of War,"** by Tom Philpott. The Viet Cong imprisoned Thompson from 1964 to 1973.

Douglas Kinney Frost, producing and artistic director, expects the contemporary opera will be performed in mid-November in Syracuse. It will be a production separate from Syracuse Opera's subscription season.

In the opera, the younger and older Thompson and his wife Alyce share their stories. The nine years of Thompson's captivity shattered the family.

"It's the struggle of connecting to your family after you've been gone for a while," said Frost. "But then the larger issue for Col. Thompson was the fact that the country had moved so far away from Vietnam by the time he returned."

He described the opera as intense and compelling. "I like the piece. I like the punch of emotion the piece gets."

Frost said the four-person opera will be performed with seven musicians on a small stage. Before the performance, outreach events will be organized with Clear Path for Veterans.

The \$47,600 grant should cover the \$40,000 budget for the Syracuse performance and the remaining \$7,600 would underwrite a second regional show. Frost hopes to raise more money and tour the production across the state. He has approached veterans groups in Albany, Rochester and Buffalo. **Syracuse Opera** is waiting to hear if its grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts has been approved. "We're inching our way through the project hoping we'll be able to get the funding to do it in a really broad way."

Serendipitously, Frost learned of the opera through one of his former students who conducted "Glory Denied" at the Fort Worth Opera Festival in April 2013. Baritone **Michael Mayes** performed the role of Older Thompson in that production. Mayes is one of Frost's favorite singers and appeared as Gabriel von Eisenstein in Syracuse Opera's season opener "Die Fledermaus" in October.

**Auburn Public Cinema Innovation Project**, \$54,600.  
Requested \$71,786 for the total project cost of \$195,191.

**Auburn Public Theater** plans to increase movie screenings from three to 12 times weekly. The grant, that must be matched, is targeted for creation of jobs and will be used for film fees. APT Executive Director Carey Eidel said he needs to hire a full-time staffer to program the cinema project and part-time staff to screen the movies. With an expanded Auburn Public Cinema, Eidel said first-run commercial and indie films would be shown and more than once. Ultimately, Eidel would like to organize a film club with a subscriber audience and with interviews with directors, via Skype.

**Everson Museum of Art**, "Prendergast to Pollock" Exhibition Support, \$30,000. Requested \$50,000 for the total project cost of \$100,000.

The museum will present the **exhibit of paintings** on loan from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, Feb. 7 to May 10, 2015. The grant will be used for shipping, insuring, mounting, marketing and educational programs for the exhibition, said Sarah Massett, assistant director. While the museum is not being charged a rental fee for the artworks, Massett said these are expenses associated with the show. Everson continues to seek funds to cover the remaining costs of the project.

Contact Melinda Johnson anytime: [Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#) | 315-470-2146