

## 2024 Grant Program Recipients

National Underground Railroad Museum, Maysville, Ky – \$12,780 - Roof Repair

The mission of the National Underground Railroad Museum is to study, chronicle, and celebrate the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement through preservation, education, and research while presenting truths about slavery and the pathways, policies, and actions that led to liberty, freedom, and personhood for the enslaved. The KAAHC grant will be used to complete roof repairs on the museum's Bierbower House to preserve the integrity of this important Safe House and its place in Underground Railroad history.

Save the Grand, Frankfort, Ky - \$12,000 – Black Experience Documentary

The Grand Theatre is part of the history of segregation throughout the South. The Grand is partnering with Joanna Hay, who in collaboration with members of Frankfort's Black community, will create a film exploring the Black experience using archived interviews, images, newspaper clippings, new interviews, and narration to explore the history of the Grand Theatre. The film will be screened publicly at the Grand Theatre, online, at film festivals, museums, and on public television. Lesson plans will be developed for the PBS Learning Media Platform. The Grand is raising money for film production (approximately \$50K) and is still seeking partners who will donate, and make challenge grants in exchange for gifts from others to fund the completion of the film. KAAHC grant proceeds will be used to fund a portion of the film's production costs.

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky - \$7,000 – Building Repair

The New Mt. Zion Baptist Church holds profound historical and cultural significance within the African American community. Established in the aftermath of the Civil War, this church has served as a cornerstone of faith, social justice, and community empowerment for generations of African Americans in Kentucky. Preserving this site is not only an act of historic preservation, it's an affirmation of the legacy of African American resilience, leadership, and spirituality. The KAAHC grant will fund a rehabilitation project to pressure wash, scrape, caulk, prime, and paint the exterior of the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church building. By restoring the church's exterior, this project ensures that this significant cultural and historic landmark remains intact for future generations.

Paducah Historical Preservation Group - \$8,500 – Helen LaFrance Art Exhibit

The Paducah Historical Preservation Group (PHPG) has curated a collection of 14 "Memory Painting" pieces by renowned Kentucky folk artist Helen LaFrance. PHPG will provide free exhibit tours to school groups and the general public. Exhibit viewers will learn about Helen LaFrance the artist, her artwork that reflects life in the south, and better understand the experience of living in western Kentucky in the early 20th Century. KAAHC grant funds will support this new program beginning during the 2024-25 school year and extending through the first half of the 2025-26 school year.

## 2nd Christian Church, Lexington, Ky - \$5,500 – Preservation Efforts

The East Second Street Christian Church, founded in 1874, is one of the oldest African American congregations in Kentucky. The church played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, offering sanctuary for leaders and activists and serving as a gathering place for discussions and actions that advanced racial equality. Its historical and cultural significance extends to its architecture, which reflects the African American experience and adaptation over nearly two centuries. The grant funds will fund the Historic Preservation Plan and Feasibility Study, a critical step in preserving an essential chapter of Kentucky's African American History.

## Kentucky Educational Television (KET) – \$1,500 - Be My Neighbor Day, Louisville, Ky

In partnership with the Fred Rogers Foundation, KET presented its 8th annual Be My Neighbor Day on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park. The event focused on introducing Louisville's underserved families to organizations and resources that support their children's educational, emotional, and cultural understanding. Building on the values and themes of the hit PBS KIDS show, Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Be My Neighbor Day is an opportunity for KET to collaborate with new and existing community partners to educate children of all ages about local volunteerism, family engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.