



THE  
PROVIDENCE  
ATHENÆUM

## PRESS RELEASE

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### ATHENÆUM RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

**PROVIDENCE, RI-** The Providence Athenæum, one of Providence's oldest surviving cultural institutions, has received a \$50,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program.

The grant will enable the Athenæum to conduct stage one of a multi-phase, comprehensive assessment of its historic building and systems, especially as they relate to the preservation and conservation of its rare collections. Stage one will employ conservators, architects, engineers, and electricians. The Athenæum will conduct a year-long thermal assessment of building conditions, and it will also map its antiquated electrical system. Team members will assess the Athenæum's fire detection and suppression systems, and identify potential risks to the collection.

"We are humbled and thrilled to receive this grant from the NEH," said Executive Director Matt Burriesci. "So many cultural institutions and communities across the country have benefited from NEH funding. The Athenæum will be improved immensely by this project which will enable us to plan for the future and to preserve our nineteenth-century building and our impressive collections."

NEH grant programs are highly competitive. Last year, only 23% of applicants to the Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program received funding. The Athenæum is the only institution in New England to receive SCHC funding this year. Other recipients include the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Chicago Historical Society, and the Historical Society of Seattle and King County. Work on the project will begin immediately, and the project will conclude by August 1, 2018.

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About the Providence Athenæum: *The Providence Athenæum is an independent, member-supported library and cultural center located on Providence's historic Benefit Street. Over its nearly 200 years of existence, the library has welcomed illustrious writers, spirited thinkers, and energetic community members through its doors to engage in reading, conversation, and debate. At its heart, the Athenæum encourages a love of reading and learning to all. Learn more at [provath.org](http://provath.org).*

About the NEH: *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). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this press release do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*