

Media Release

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HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE WINS GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE CURE PORCH ON WHEELS

Saranac Lake, NY October 20, 2017. Historic Saranac Lake has been awarded major grants to support the implementation of the Cure Porch on Wheels project in 2018. The New York Council on the Arts (NYSCA) has approved a \$17,000 grant to support the creation of the mobile oral history booth and pop-up museum. A generous grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation and additional private donations boost the fundraising total to over 63% of Historic Saranac Lake's goal.

In 2017, a National Endowment for the Arts grant is funding the design of the mobile exhibit space by Melissa Kline and engineer Wiley Lavigne with consultation from Adirondack White Pine Cabins builders Dan and Joe Plumb.

In 2018, Historic Saranac Lake will contract with local builder Don Rumble to construct the Cure Porch on Wheels on a 16 foot trailer. The porch will be shared with other organizations and artists in order to host a wide variety of arts and cultural activities in the region.

The Cure Porch on Wheels will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities via a platform lift. A collapsible stage will make it a flexible venue for musical performances and other events.

"The fundraising campaign to build the porch next year is off to a great start," said Executive Director, Amy Catania. "We can't wait to build the porch and put it into use."

Project Director Aurora Wheeler has recently returned from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she gave a presentation about the porch project to an audience at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting. "The porch project is designed to be a model for other organizations to develop their own mobile spaces for arts and culture," she noted. "It's very special to be able to share our plans with organizations that are located all over the country."

Planning ahead for the long-term viability of the Cure Porch on Wheels, Historic Saranac Lake recently submitted a major National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant in partnership with the Village of Saranac Lake and Traditional Arts of Upstate NY to support porch programs in 2019.

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Initial design for the Cure Porch on Wheels by Melissa Kline.