MAYMONT AWARDED $145,000 GRANT FOR MANSION CONSERVATION PROJECT

Richmond, Virginia—Maymont was honored this month to receive a $145,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a major conservation project at Maymont Mansion, the former home of James and Sallie Dooley who lived there from 1893 to 1925.

The grant will help to complete the first phase of a comprehensive window conservation and museum environment improvement project. The project includes fabrication and installation of exterior-mounted secondary glazing at all windows, using laminated glass with ultraviolet and visible light filtering properties. The improvements will reduce air, moisture, damaging light, particulate, pest infiltration and energy consumption and ensure the protection of the original windows from further deterioration. They will also ensure that the mansion will remain intact and continue to be used as an historic and educational resource for years to come.

“Our grants are highly competitive. The Institute of Museum and Library Services enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding,” said IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth. “Receiving a grant from IMLS is a significant achievement, and we congratulate Maymont for being among the 2014 IMLS museum grantees.”

IMLS museum grants support a wide variety of projects that create learning experiences, strengthen communities, care for collections and provide broad public access.

“Since 1980, Maymont Foundation has been the fortunate recipient of grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services totaling nearly $450,000. These awards from IMLS, for conservation project support and museum operational support, have helped immeasurably to advance the stewardship of the estate’s abundant historic resources and professional management of the house museum,” said Dale Wheary, Maymont Curator and Director of Historical Collections and Programs. “The multi-phased window project is one of our highest conservation priorities, which will serve not only the long-term preservation of the historic structure but moreover will enhance the museum environment, protecting the large original collection which includes a wide range of objects from French tapestries to Tiffany & Co. treasures acquired by Major and Mrs. Dooley. Our visitor surveys consistently demonstrate how the level of care and excellent state of the mansion’s preservation produce positive museum experiences. One recent visitor wrote, ‘It's one of the most well-preserved historical houses I've ever toured.’ The IMLS award will help us keep it that way for generations to come.”

A complete list of museum recipients is available on the IMLS website at www.imls.gov/2014MuseumList. For information about IMLS museum grant programs, see www.imls.gov/applicants/available_grants.aspx.

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About the Institute of Museum and Library Services
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Their grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

About Maymont
Maymont is a 100-acre American estate, an extraordinary gift given to the community by James and Sallie Dooley. Maymont Mansion, the Dooleys’ Gilded Age residence, is now preserved through an ongoing conservation program and a professional restoration effort that has been supported by federal and private foundation grants and Maymont’s preservation affinity group, the Maymont Council. In recognition of exceptional stewardship, the American Institute for Conservation and Heritage Preservation honored the Maymont Mansion as the 2011 recipient of the Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to Preservation and Care of Collections. Today, guests are invited to stroll through historic and specialty gardens, tour the mansion, and observe wildlife and farm animals at the Nature & Visitor Center, Children’s Farm and outdoor animal habitats. The Maymont Mansion is located at 1700 Hampton Street in Richmond, Virginia. For more information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 310 or visit maymont.org.

Photographs of Maymont Mansion and other estate features are available upon request.

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