



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Essex Heritage Offers Matching Grants to Local Organizations
*Announces 2013 Partnership Grant Program***

January 10, 2013 (Salem, MA) – The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage), in its tradition of celebrating the region’s unique cultural heritage, announced that it will offer matching grants to Essex County organizations through its 2013 Partnership Grant Program. Recognizing the importance of providing seed money during financially challenging times, Essex Heritage will award \$1,500 grants to ten organizations that steward the region’s nationally significant heritage.

Essex Heritage is currently accepting online applications from municipalities and qualified nonprofit organizations whose projects support Essex Heritage’s mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Essex National Heritage Area. Applicants have until Sunday, February 17 to apply in one of three categories:

- Education: Create or further develop educational opportunities for youth
- Interpretation: Increase awareness and understanding of the region’s heritage
- Preservation: Preserve or enhance historic structures, landscapes and cultural resources

Detailed information about the Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program, including application materials and guidelines, can be found at www.essexheritage.org/partnershipgrants.

“Essex Heritage is pleased to once again offer grants to local organizations that foster collaboration in our region and help us promote the region’s unique resources,” said Annie C. Harris, Essex Heritage Executive Director. “Over the 15-year life of the program we have provided grants to every community in Essex County – something we are proud of. And, now, more than ever, we recognize that many organizations need seed money for noteworthy projects that preserve and promote our cultural heritage.”



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About Essex Heritage (Essex National Heritage Commission)

The Essex National Heritage Area encompasses the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, a 500 square mile region just north of Boston, Massachusetts. The county was officially designated a National Heritage Area by an Act of the U.S. Congress in 1996, in recognition of the important role that the county played in American history and the significant heritage resources that still exist in the region. The Act also authorized the establishment of the Essex National Heritage Commission as the non-profit steward of the Area. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service and other partners, Essex Heritage promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that preserve, promote and enhance regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the website at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.