

- Leadership
- Expectations
- Transparency
- Stability

CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- Accountability
- Credibility
- Excellence in Execution



MAYOR MARTY SMALL, SR.

City Hall  
1301 Bacharach Boulevard • Suite 706  
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401  
Telephone 609-347-5400

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Andrew Kramer (Public Information Officer) – 609-226-3470; [AKramer@acnj.gov](mailto:AKramer@acnj.gov)

# 5 Historic Preservation Grant Recommendations Highlight Recent Grant Announcements for Atlantic City

**Atlantic City, N.J. (October 9, 2024)** – The City of Atlantic City and Mayor Marty Small, Sr. were recently notified that the New Jersey Historic Trust has recommended the award of five grants for projects in Atlantic City. The applications included three City sponsored projects – the interior restoration of Fire House #2, condition assessments and design development for Fire House #3 and Fire House #6, and funding for a Black history tour to celebrate the City’s rich African American cultural and architectural history. No other city received as much funding as Atlantic City. In addition, grants are recommended for the Absecon Lighthouse and Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall.

In 2019, the City established a Historic Preservation Commission and in 2020 Atlantic City became a Certified Local Government. As a Certified Local Government community, Atlantic City is afforded the opportunity to comment on National Register of Historic Places nominations within the City, to receive enhanced technical assistance, and to apply for preservation planning grants available only to participating communities.

The City recently started construction of the exterior restoration of the historic Fire House #2 at the corner of Indiana and Baltic Avenues. This \$750,000 grant allows this work to continue with improvements planned for the inside of the Fire House to repair, upgrade and install new electrical, mechanical and plumbing as well as to rehabilitate the first floor while preserving and restoring remaining original finishes. This Fire House is significant architecturally, with a two-story base and a prominent tower rising four additional floors in the Romanesque Revival style in early 20th century. The structure was designed to accommodate horse-drawn fire engines, and the

original stable building remains on the property. The Fire House is a key resource in the Northside Institutional Historic District. The Northside Institutional Historic District retains a relatively high degree of integrity of location, association, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship to convey its significance as a rare concentration of institutional buildings designed in a variety of architectural revival styles within the City's historic African American neighborhood.

Additional \$750,000 capital grants were recommended for the Absecon Lighthouse and Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall. The grant recommendations, which have been approved by the New Jersey Historic Trust Board, will be presented to the Garden State Preservation Trust at its next meeting and require a legislative appropriations bill and the Governor's approval before funds are made available.

A private sector project has also received State historic preservation funding. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority Board approved a tax credit award of up to \$8-million to rehabilitate the underutilized Schwehm Building at 1 South New York Avenue. The Atlantic Lofts Rehabilitation Project, developed by Odin Properties of Philadelphia, will introduce 56 new residential units and associated amenities, as well as commercial spaces, in the Downtown District. The project consists of a complete rehabilitation of an eight-story office building into new residential units with amenities, including a new roof deck and commercial space on the first floor. The project will result in a \$22.5 million investment in the City.

In addition, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) announced that eleven nonprofits and businesses that serve Atlantic City have been awarded Food Security Grants. The Atlantic City Food Security Grant program is a pilot program awarding grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects to strengthen food access and food security. Earlier this year, the City was awarded two NJEDA planning grants to develop food desert options. This program required that the property owner of a distressed property support the application. Both planning grant applicants, Ideal Institute of Technology and Mighty Writers, were awarded \$500,000 implementation grants.

With these grant funds, Ideal will construct a co-op market within a mixed-use property that has been vacant for more than 20 years. The co-op market will be on the ground floor with aquaponic vertical farms on the upper levels. The co-op market will be supplied year-round by produce and seafood harvested from the local providers. The project will create employment for Atlantic City residents, with a focus on youth, and will offer job training in retail and agriculture. The market will also provide a delivery service to reach residents with limited transportation access. Mighty Writers will construct a new food pantry in the vacant Ginsburg Bakery storefront in the Northside neighborhood. This initiative is being supported through a partnership with the City under the NJEDA Food Security Planning Grant Program.

The NJEDA also recently approved an additional grant to leverage development projects in Atlantic City. The NJEDA has been working closely with the City to provide needed funding to spur major projects in the City. A \$3.6 million grant was awarded to CARING, INC. towards a \$5.8 million project planned at 11 South Iowa Avenue and 2611-10 Pacific Avenue. The project will include retail and office space plus residential units on the upper floors.

###