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Philadelphia, Richmond, and San Diego Organizations Receive Holly Maxson Conservation Grants to Introduce Students to Conservation and Preservation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) is pleased to announce the 2024 recipients of the [Holly Maxson Conservation Grants](#). Holly Maxson Conservation Grants are designed to build awareness among students (middle school through undergraduate) about conservation and related fields and to encourage students to consider the field of conservation as a career path. The Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC), Center for Conservation of Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), and the Historic Richmond Foundation (HR) will conduct outreach projects focused on introducing K-12 learners in San Diego, Philadelphia, and Richmond to preservation and conservation concepts. Over a two-year grant period, conservation and preservation practitioners will have the opportunity to engage deeply with educators, students, and communities and create long-lasting, sustainable programs.

“The Holly Maxson Conservation Grants allow conservation and preservation ideas and careers to become real and meaningful to young learners,” said FAIC Executive Director Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe. “These projects help develop an appreciation for art, culture, and science in students at an early age and show them a pathway toward a career that melds those interests. These grants provide an essential opportunity to raise awareness of conservation and preservation, particularly within communities that have been historically excluded from the field. I’m thrilled to see the impact of these projects within these schools and cities.”

The Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC) will build on existing relationships with schools in the San Diego area to formalize a train-the-trainer model for elementary through high school teachers. BACC will provide educators with a conservation “bootcamp,” introducing them to the foundational concepts in conservation and preservation. Following the training session and during the academic year, BACC will collaborate with the teachers to develop conservation-based curricula for their



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classrooms. Once introduced to preservation principles in the classroom, the students will receive a field trip of BACC's labs. This is designed to be a sustainable model, that enables teachers to integrate conservation and preservation principles into their curricula.

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) will develop and pilot an in-school educational program for students in grades 6-12 titled “Art Conservation in the Classroom: Science, History, and Creativity.” The program will send CCAHA staff into schools in the greater Philadelphia area to lead hands-on activities introducing students to the field of conservation, connecting lessons to overarching STEAM concepts and to the students’ daily lives. The in-classroom visit will be supplemented by pre- and post-visit lesson plans and activities that teachers can implement on their own, developed in conjunction with local educators and consultants.

The Historic Richmond Foundation (HR) will partner with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to implement a workforce development and education program, “Better Building Blocks.” This program will encourage students within the Richmond Public Schools system to consider a career path in preservation or historic trade. DHR and HR will create a directory of speakers representing all aspects of preservation and the historic trades, including archaeologists, preservationists, architects, engineers, city planners, conservators, masons, carpenters, and beyond, which will be organized according to the National Career Clusters Framework and incorporated into the new Career Investigations course offered to all 6th grade RPS students. HR will coordinate between guest speakers and teachers to bring them into classrooms across Richmond.

Prior Holly Maxson Conservation Grant awards have included:

- the creation of a conservation education pilot program at the Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark in Texas;
- the development of bilingual, accessible, Creative Commons License learning modules related to historic trades, including cemetery preservation, architectural history, and building analysis;
- and the addition of an undergraduate course curriculum at UCLA to introduce students to collections care and conservation.

FAIC provides [free K-12 learning resources](#) online. Applications for the next cycle of the Holly Maxson Conservation Grants will be accepted in 2026.

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About FAIC

The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that increase understanding of our global cultural heritage. Our mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. We advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed. Our work empowers conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages diverse audiences as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity. Learn more at culturalheritage.org and follow FAIC on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#).