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## **PERKINS CENTER RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE ITS CENTURY-YEAR OLD MOORESTOWN BUILDING**

*Modernization Will Help South Jersey Arts Center Better Serve its Community, Improve Accessibility, and Provide Long Term Stability*

**Moorestown, NJ (August 7, 2023)** – A transformative \$250,000 grant will empower Perkins Center for the Arts to embark on an ambitious preservation project of its historic 1910 home in Moorestown, New Jersey.

The [New Jersey Historic Trust and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts FY23 Capital Arts – Historic Locations](#) grant will be used to modernize, repair, and preserve the Tudor home that Perkins has maintained and operated in since 1977. As a testament to its commitment to fostering the arts in South Jersey, Perkins Center received the maximum award from a pool of \$2.6 million.

This grant will enable the arts center to implement a series of projects that will enhance the building's infrastructure, accessibility, and overall appeal.

Key elements of the planned renovation include a new roof, installation of energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, fresh exterior paint, and refurbished accessibility updates to ensure that the space remains welcoming to individuals of all ages and abilities.

“By helping us provide a safe and comfortable physical space for the arts in South Jersey, this grant also allows Perkins Center to fulfill a greater commitment to our community,” says Kahra Buss, Executive Director of Perkins Center for the Arts. “We’re committed to creating geographically, physically, and emotionally accessible spaces to serve 42,000+ children and adults of all ages and abilities each year. These updates will preserve the building and enable us to better serve our neighbors for the long term.”

The renovation project is expected to commence in early autumn of 2023 and be completed no later than June 2025. Perkins Center will strive to minimize disruptions to its ongoing programming during this period.

“Perkins House represents a vital cultural landmark that deserves preservation for generations to come,” Buss continued. “We know that our building is a meaningful part of so many lives and

we're honored to receive this grant, which will help preserve South Jersey's home for the arts for the next century."

### **Perkins Stats and Facts:**

- At both its Moorestown and Collingswood locations, Perkins Center offers visual and performing arts programming 50 weeks out of the year
- Serves 42,000 people a year, including children, families, seniors, artists, veterans, cultural artisans, individuals with disabilities and community partners
- Increased arts programming and exhibitions by 400% since 2019
- Increased educational programming by 64%
- Half of the [Board of Trustees](#) are women
- Executive Director Kahra Buss named a "[Top CEO](#)" by South Jersey Biz Magazine

### **What Makes Perkins Different:**

- Multidisciplinary arts education institution providing instruction from beginner to intermediate to advanced
- One of New Jersey's five Folklife Centers, a co-sponsored project of the NJ State Council on the Arts
- Exhibition and performance opportunities for emerging, new, and established visual and performing artists
- High caliber, professional artists and teachers, receiving fair pay
- Affordable class costs, plus scholarships for students in need
- Growth mindset among staff and leadership

[Learn more.](#)

### **[PHOTOS](#)**

### **About Perkins Center for the Arts**

Perkins Center for the Arts is a regional, multi-disciplinary arts education center with locations in Moorestown and Collingswood, New Jersey. With a mission to enrich lives, inspire life-long learning, and cultivate intercultural experiences, Perkins Center for the Arts offers a music conservatory, visual and performing arts classes, exhibitions, concerts, artist-led school residency programs, summer camp, Folklife Center, and community enrichment projects. Visit [www.perkinsarts.org](http://www.perkinsarts.org).

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