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**State of Vermont**

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**James C. Condos, Secretary of State**  
**Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary**

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**For immediate release**

**Contact: Eric Covey, 802-828-2148**

**Vermont Secretary of State's Office and Vermont Arts Council  
Receive Emergency Preparedness Grant**

*Montpelier, VT* – Secretary of State Jim Condos and State Archivist Tanya Marshall announced today that the Vermont Secretary of State's Office, in collaboration with the Vermont Arts Council, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant to develop a statewide emergency preparedness and response network for Vermont-based performing arts and cultural heritage organizations. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the Performing Arts Readiness Project, the grant will be administered by the Vermont Historical Records Program of the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration.

"Vermont's performing arts and cultural heritage organizations play a vital role in the promotion and preservation of our unique history and cultural institutions," said Secretary Condos. "We're grateful for this opportunity to work alongside our partners to ensure we have the preparedness measures in place to help prevent the loss of these valuable assets in a worst case scenario."

Vermont native and accomplished arts management consultant Mary Margaret Schoenfeld will lead the effort and work with various organizations to develop the network and services offered, as well as a sustainability plan. The statewide emergency preparedness and response network is anticipated to be introduced at a forum next summer.

The mission of the **Vermont Historical Records Program (VHRP)** is to improve public access to and engagement with Vermont historical records and to encourage and facilitate collaborative efforts among Vermont historical records repositories. The **Vermont Arts Council** envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities.

Performing arts organizations can be especially vulnerable to disasters and emergencies of all kinds, resulting in destabilizing or catastrophic loss of income and assets. [The Performing Arts Readiness project](#) helps organizations nationwide learn how to protect their assets, sustain operations, and be prepared for emergencies. The project includes outreach and engagement efforts, the development and dissemination of information resources and online toolkits, mentoring programs, and grants such as the one awarded to Vermont.

For additional information about VHRP or the statewide emergency preparedness and response network, contact VHRP Coordinator Rachel Onuf at [rachel.onuf@vermont.gov](mailto:rachel.onuf@vermont.gov) or 802-828-2204.

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