



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Savage Wonder Art Center Awarded \$460,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts to Create New Mainstage Theater in Beacon

Beacon, NY – May 16, 2025 – The Savage Wonder Art Center – The Thomas Poole and Charles Scott Griesa Center Foundation (dba Savage Wonder Art Center) – is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$460,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). This transformational funding will support the development of a professional mainstage theater inside the historic Mechanic Savings Bank on Main Street in downtown Beacon, NY.

The 100-year-old building will be reimagined as a fully equipped theater and arts venue dedicated to performances that amplify the voices of military veterans and their families. This project underscores Savage Wonder’s mission to provide a space in which to spotlight the creative talents of veterans and elevate their stories through outstanding theater, art, music and a range of multi-disciplinary performances.

“Our arts and culture sector is a powerhouse, inspiring the world with innovation and creativity,” Governor Hochul said. “By investing in our museums, our theaters and our arts centers, we enrich our communities, strengthen local economies and improve tourism all over the State.”

NYSCA Executive Director Erika Mallin added, “These transformative projects improve communities, drive tourism and foster innovation in the field. Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature’s dedication to arts and culture, we are building a thriving future for our world-renowned creative sector. Congratulations to Savage Wonder Art Center, NYSCA is a proud supporter of your contributions to New York’s arts and culture.”

This investment is part of a broader initiative by NYSCA to support cultural organizations across the state. In FY 2026 alone, the Council will award more than \$161 million to arts organizations and artists in all 10 state regions.

“The new theater will not only serve as a creative home for veteran artists, but also as a cultural hub for the Hudson Valley,” said Christopher Paul Meyer, founder and artistic director of Savage Wonder. “We are deeply grateful to the New York State Council on the Arts for this extraordinary vote of confidence in our mission and our future.”

For more information about Savage Wonder Art Center and the upcoming renovations, please visit sawagewonder.org. Instagram & Facebook: @SavageWonderArtCenter

About Savage Wonder Art Center

Savage Wonder Art Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization with the mission to invigorate American performing and visual arts by selecting, developing, and producing exceptional work across disciplines that is created by military, first responder veterans, and their immediate families. Through fully produced plays, staged readings, immersive art, and multimedia festivals, Savage Wonder delivers impactful live performances and gallery shows as whimsical, intimate, absurdist, and jarring as the veteran community that created them.

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State’s arts, culture, and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, the Council on the Arts will award over \$161 million in FY 2026, serving hundreds of arts organizations and artists across all 10 state regions. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit www.arts.ny.gov, and follow NYSCA on Facebook, X (@NYSCArts), and Instagram (@NYSCouncilontheArts).

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