



Call for Artists: Artistic Interpretation of sea-level rise in historic Newport neighborhoods

As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations for [Keeping History Above Water™](#), the Newport Restoration Foundation is looking to collaborate with an artist to interpret and share predicted sea-level rise in the City of Newport—particularly in neighborhoods that are currently vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge, and increased flooding.

About the project:

The goal of this project is to bring awareness to not only the threat of sea-level rise on cultural heritage resources, but also the work NRF and other like-minded organizations are doing to advocate for resiliency.

NRF's initiative *Keeping History Above Water™* began a national conversation ten years ago to bring preservationists, activists, and community members together to address the effects of climate change on communities with historic resources. The Newport Restoration Foundation today stewards 70 residential historic properties, and 27 of them are directly threatened by flooding. We would like to take this opportunity to showcase this threat by utilizing the exteriors of these homes. This project will be centered in historic Newport neighborhoods and will be an opportunity for neighbors and visitors alike to participate in this conversation.

Newport faces some unique challenges—and opportunities—as a coastal city whose history, economy, and culture has been shaped by the water. This project will help make connections to why resiliency efforts on the local level can spread change and impact communities nationally.

The project will be installed in summer of 2026 (projected June 2026) and will run for three months.

Project requirements: This project will feature one or more houses in NRF's [portfolio of properties](#). Artist should be aware NRF's portfolio of properties includes many residential and commercial rental properties. All artistic interventions will need to be coordinated with NRF ahead of time and will need to follow HDC regulations and/or applicable city regulations. Because of the historic nature of these properties and NRF's stewardship of these properties, all materials will be approved by NRF in collaboration with the artist. Following historic preservation practices, all interventions will need to be reversible/non-permanent.

Compensation: \$5,000. All supplies and materials will be covered by NRF, not to exceed \$2,000.

Timeline: Please submit contact info, short artist bio, examples of your work, and proposals via this [Google form](#) by October 30, 2025

About Keeping History Above Water:

Continuing Doris Duke's vision for preserving and restoring cultural heritage, *Keeping History Above Water*™ was founded in 2016 to foster a global conversation focused on the increasing and varied risks of sea-level rise to historic coastal communities.

As a leader in the preservation of early American architecture and steward of historic homes in the FEMA-designated flood zone, the Newport Restoration Foundation is responding to the threat of climate change through *Keeping History Above Water*™— which brings interdisciplinary conferences and workshops focused on protecting historic assets, cultural resources, and neighborhoods to vulnerable regions across the country. In 2026, NRF will be celebrating 10 years of this initiative through educational programming, community events, exhibitions, and a symposium focusing on resiliency and Aquidneck Island.

About NRF:

Founded in 1968 by philanthropist, collector, and preservationist Doris Duke (1912-1933), the nonprofit organization preserves, restores, and shares the architectural and cultural heritage of Newport. Today, NRF stewards more than 80 historic buildings and landscapes. 70 of these historic houses are lived in by tenants in a unique Tenant Stewardship program. Two of the historic sites are public-facing: Rough Point Museum and the Vernon House. In addition to the architectural and landscape portfolio, the organization maintains a collection of over 10,000 fine and decorative art objects—including a collection of 18th- century Newport furniture, over 2,000 objects of fashion, and more than 150 linear feet of institutional and architectural archives. Over the past decade, and following the legacy of founder Doris Duke's life's work, NRF has expanded its programmatic output and community engagement through core initiatives including Keeping History Above Water, which advocates for resiliency and the protection of cultural resources in the wake of climate change, the Historic Trades Initiative, which trains the next generation of preservation tradespeople in vital skills, and Telling Stories, which shares the stories of people connected to the places NRF cares for and helps ensure their preservation.

Contact:

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