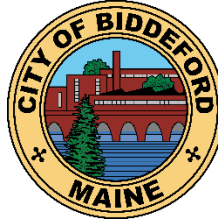


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# CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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**October 29, 2018**

## **Biddeford City Hall Clock Tower receives \$150,000 Historic Preservation Grant**

**BIDDEFORD** — The City of Biddeford is pleased to announce that Biddeford City Hall’s clock tower was the recipient of a \$150,000 historic preservation grant from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation through the 2018 *Partners in Preservation: Celebrating Diversity on Main Street* campaign. The grant, which was awarded to and will be administered by Heart of Biddeford, will be used to bring the clock back to working order and to repair the four faces of decorative work outside the clock room.

Biddeford was one of only 20 communities across the country with a project that was selected to compete for one of 10 \$150,000 grants. The clock tower came in third place overall, receiving a grand total of nearly 85,000 votes during the voting period of September 24 and October 26.

“It’s truly amazing to see that a community the size of Biddeford was able to collect tens of thousands of votes and rise above some of the largest cities in the country to win this grant,” said Mayor Alan Casavant. “That’s really a testament to the dedication of our citizens and the passion that this community has for this local icon.”



*Image of the Clock Tower during the  
It's Our Time Open House.  
Projections were provided by  
Lumenarrt.*

To promote the Vote Your Main Street campaign and highlight the importance of the clock tower and historic preservation, each of the 20 competitors received a \$20,000 grant from American Express at the beginning of the contest. Heart of Biddeford used that funding for several initiatives that generated support for not only the clock tower, but for the City of Biddeford as a whole.

A two-minute film produced by Andrew Dickinson, titled “It’s Our Time”, established the theme of Biddeford’s campaign and highlighted many of the unique businesses, residents and organizations that make Biddeford special. Heart of Biddeford also held an open house on October 20 that included tours inside the clock tower and a community celebration outside of City Hall featuring projections on the clock tower, a performance from local circus troupe Sellam Circus, a reading of an original piece by local author Emma Bouthillette, and more.

“This contest not only gave us an opportunity to talk about Biddeford's iconic clock tower, but also to emphasize the contributions of Biddeford's diverse population, past and present,” said Heart of Biddeford Executive Director Delilah Poupore. “With this win, I think the community has answered the question, ‘What Time is it?’ It's time to restore the clock tower to working order, and it's time to include everyone as we revitalize Biddeford.”

“The City is thankful for our partnership with Heart of Biddeford on this restoration project,” said City Manager James Bennett. “Their work energized our residents to help us get the support we needed to make this all possible, but more importantly, it brought our community together in a positive way that will last beyond the repair of the clock tower.”

An official timeline for the restoration work will be established in the coming weeks.

Biddeford City Hall, listed on the National Historic Register, was designed by renowned Portland architect John Calvin Stevens in 1895 to replace the previous City Hall building that was destroyed in a fire. The clock tower was added to Maine Preservation’s annual list of the state’s most endangered properties in 2014.

In total, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation distributed \$2 million in funding as part of the competition, and over 1 million votes were cast in total across the twenty participating communities.

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### **About Partners in Preservation**

Partners in Preservation is a program in which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, awards preservation grants to historic places across the country.

Through this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural places. The program also hopes to inspire long-term support from local citizens for the historic places at the heart of their communities.

### **About American Express**

American Express is a globally integrated payments company, providing customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. Learn more at [americanexpress.com](https://americanexpress.com) and connect with us on [facebook.com/americanexpress](https://facebook.com/americanexpress), [instagram.com/americanexpress](https://instagram.com/americanexpress), [linkedin.com/company/american-express](https://linkedin.com/company/american-express), [twitter.com/americanexpress](https://twitter.com/americanexpress), and [youtube.com/americanexpress](https://youtube.com/americanexpress).

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### **About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places: [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org).

### **About Main Street America**

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org).

### **About National Geographic Partners LLC**

National Geographic Partners LLC, a joint venture between National Geographic Society and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox, combines National Geographic television channels with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic Studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, catalog, licensing and e-commerce businesses. A portion of the proceeds from National Geographic Partners LLC will be used to fund science, exploration, conservation and education through significant ongoing contributions to the work of the National Geographic Society. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#).