

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2016

Women's Studio Workshop
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Women's Studio Workshop Receives \$5502 Grant from Christopher & Diana Reeve Foundation for Renovating an Historic Building to Support Accessible Community Programming

ROSENDALE, NEW YORK –WOMEN'S STUDIO WORKSHOP is proud to announce that it has received a **\$5502** Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of 79 grants totaling over \$575,704 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide more opportunities, access, and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. Conceived by the late Dana Reeve, the program has awarded over 2,700 grants totaling over \$20 million since 1999.

WOMEN'S STUDIO WORKSHOP (WSW) will use the grant to reconfigure a recently purchased, adjacent historic building to allow wheelchair access on all floors for visitors and resident artists with mobility challenges, of Ulster County and beyond.

The award will support the installation of a wheelchair lift in the interior of the building. "It's so important for everyone to be able access this space. Our offices and our archives, where we house decades of work produced by the incredible artists who have come through here, are all upstairs and need to be accessible to everybody," says Ann Kalmbach, WSW's Executive Director. "One of our greatest goals in expanding to this new building is to connect our mission with people who aren't regularly seeing art, so to achieve that goal it needs to be welcoming of everyone."

Full accessibility will enable inclusive exposure to professional level visual art, including conversations with professional artists about their work, connections with local community members, and free and nutritious community meals. These elements combine to make an unparalleled social, cultural, and educational experience, accessible and completely free of cost. Thanks to this award from the Reeve Foundation, the new gallery, meeting space, and archives can be open and accessible for everyone to attend WSW community events and exhibitions.

Awarded twice yearly, grant requests were evaluated and scored based on a rigorous review process to determine funding for organizations that improve daily life for those living with paralysis, as well as their families and caregivers. In this particular grant cycle, the grantee review board awarded a significant number of grants in medically underserved areas for modification projects, animal service programs and veteran programs.

"Accessibility modifications and service animals help create greater independence both in home and public settings, which is key to increase inclusion in the community." said Donna Valente, Director of Quality of Life Grants. "By supporting these types of programs in underserved areas, we are able to remove barriers to independent living for individuals living with disabilities and their families."

[The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program](#) was created to address the myriad needs of children and adults living with paralysis, as well as provide assistance and education to their families and caregivers. Funded programs serve individuals living with paralysis caused by injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including but not limited to, stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral

palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The grants support innovative initiatives that aim to increase quality of life by improving physical and emotional health, broadening community engagement, and increasing independence. Quality of Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (cooperative agreement number 90PR3001-01-00).

About the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is a program of the Reeve Foundation, and is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (cooperative agreement number 90PR3002). For more information, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-539-7309.

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Women's Studio Workshop (WSW) is a visual arts organization in Rosendale, New York. Since 1974, WSW has brought over 5,000 artists from across the globe to work in their printmaking, hand papermaking, letterpress printing, photography, book arts and ceramics studios. Over 6,000 Ulster County youth have participated in WSW's art-in-education program. WSW's artists' book grant program has published more than 200 artists' books, collected by special collections of major libraries and museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Tate Modern, and The Library of Congress, among others.

WSW programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Edwards Foundation Arts Fund, Agnes Gund, Klock Kingston Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, Ora Schneider Residency Grant, Rondout Savings Bank, Stewart's Holiday Match, Sustainable Arts Foundation, Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund administered by Arts Mid-Hudson, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and Windgate Charitable Foundation.

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