

The Patriot Ledger

Hull Artists awarded \$22,000 by state for building project

By Patriot Ledger staff

Posted May 31, 2020 at 11:11 AM

Updated May 31, 2020 at 12:09 PM

HULL — Hull Artists, a nonprofit arts association, received a \$22,000 matching grant from the Mass Cultural Council to support a feasibility study for a building project.

The study will look at developing the vacant police barracks at 213 Nantasket Ave. into a community arts center called the Nantasket Center for the Arts.

“While Hull is a seasonal tourist destination, a vibrant art and cultural space in this gateway location can serve to draw people to the community in the off season,” said Irwin Nesoff, a member of the board of Hull Artists.

“A regional center for the arts can provide an important anchor for the town, drawing people from across the region increasing tourism and economic development,” he said. “A vacant building does none of this.”

The grant requires Hull Artists to raise 100 percent matching funds within one year to cover the full cost of the feasibility study, estimated to be \$44,000, according to a statement from the organization.

The plan for the center will be to provide a wide range of arts programming and services including: classroom space for art and performance classes for adults, teens and children; after-school arts and culture programs for local youth; a workspace for artists; retail gallery space displaying the work of local artists; and

a community meeting space.

The barracks, built in the 1930s, served as a police station for the State Police and then the Department of Conservation and Recreation Police until 1992 and has been vacant since. It is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and maintained through the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

“It is widely recognized that art and cultural programs also serve as economic generators for a community,” said Bart Blumberg, President of Hull Artists. “The art gallery will offer an outlet for artists to display and sell their work. When a piece of art is sold, the funds received by the artists tend to stay local.”