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For Immediate Release

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### **Historic Columbus Launches New Grant!**

The Public Participation Grant, Historic Columbus largest grant program, will kick off on May 9<sup>th</sup> thanks to the donors of the Save Me A Place Capital Campaign! Historic Columbus is inviting the public and the media to a news conference on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am at the Chattahoochee RiverClub (1100 Bay Avenue).**

Increasing awareness of historic preservation is a vital component to HCF's mission and having the public as a partner in this process will only strengthen our ability to be an advocate for saving our history, our legacies, and our stories.

There are numerous (non-profit or government owned) historic structures in our community that are in need of renovation work (i.e. historic churches, community buildings, theatres, and schools). This grant will also ask applicants to promote their "bricks and mortar" needs and create enthusiasm in the public about preservation efforts.

Grants ranging from \$10,000 up to \$100,000 will be awarded to projects that will preserve, rehabilitate, restore, or increase accessibility to historic properties in the Muscogee County area. An initial screening of project proposals will be conducted and those qualifying will be selected as a finalist to move forward in the grant process. Historic Columbus will also host an Open House Weekend at the sites of the finalists and then the public will vote on their favorite project!

#### **Public Participation Grant Timeline**

- May 25: Grant Orientation & Training at Preservation for Profit, Chamber of Commerce
- June 30: Grant application due to Historic Columbus
- July 27: Grant Finalists Announcement and Media Event, Location TBD
- September 23: Open House Weekend at each of the finalists project sites
- September 23 - October 20: Public voting
- October 24: Grant Winner announced at Historic Columbus' Annual Meeting

Applications are available at [www.historiccolumbus.com](http://www.historiccolumbus.com) and must be submitted by June 30, 2017. If you would like to apply or have questions about the grant application, please contact the Callie Hecht at 706-322-0756 or [callie@historiccolumbus.com](mailto:callie@historiccolumbus.com).