

**BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARD FROM
THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION FOR 2011-2012**

***Funds will be utilized to reinterpret the museum's Native American collection
and gallery, and for a Collections staff position***

September 21 , 2011 - Buffalo, NY -- The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society is honored to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation in the amount of \$151,200 over the next two years, 2011-2012.

In the letter granting the request, Robert D. Gioia, president of the Oishei Foundation, noted that “the [Oishei] Directors [are] impressed with the progress that has been made [at the Historical Society] to date, and the evidence of new energy within the institution.”

The Historical Society's strategic plan includes exactly those goals: to reinvigorate itself both physically and through varied visitor experiences. The Society, which in 2012 will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of its governing body, was previously granted funds from the Oishei Foundation to refurbish its Pioneer Life Gallery (2009-2010). Those modestly accomplished, high-impact upgrades were revealed in October, 2010.

“The announcement of these new funds to create a dynamic Native American gallery, and also to support cataloguing work critical to collections care, is a both a profound symbol and a literal declaration of the community's support for—and belief in—the Historical Society,” said Melissa N. Brown, Historical Society executive director. “We thank the Oishei Foundation, and pledge to uphold its commitment to us with our own commitment to the people and stories of the Buffalo and Erie County region.”

The John R. Oishei Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change to enhance economic vitality and the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.