

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 23, 2021

**THE JOHN AND ALICE COLTRANE HOME RECEIVES A MELLON FOUNDATION GRANT**

*Grant to support worldwide effort to renovate the home of two of America's great artistic creators and transform it into a world-class, innovative, and music-filled cultural site.*

Dix Hills, NY – The John and Alice Coltrane Home was awarded a million dollar grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the preservation of the Home, enhance organizational capacity, and expand programmatic offerings.

The multi-year grant will be used to support rehabilitation of the Home where great works of twentieth-century music were created and to hire a full-time executive director to lead the project. The restored Home will engage students, artists, and visitors with many aspects of the Coltrane legacy, as well as greet them with their enduring gift to the world: their music.

“On behalf of The John and Alice Coltrane Home, I extend our thanks and appreciation to the Mellon Foundation for this tremendous vote of confidence,” said the group’s chairman Ravi Coltrane. “Our project brings people closer to the Coltrane legacy; expanding understanding and inspiration and this funding will play an integral role in moving the project forward.”

“We are delighted to announce this grant on John Coltrane’s 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and are extremely grateful for the support of the Mellon Foundation,” added the group’s founder and president Steve Fulgoni. “We also acknowledge the unwavering support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which was critical in reaching this important milestone.”

The next phase of the renovation will include restoration of the Home’s brick masonry façade, structural upgrades, and rehabilitation of stoops, patios, windows, and doors as well as the reintroduction of utilities. Renovation of the Home will also be funded in part by a \$172,750 matching grant through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund secured in 2016.

To successfully implement rehabilitation plans and to transform the Home into an innovative museum, the grant will fund the hiring of the group’s first Executive Director to lead the project.

The mission of The John and Alice Coltrane Home is to explore, celebrate, and share the Coltrane legacy through the rehabilitation of the Home and through programming inspired and informed by their profound achievements. The mission lives in John Coltrane's own words, ". . . to be a force for good."

After a worldwide grass-roots effort, The Coltrane Home was saved from imminent demolition when it was designated as a local Historic Landmark by the Huntington Town Board in 2004. The Home was later listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

In 2005, the Town of Huntington purchased the Home and the 3.5-acre property on which it sits. Ownership of the Home itself was transferred to a newly formed not-for-profit organization, Friends of the Coltrane Home in Dix Hills, Inc., which was entrusted with the renovation and interpretation of this important historic site. The Town retained ownership of the surrounding land, designating it as Coltrane Park.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the John and Alice Coltrane Home as one of America's Most Endangered Historic Places in 2011. In 2018, the Trust designated the Home as a National Treasure and later awarded the Home a grant from the Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Over the past decade, the Trust has provided technical assistance on fund raising, board development issues, and strategic visioning for the Home and site.

The John and Alice Coltrane Home received the pro bono support of Thornton Tomasetti Structural Engineers (TT) over several years providing analysis and guidance for the Home's restoration. Additional support from the National Trust led to the development of a landscape plan for the 3.5-acre site prepared by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, a business plan completed by AEA Consulting, which established the programmatic vision for the Home, and an architectural program plan prepared by MASS Design Group.

The John and Alice Coltrane Home will be true to its history, and will align with the programmatic vision, which calls for the Home to provide space for a new kind of house museum where visitors will explore an often-untold part of the American experience.

Programmatic concepts include a pilot music education program to encourage active participation in music making, creativity and personal expression to empower all visitors young and old. Due to the impact of COVID, programming is currently presented virtually, reaching much larger audiences across the country and the world. It is expected that virtual programming will remain a large component of the Home's outreach and engagement strategy.

While the funds received from the Mellon Foundation will go a long way to renovating the Home and transforming it into an innovative museum, additional support will be needed before the Home can be opened to the public. The Coltrane Home welcomes donations to continue the project through to completion and beyond. For more information and to make a donation, please visit the [www.thecoltranehome.org](http://www.thecoltranehome.org).