



Pawtucket Armory Association eNewsletter : May 2004

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Pawtucket Armory Association Hires Executive Director



Steve Kumins began work this month as the new Executive Director of the Pawtucket Armory Association. As Executive Director, Steve will be responsible for raising funds, overseeing the

The Exchange eNewsletter is designed to spread the word about our efforts to renovate the historic Pawtucket Armory and manage it as The Arts Exchange, an affordable and sustainable, regional center for the arts and arts education.

● **[Pawtucket Armory Association Receives Federal Grant](#)**

The Pawtucket Armory Association recently received a \$300,000 appropriation from Congress, moving it closer to its goal of transforming the Pawtucket Armory building into a center for the performing arts and arts education. The appropriation was announced by U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee.



This grant consists of Economic Development Initiative funds earmarked for PAA in the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. PAA intends to use these funds to stabilize the Armory's main drill hall.

With this grant, PAA has now raised about \$1.8 million towards the restoration project's estimated price tag of \$6.5 million. "We still have a way to go and are working on grants and other private and public fundraising efforts," states Seth Handy, president of the Pawtucket Armory Association. This summer PAA plans to sell approximately \$2.4 million in state and federal historic preservation tax credits.

reconstruction of the Armory, and managing the restored historic structure as The Arts Exchange, a regional center for arts and arts education.

Prior to joining us at PAA, Steve was the Director of Development for WaterFire Providence, where he raised over \$1.2 million annually to support Providence's signature artistic event. Before his work at WaterFire, Steve practiced bankruptcy and commercial lending law for many years at the Providence-based law firm of Edwards & Angell LLP and the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr LLP. Steve is a graduate of Brown University and received his law degree from Northeastern University.

[read more?](#)

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Built in 1894-95, the Pawtucket Armory was abandoned by the National Guard in 1994. The Armory remained vacant until the fall of 2003 when [The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre](#) moved into the Armory Annex.

Support The Arts Exchange first occupant and see [Julius Caesar](#) at The Gamm, playing through June 13th.

- **New PAA Contact Information**

PAA has relocated its offices to 255 Main Street, Suite 206 in downtown Pawtucket.

Please note that PAA has also changed its mailing address to:
Pawtucket Armory Association P.O.
Box 1026 Pawtucket, RI 02862.

You can email Steve Kumins, Executive Director at steve@arts-exchange.org or Beth Vetter, Development Director, at beth@arts-exchange.org. They can also be reached by phone at 401.721.0723.

