



Press Contacts:

Carolyn Cole, Easton Shovel Town Cultural District Chair
Phone: 508.230.5874 | Email: Fairewind7@aol.com

Kristi Perry, Trustees of Reservations PR Director
Phone: 781.784.0567 x7503 | Email: kperry@ttr.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Trustees of Reservations and Easton Shovel Town Cultural District Team Up to Celebrate
GRAND OPENING GOVERNOR OLIVER AMES ESTATE in EASTON, MA
ART -MUSIC-FOOD-FUN-FESTIVAL & JURIED LEGACY ART EXHIBITION**

Sunday, June 29, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Easton, MA – May 16, 2014 -- The Trustees of the Reservations (The Trustees), the nation's first land trust and one of MA's largest conservation and preservation organizations, is pleased to announce the official public opening of the Governor Oliver Ames Estate, located at 35 Oliver Street in North Easton, MA on Sunday, June 29, 2014. The Easton Shovel Town Cultural District, an all-volunteer run non profit serving the town of Easton with cultural programs and events, has generously offered to team up with The Trustees to celebrate the opening with a Legacy Art-Music-Food-Festival and Juried Legacy Art Exhibition planned at the property the same day from 11:00AM-4:00PM.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating the official public opening of this special property, located in the heart of Easton's cultural and historic district with The Easton Shovel Town Cultural District," says Barbara Erickson, President and CEO of The Trustees. "We are grateful to them for their energy and creativity, as well as the many community members and supporters who have helped us achieve this important milestone. We look forward to our continued work with community partners to create engaging programs and recreational opportunities for the Easton community, area residents and visitors at this important new community resource.

"The 'Legacy' piece of the Festival is descriptive of the wonderful legacy of beauty, culture, architecture, and horticulture that the Ames Family has bestowed on the Town of Easton," says Carolyn Cole, Chair of the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District. "The endowment the Ames family left to the Town of Easton continues to enrich the lives of our local citizens and visitors by preserving important historic and cultural aspects of the town that would otherwise have been difficult to achieve. With The Trustees' preservation and stewardship of the Governor Ames Estate, another important cultural and recreational asset has now been added to enhance our town."

The Legacy Juried Art Exhibition, generously funded in its entirety by the Avery Lee Williams Family Trust, is open in two categories: Senior (over 18), with First Prize \$1,500, Second Prize, \$500 and Third

Prize \$250. Juried by Mim Fawcett, Executive Director, Attleboro Arts Museum. Submission fee is \$25 for two pieces. The Junior Division (under 18, with no submission fee) will be juried by Allison Kracjik, noted local artist and watercolorist. First prize is \$100, Second & Third prizes are Antique Silver Dollars Circa mid 1800's worth approximately \$55-\$70 each. Email Legacyartshow1@aol.com or call 508.230.5874 for more information. The Art Exhibition with live music will be held in the Ames family home located in the middle of the Governor Ames estate.

The Festival is full of fun and surprises, including all day live music in the tent, interactive art programs for children in the stable, and a lantern-making workshop for our Lantern Parade which, along with an Interactive Children's performer, will end the festival. Other activities featured throughout the day will include a Fairy House Scavenger Hunt, Cookie Monster Kitchen, Pilates, Zumba and Tai Chi, and an Animation Station. Walking Tours of the Grounds and Open Houses at local Historical Buildings and gardens will also be provided and canoes are available for use on the adjacent pond. Vendors will be available to purchase food but all are welcome to bring lunch and enjoy a picnic at this idyllic location. Event is FREE and open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

Generous sponsors include: North Easton Savings Bank, Easton Local Cultural Council, Ames Free Library, Easton Historical Society, Easton Garden Club, Easton YMCA, The Children's Museum in Easton, Easton Lions Club, Easton Community Access Television, Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, Unity Church, Yasso Yogurt, Dolce Cupcakes, and several private donors.

The Easton Shovel Town Cultural District is an all-volunteer run non profit serving the town of Easton with cultural programs and events within the footprint of the North Easton Historical District. Our goal is to create more activity in the center of Easton, and to utilize all the exciting historical, cultural, and natural resources we share throughout the Town. Visit our facebook page: Easton Shovel Town Cultural District.

The Trustees of Reservations preserve and protect, for public use and enjoyment, properties of scenic, cultural and ecological value throughout the state of Massachusetts. With over 112 beautiful places for all to enjoy, we invite you to Find Your Place. Visit www.thetrustees.org for more information.

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More about the Governor Ames Estate & Historic Cultural District

If you have more time to explore, Easton's Historic District has so much to see and enjoy. The Governor Ames estate, the largest of the surviving family estates in North Easton Village, is today a centerpiece of this busy historic and cultural neighborhood. Its gates open up to the H.H. Richardson Old Colony Railroad Station restored and occupied by the very active Easton Historical Society. Just beyond that is the 1852 O. Ames and Sons Shovel Company complex now converted to apartments (Easton Shovelworks Project by Beacon Communities, llc.) but with its exteriors perfectly preserved. In the midst of the Shovel Company you will find the Millie Packard House which now houses an art gallery/co-op .established by the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District. At the intersection of Oliver Street and Main Street a hundred yards or so to the right is the handsome Unity Church with its magnificent LaFarge windows, the largest LaFarge ever did; and to the left are the famous H.H. Richardson public buildings, including the Ames Free Library, recently recognized by the Gates Foundation as one of the best small libraries in the country. Next door is the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, home to many of the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District's very successful events.

Adjacent to the Library is Queset House built by Governor's brother Oakes Angier, with its famous garden created by his Broadway Producer son Winthrop. The marvelous restoration of the Queset Garden was spearheaded by local residents Jim Carlino, Kathryn Holland, Gloria-Freitas Steidinger, Paul Steidinger, and a generous contribution from Forest Systems. Queset is now owned by the Library and is now a cutting edge technology commons. While the garden is the site of numerous dramatic and musical events during the summer. Continuing around to the left on Main Street one passes the Olmsted Rockery with its wonderful vista of the Richardson buildings and behind that the 1896 High School donated by the Governor. The old high school building has now been skillfully converted to apartments but the school in all its other locations has always retained the Governor's name. Turning left on Sullivan Avenue, one passes the Shovel Company complex on the left before arriving at the Historical Society again which is well worth a visit if the visitor has not already stopped in. From there the Governor Ames Estate is just across the way – bordering on the pond whose waters powered the original shovel company in 1803. Walking from the Historical Society to the gates of the Governor Ames Reservation, two double houses are on the right. They were originally part of a wooden shovel making facility that was built in 1852 so that the company could keep making shovels for the gold rush and railroads after its original plant was destroyed by fire. Once the stone factory buildings were completed, the temporary building was cut into 4 sections which were moved across the ice of the pond and converted to housing on Oliver Street.