

Statewide Historic Preservation
Honor Award Presented to:

Marsden Hartley
Cultural Center,
Lewiston Public Library
for rehabilitation



After more than a century of housing stores and offices, the Pilsbury building fell into decline and was in dangerously poor condition at the time the decision was made to expand Lewiston's Public Library here. Fire and water damage had gutted part of the interior, structural rot was gaining the upper hand, the original roof could not meet code requirements for snow load, and some of the masonry bearing walls had originally been built without foundations.

The City of Lewiston, the Library and its Board of Trustees held fast to a greater purpose – historic preservation – and committed themselves to a difficult, time consuming and financially risky path of restoring this building. The roof structure was removed and replaced, walls were underpinned and foundations added, and structural steel bracing was added to stabilize the facades. Key historic elements were replaced where they had been lost. The facades were repointed, a new historically sympathetic storefront was installed replacing previous modifications, and signage that hid historic details was removed. The Marsden Hartley Cultural Center's grand opening was last December. And, the original Grand Army of the Republic Hall - now renamed Callahan Hall – is ready for cultural events of all kinds!

Robert Silver, the project architect, calls this building a “dignified and handsome constituent of the street.” This \$3.5 million dollar project exemplifies the Creative Economy and downtown revitalization. Others involved in this project were Philip Isaacson, Chair of the Library Building Committee and Mike Lemieux, Project Manager with Ganneston Construction Corporation.

The Marsden Hartley Cultural Center is located at:
200 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240
(207) 784-0135