Hartford, CT (January 31, 2012) – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded a grant of $329,792 to the Connecticut Historical Society to support major capital improvements to its building on Elizabeth Street in the west end of Hartford.

The original portion of the building was built in 1928 for Hartford industrialist and inventor Curtis Veeder, who held 169 patents and was the co-founder of the Veeder-Root Company. The grant will provide partial funds to replace the original 1928 boiler and heating system, restore the windows, re-roof and repair the original carriage porch, and renovate the public restrooms.

“We are honored to be the recipient of this grant,” states Kate Steinway, executive director at the Hartford-based historical society. “The projects being funded will greatly enhance and improve the public’s experience, safety and comfort during their visit, as well as providing substantial operating cost savings and energy efficiency.”

All of the Connecticut Historical Society’s programs and services take place in, or are developed and put into operation from, the location on Elizabeth Street. The museum attracts more than 40,000 visitors annually. More than 90 percent of its audience is from Connecticut, including a large number of students from Greater Hartford who participate in its educational activities.

The Connecticut Historical Society was incorporated in 1825 and is one of the oldest state-level historical societies in America. CHS is a privately funded, not-for-profit museum, library, research and educational facility and is not a state agency. CHS’s mission is to inspire and foster a life-long interest in history. The mission is carried out through educational programs, exhibitions, and public access to CHS’s extensive collections onsite, offsite, and via the internet. CHS is located at 1 Elizabeth Street in Hartford. To learn more, visit www.chs.org.

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About Hartford Foundation for Public Giving: The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region, dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents. The Hartford Foundation receives gifts from thousands of generous individuals and families and awards grants to a broad range of area nonprofit organizations. For more information about the Hartford Foundation, and its strategic plan, Accelerate Success, www.hfpg.org / 860.548.1888.

About The Connecticut Historical Society: Founded in 1825, the Connecticut Historical Society is a non-profit museum, library, research and education center. We strive to inspire and foster a life-long interest in history and ignite a passion for learning about history through research assistance, exhibitions, tours and programs for all ages. www.chs.org / 860.236.5621.