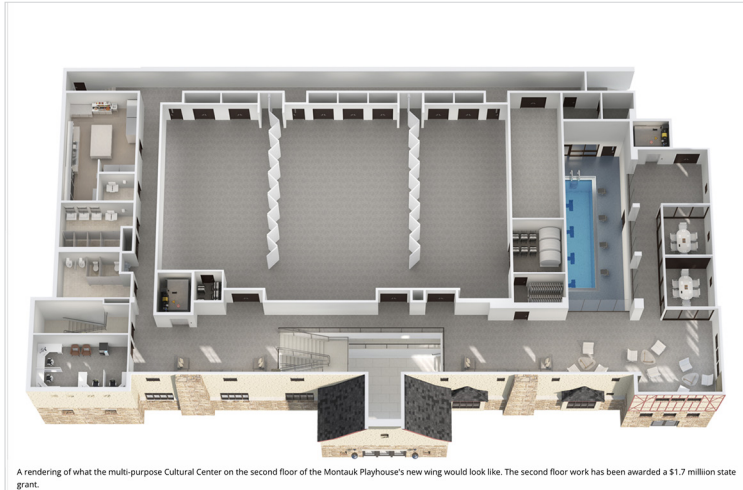


State Earmarks \$2 Million for Bridgehampton Child Care Center Pre-K and Montauk Playhouse Cultural Center



A rendering of what the multi-purpose Cultural Center on the second floor of the Montauk Playhouse's new wing would look like. The second floor work has been awarded a \$1.7 million state grant.



Heastie and Thiele announced that the Montauk Playhouse will get a \$1.7 million grant for Phase II of the renovation project, which will create a new swimming pool and aquatic center in Phase I and a cultural and community center in Phase II. MICHAEL WRIGHT

by Michael Wright
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New York State will direct \$1.7 million in capital funding to the Montauk Playhouse to help fund the creation of new multi-use and cultural spaces as part of the second phase of the expansion project that is due to kick off early next year with the construction of a new swimming pool and aquatic center.

The funding, which was announced by Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr., will come in the form of a State and Municipal Facilities Grant. The money is earmarked for the “Phase II” work on the second floor of the northern wing of the playhouse, above the aquatic center.

The conceptual plans for the second floor call for a flexible, modular space capable of being adapted to events of various sizes, from community meetings to public conferences to artistic performances.

“We’re thrilled to receive this generous funding from New York State in support of our mission to complete the historic Montauk Playhouse Community Center,” Sarah Iudicone, president of the Montauk Playhouse Community Center Foundation, said in a statement following Thiele’s announcement. “As our construction plans for the phase one first floor Aquatic Center move forward, our fundraising campaign continues for the phase two second floor multi-use Cultural Center — so the timing is ideal. Combined with the \$5 million commitment from the Town of East Hampton, our public partner in this project, this funding will allow us to move forward even more expediently.”

The foundation is currently awaiting bids for the aquatic center work, which are expected later this month, and will dictate the time frame for the next phase of the upgrades, a foundation spokesperson said.

Thiele announced the grant while hosting State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie for a tour of the Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center and the Wölffer Estates Vineyard last Wednesday, October 25.



New renderings show what the Montauk Playhouse Aquatic Center, which will have both a lap pool and a therapeutic pool, will look like.



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