



Irish Arts Center gets \$2 million from state for expansion

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the grant on St. Patrick's Day

By [Joe Anuta](#) March 17, 2017



It's indeed a happy St. Patrick's Day for the Irish Arts Center.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Friday that the state has chipped in \$2 million for the arts center's expansion along 11th Avenue in Manhattan.

The center has been planning to expand its cramped tenement building at 553 W. 51st St. for years, and now with the state funds has \$56 million to renovate and add to a conjoined brick building and triple the square footage.

The state in December awarded \$80.2 million to 112 projects in the city, including the Irish Arts Center.

"The story of New York is the story of immigrants, and the contributions of the Irish are woven into the very fabric of this great state," Cuomo said in a statement.

The center offers performances and education designed to promote Ireland's contribution to the arts. The planned expansion would increase the organization's theater space, add a café and provide classrooms for education.

"The new Irish Arts Center will be a place for people ... to come together in celebration of the excellence and dynamism of Irish arts and culture," Aidan Connolly, the center's executive director, said in a statement.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.