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The Essex Foundation Helps Ivoryton Playhouse Step Up in Style and Safety *Awards \$15,000 grant for the installation of front entrance steps and railings*

Essex, CT – The Essex Foundation has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Ivoryton Playhouse to help fund the design and installation of new steps, handrails, and landing at the front entrance of the theater. The project was initiated by the non-profit theater company to improve patron safety while keeping within the period styling of the historic 1911 building. The new design features wider, illuminated steps with handrails leading up to each side of the double doors. Installation is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

“We are so incredibly grateful to the Essex Foundation for making this important work possible, commented the Playhouse’s Executive Director Jacqui Hubbard, “Maintaining a historic building and keeping it safe is a constant battle and moving target. We have around 30,000 people in and out of our front doors every year and their safety is utmost in our minds. The new stairs will make a visit to the Ivoryton Playhouse so much safer and more enjoyable.” Bruce Glowac, President of The Essex Foundation, added, “The Playhouse is a local and state treasure. We are happy to play a small, supporting role in improving access to the building while maintaining its architectural style.”

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. The Foundation relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and other community groups to fund special needs and community projects that benefit Essex residents.

The Foundation’s Matching Gift Challenge for the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall expansion project is also in its final phase, another example of the organization’s efforts to support local initiatives. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org.



Pictured Above: Ivoryton Playhouse Executive Director Jacqui Hubbard (center left) accepts a check from members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors in front of the under-construction steps. Board members are, from left to right, Herb Clark, Cheryl Harger, Strickland Hyde, Bruce Glowac, and Jay Tonks.