

# Adler Chapel Visitor & Jewish History Center

2026 Erie County Capital  
Budget Request

Jewish Federation of Greater  
Buffalo Cemetery Corporation



JEWISH FEDERATION  
CEMETERY CORPORATION

# Project Overview

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- The Adler Chapel, a 100-year-old Egyptian Revivalist structure, will be rehabilitated into a Visitor & Jewish History Center to serve cultural, educational, and spiritual tourism in Erie County.
- Location: The Adler Chapel is located at Ahavas Achim Cemetery, ***A New York State Historic Landmark and National Historic Register Landmark.***
- Address: 532 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225
- Size: 600 sq. ft.
- Project Cost: \$500,000
- County Share Requested: \$100,000

## gation Ahavath Achim Dedicates Me Chapel at Pine Hill Cemetery



# Statement of Need

- Adler Chapel restoration will honor Jewish immigrant history and Buffalo's architectural heritage.
- The project will accommodate increased tourism and engagement with historic Jewish cemeteries along with an overflow of tourism that is occurring due to EXPLORE BUFFALO TOURS at the Jewish Cemeteries along with Spiritual and Religious pilgrimages.
- Rehabilitating the Chapel supports volunteer preservation efforts and expands community education.

# Scope of Work

- Full roof, exterior and foundation restoration
- Window replacements and structural stabilization
- HVAC and Electrical installation
- Water/sewer utility connections for gender-neutral restrooms
- Interior renovations for Welcome Room and Exhibition Space

# Project Readiness

- Architectural and engineering plans complete
- Site control secured via purchase agreement
- Local civil engineering, architectural, and surveying professionals engaged
- 6-month construction timeline from project start

# Budget Summary

- **Total Project Cost: \$408,000**
- County Share: \$100,000
- Private & Philanthropic Support: \$308,000-of which \$200,000 has been raised (\$73,800 was a grant from the WNYPPAB) –WNY Power Authority
- If Erie County supports this project we have a matching donor

## **Infrastructure costs include:**

- Septic & Water Line Installation: \$125,500
- Design, Surveying, and Architecture: \$29,000+
- Interior Buildout and Accessibility: Remaining balance



# Sustainability & Community Impact

- Welcoming visitors and tourists from The State of New York, America, Canada and abroad promotes cultural, heritage, and architectural tourism.
- Enhances public awareness of Jewish Buffalo's history.
- Self-sustaining through increased donations & events.
- Supports cemetery preservation via *The Stones of Remembrance Campaign*; a matching campaign that was established by The Jewish Buffalo Federation Cemetery Corporation and The Foundation For Jewish Philanthropies to promote Cemetery preservation projects.

## Alignment with NYS & Erie County Tourism Priorities



1. New York State Tourism Priorities New York State promotes: Heritage Tourism: The NYS Division of Tourism (I LOVE NY) highlights cultural and historic attractions across the state. Preservation of Historic Sites: Through agencies like NYS OPRHP and SHPO, NYS emphasizes protecting historic buildings as tourism drivers. Diversity & Inclusion: NYS has made a strong commitment to telling underrepresented stories — including Jewish, immigrant, and minority histories. Sustainable Tourism Development: NYS supports adaptive reuse of buildings rather than demolition — preserving the environment and legacy. Adler Chapel Alignment: Restoring a historic Jewish cemetery chapel tells a uniquely local but broadly American story. Supports sustainable reuse of sacred architecture. Fits with NYS's Cultural Heritage Trail development goals and aligns with SHPO priorities.



2. Erie County Tourism Goals (Visit Buffalo Niagara) Erie County prioritizes: Cultural & Heritage Attractions Architectural Tourism Neighborhood Revitalization Unique visitor experiences Adler Chapel Project Alignment: Adds a new stop to Buffalo's historic and architectural tourism circuit. Supports South Buffalo/Cheektowaga revitalization and storytelling. Can partner with Buffalo Jewish Federation, Open House Buffalo, Sacred Spaces Tour, etc.



# Photo Documentation & Visual Support

- Reference supplemental photo slides and architectural drawings for:
- Interior and exterior conditions
- ADA upgrades
- Restoration needs
- Site integration

Adler  
Chapel -  
Exterior  
(Main  
Entrance)



Adler Chapel -  
Exterior  
(Gravestones  
Visible)





Adler  
Chapel -  
Dedication  
Plaque  
(Adler  
Family,  
1925)



# Adler Chapel - Rear Wall & Electric Meter





Adler  
Chapel -  
Interior  
Room with  
Exposed  
Brick





# Adler Chapel - Interior Decay and Damage



Adler  
Chapel -  
Entry View  
Showing  
Interior  
Condition

