

# San Juan Cathedral

San Juan, PR | Cohort Year: 2025 | Program: National Fund

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## Additional Grantee Details

Grant Amount:	\$500,000
Building Date:	1521
Primary Demographic:	Hispanic or Latine
Denomination/ Faith Tradition:	Catholic
Urban Category*:	Urban
Project scope includes: Exterior, Roof/Gutters/Chimney, Windows/Doors, Walls/Siding/Cladding	

\*Urban category data is from [HUD Urbanization Perceptions Small Area Index](#). Data unavailable for Puerto Rico.

# San Juan Cathedral

*(CATHOLIC)*

## SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The [San Juan Cathedral](#), a landmark for both locals and tourists in Puerto Rico's historic Old San Juan district, provided critical support in the wake of Hurricane Maria and is now stewarding ongoing repairs to its over 500-year-old hurricane-damaged building.

Courtesy Archdiocese of San Juan

The San Juan Cathedral (officially known as: Santa Iglesia Catedral Metropolitana y Basílica Menor San Juan Bautista y Parroquia Nuestra Señora de los Remedios) is among the oldest churches in the Americas. It is the final resting place for explorer Juan Ponce De León and martyr San Pio and serves as the seat of the Archdiocese of San Juan. The San Juan Cathedral is located in Puerto Rico's Old San Juan [National Historic Landmark District](#), one of the oldest colonial settlements in the Americas, with a history that spans more than 500 years. The main Cathedral was built in 1521, destroyed by a storm, and later rebuilt in 1529. The Cathedral has features of both Gothic and Neo-classical architectural styles, with vaulted ceilings, stained-glass windows, a high altar with the oldest crucifix in America, and frescoes on the building which were recently

uncovered from underneath decades of paint. The Cathedral is a landmark not only for the local Catholic community, but for the rising number of religious and cultural tourists.

The Cathedral is still recovering from significant damage incurred when Hurricane Maria struck the island in 2017. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, Puerto Rico was without electricity for five months, during which Catholic churches across the island including the Cathedral became internationally recognized relief stations. The food and support provided to people in need through Parish Cáritas, the Cathedral's social assistance initiative, was critical during hurricane recovery and continues to serve community members today.

A National Fund grant of \$500,000 with \$500,000 in matching funds raised by the congregation and the Catholic Extension Society will allow the San Juan Cathedral to meet urgent repair needs to building elements damaged by Hurricane Maria. The building envelope repairs to the roof, domes, exterior doors, exterior windows, and façade will continue the Cathedral's recovery and sustain the building and its congregation into the future.

Courtesy Archdiocese of San Juan

## **The first 50% of the capital grant award will be disbursed when:**

1. National Fund staff review and approve permit-ready documentation (100% Construction Documents) or equivalent documentation that describes the proposed project and adheres to the **Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation**
2. The congregation submits selected bid(s) and contractor(s) for the scope of work supported by the grant (note that we recommend soliciting at least 3 bids but recognize this may not always be possible)
3. The congregation has raised at least one-fourth of the total matching funds we require and has a sound plan for raising the remaining matching funds to complete the project

4. The congregation completes the Capital Grant Submission form in Foundant, National Fund staff review and approve the capital grant documentation, and a signed grant agreement and appropriate financial documents have been returned by the congregation to National Fund staff

**The second 50% of the award is disbursed when:**

1. The National Fund scope of work has been completed and the grant and the matching funds have been spent on **eligible project related expenses**
2. 100% of the match has been pledged and/or raised
3. The grantee completes a final report in Foundant and a site visit with National Fund staff.