

RI NEWS

# Restoration of R.I.'s Independent Man is nearly complete, conservators say

A layer of nearly pure gold is being applied to the 124-year-old statue, which could be finished in a few weeks

By [Carlos R. Muñoz](#) Globe Staff, Updated March 8, 2024, 3:56 p.m.



The Independent Man statue is being restored at the Rhode Island Army National Guard Readiness Center in Providence, after being taken down from atop the Rhode Island State House. Gold leaf will be applied over the entire state to restore it to its original grandeur. Conservator Mark Rabinowitz applies gold leaf to a section of the statue's right leg. JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — A group of conservators working in a makeshift studio in a corner of the Rhode Island Army National Guard Readiness Center is putting the finishing touches on the Independent Man statue, which could be completed in just a few weeks.



The pedestal beneath the Independent Man atop the Rhode Island State House in January, left, and September, right, when a gap in the base was noticed. COURTESY OF THE R.I. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Inside a tarp-covered room with plywood walls, Mark Rabinowitz, a senior conservator for EverGreene Architectural Arts, is painstakingly adding 23.75 karat gold leaf to the statue.

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