

Historic Newton

Mission

To connect our community with its history to enrich future generations.

Historic Newton is an essential force for vibrant community life in Newton, as both a cultural resource and a steward of our community's character. We serve the community of Newton by bringing an understanding of the past to bear on the issues of the day. We also demonstrate what makes Newton distinctive, which can generate pride in our community.

Newton has two museums, the Jackson Homestead (owned by the City of Newton) and the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds (owned by the City's partner, the non-profit Newton Historical society). Open to the public year-round, the museums are packed with a variety of interactive and engaging exhibits and programs. Historic Newton also functions as the steward, along with other City departments, of Newton's three City-owned historic burying grounds. Historic Newton offers mission-driven, audience-focused programming that connects with people's interests and inspires civic engagement. Our programs include exhibits, lectures, walking tours, workshops, family programming, events, and educational programs for all ages.

Historic Newton serves as the keeper of Newton's memories and functions as the repository for collections and archives that document our past over the centuries. As such, we promote historic research, preservation, and education in and around Newton.

Historic Newton has had another exceptional year. We continue to broaden the ways that community members can connect with our past, including continuing our *Museum Without Walls* initiative. In addition to on-line and outdoor activities, we held programs in different community settings this year. We also completed migration to Past Perfect Web Edition, which provides 24/7 public access to a large catalog of Newton's artifacts and archives online.

Highlights of the last fiscal year include:

- We provided as always an array of programs (lectures, walking tours, school field trips, and more) and added a hands-on craft series this winter. Additionally, people enjoyed learning about history on our much-expanded social media presence and through our award-winning annual magazine.
- The outdoor history signs project continues, with two signs in-progress for Lower Falls and for the East Parish Burying Grounds.
- This Department is enmeshed in staffing challenges like so many other government agencies, non-profits, and for-profits. Due to position vacancies, we were unable to host our popular annual fall festival *Hay Fest* at Jackson Homestead, but it will be back in October 2024! Attendance continues to grow at our spring event, *Plant Swap*, at Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds.
- An enormous accomplishment this year was the completion of the documentary film *An Uncommon Education: The Allen School!* It explores how Newton was an early pioneer in education reform. The Uncommon Education project is an important addition to the history of Massachusetts, with broad appeal beyond Newton. It is also one of many ways in which we showcase Historic Newton's scholarship and archives:
 - The film was well-received at the October premiere and we continue to screen the film, accompanied by a Q&A panel, at locations in the region.

- A companion exhibition, also called *An Uncommon Education*, is travelling with installations at City Hall, NCA's Allen Center, and elsewhere.
- The film and associated materials were used for a professional development workshop for NPS educators.
- We made progress on the multi-year effort to install a new, semi-permanent Newton history exhibit at Jackson Homestead. This coincides with plans to rehabilitate the basement and improve climate control for the collections.
- We completed the perimeter work on three out of four sides of the South Burying Ground on Winchester Street. The community welcomed the decision to remove the chain-link fence along the east (Winchester Street) side. We added bollards on the south side to protect the gravestones from the adjacent parking lot.
- I want to thank the 63 volunteers who gave 823 hours of their time this year. We couldn't do it without you!

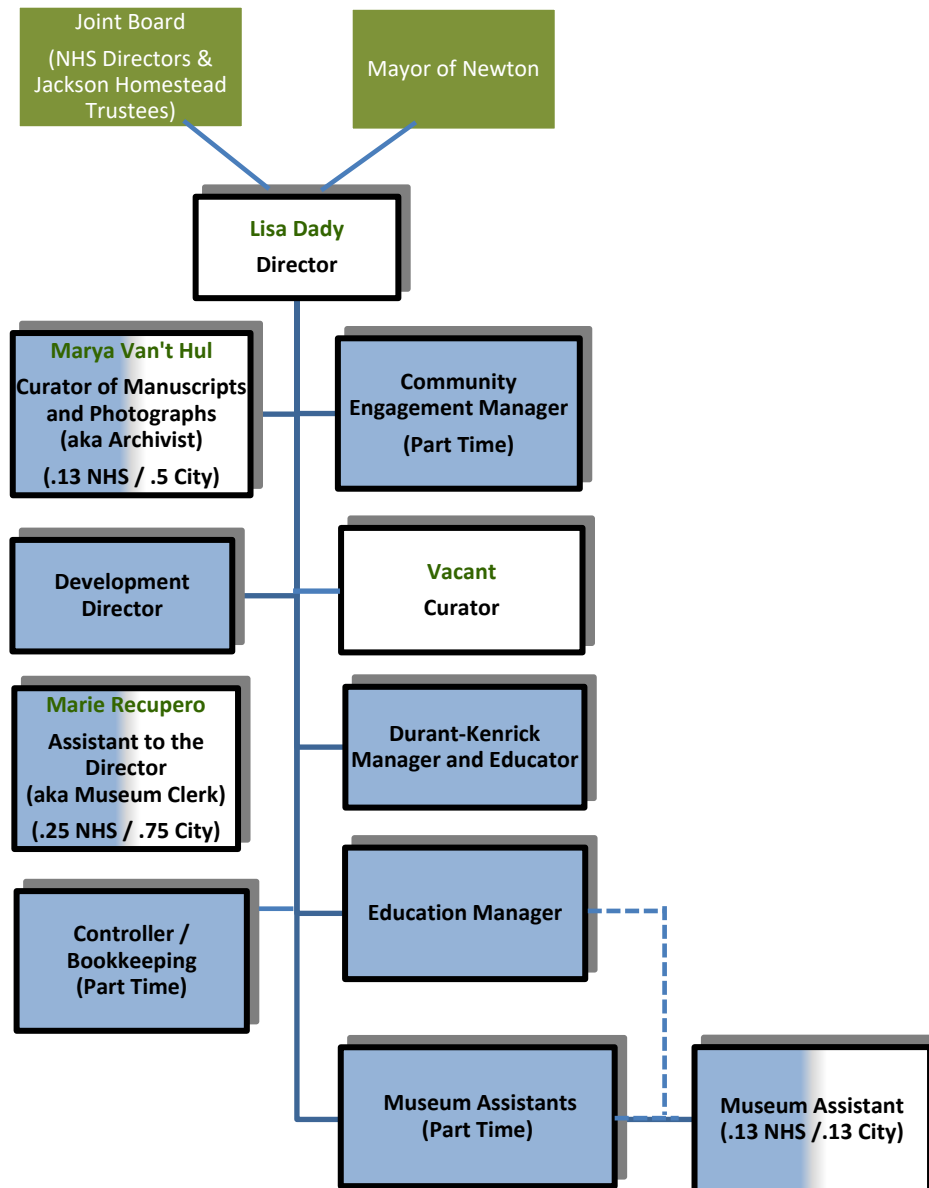
Historic Newton continues to offer exceptional services and keep the city's treasures safe. We look forward to seeing you at Newton's museums in Fiscal Year 2025!

Lisa Dady

Director, Historic Newton

HISTORIC NEWTON

Blue indicates positions funded by the Newton Historical Society and white indicates City of Newton employees.



Financial and Operating Highlights

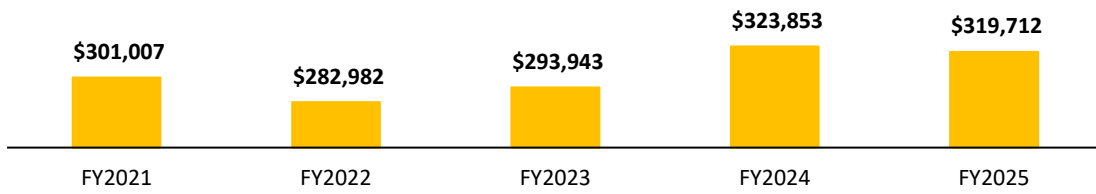
Financial Highlights

	< -----Actual ----->			Original	Proposed
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Expenditure by Department					
Museum Services	\$ 301,007	\$ 282,982	\$ 293,943	\$ 323,853	\$ 319,712
Total	\$ 301,007	\$ 282,982	\$ 293,943	\$ 323,853	\$ 319,712
% Incr		-5.99%	3.87%	10.18%	-1.28%

Personnel

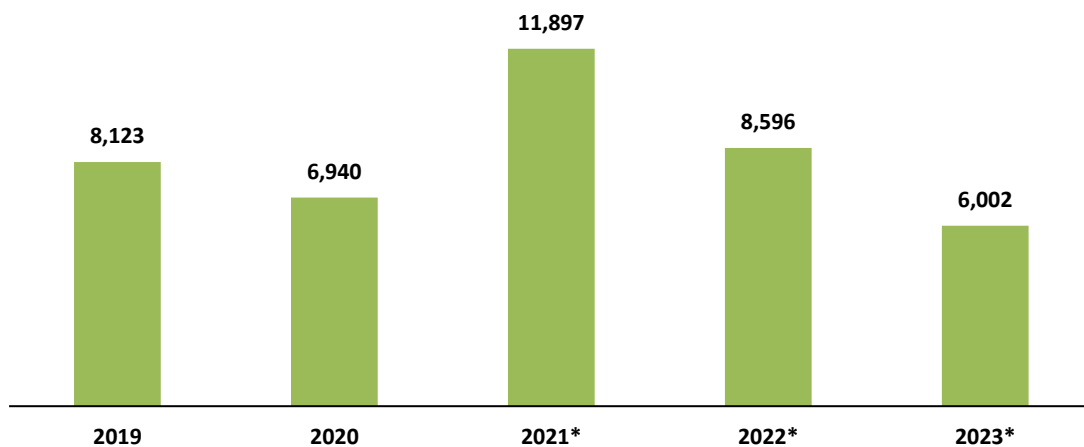
Full-Time	2	2	2	2	2
Part-Time	3	3	3	3	3
Total	5	5	5	5	5

Total Historic Newton Expenditures



Operating Highlights

Attendance at Historic Newton Museums and Events



*2021, 2022 and 2023 Numbers include online visits

Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2025 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 1

Broaden Historic Resources and Programming to Provide Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive Access and Information

We are committed to researching and sharing the under-told histories of marginalized groups of Newtonians to provide diverse, equitable and inclusive access and information.

We are in the midst of developing a major, semi-permanent exhibit of Newton history at Jackson Homestead, a key opportunity to

feature a more diverse and inclusive set of stories. For this exhibit, we are broadening our collections to expand into the late 20th century and to represent an array of Newtonians from different ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Guiding our collecting is the demographics of Newton, which indicate that highlighting the histories of Asian Americans and Jewish residents, for example, is essential.

Newtonians are proud of, and non-Newtonians are drawn to, the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad as represented by Newton's two museums. We continue to build comprehensive expertise on 400 years of Black history in Newton and serve groups of young and old who are eager to learn more.

Historic Newton offers 10 different education programs for the K-12th grade audience. Every Newton Public School participates, especially 3rd and 8th grade classes. Additionally, we have a menu of 11 different programs that can be booked for adult groups. These are popular with older people and assisted living centers, college-aged groups, libraries, and community groups around the region. These offerings underscore how the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion run through our work every day.

Historic Newton will continue to expand access to our collections, scholarship, and educational programs through a package of virtual, outdoor, and offsite services called *Museum Without Walls*. For example, in Fiscal Year 2025, Historic Newton will:

- Continue to promote the many virtual exhibits, research resources, and history vignettes that can be explored on our website. We'll promote the recently established online collections site (Past Perfect Web Edition), which provides 24/7 public access to a large catalog of Newton's artifacts and archives online.
- Continue installing outdoor educational signs around the city. Our comprehensive plan for establishing outdoor history signs throughout the city, over the coming three years, will eventually include all villages and the three City-owned historic burying grounds.

Outcome 2

Increase Participation through *Museum Without Walls*

Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2025 Outcomes and Strategies

- Create information tied to the wrapped electrical boxes around the city, in partnership with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture. Each box will have a caption that better explains the image on the box and a QR code that connects to HN's BoxArt web page. There, people can go deeper into the history associated with the picture on the box. Also on that page will be an interactive map that will allow the visitor to cursor over each box for more information.
- One of HN's most popular programs is the annual walking tour series. Each tour explores a different topic, time period, and space in the city, creating an endless buffet of learning, fun, and exercise.

Finally, hundreds of students from K-12 schools, youth groups, and college-level students learn from our education team every year. We will continue to do this at the museums and in their classrooms.

Outcome 3

Advance Stewardship of Jackson Homestead and Newton's Historic Burying Grounds

Historic Newton, along with the Parks, Recreation, & Culture and Public Buildings Departments, oversee the maintenance and preservation of Newton's City-owned historic gems: the Jackson Homestead and three historic burying grounds.

During the end of Fiscal Year 2024, Historic Newton and Public Buildings will present to the Community Preservation Committee the completed feasibility study about how best to stabilize and rehabilitate Jackson Homestead's basement and refresh it as a special place for exhibits and visitors. Thanks goes to Newton's Community Preservation Committee for approving CPA funds for the study.

In addition to the physical rehabilitation of the basement, we are excited to create a new, general Newton history exhibit. The new exhibit will help the public understand the past and take pride in our community. It will also broaden the histories we tell and fill in the gaps of the late 20th century. Realizing the goals of this new comprehensive approach to the Homestead's structure and exhibit space will be a multi-year project.

Having completed the perimeter work on three out of four sides of the South Burying Ground, next up is improving the west side (rear of the site) by removing the encroachment of detritus on the deteriorating fence. As we do every year, the public will enjoy educational programming at one or more of the burying grounds.

Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2025 Outcomes and Strategies

Historic Newton is expanding collections, scholarship, and programming in areas that more fully represent the demographics of Newton. We often do this in close collaboration with community partners.

In terms of collections, we will continue to diligently work on collections management functions - climate monitoring, integrated pest management, and selective artifact accessioning. When possible, we step up our capacity for cataloging objects in support of the new Newton history exhibit.

The archive is one of our most popular areas. Researchers of all kinds, artifact donors, colleagues, and staff keep the Archivist very busy. Our focus in the coming year is on “discoverability,” which means inventorying, organizing, cataloging, and creating finding aids to make the collections exceptionally accessible to the public. Our goal is to assign a number and create a brief record in the collections database for every archival collection within the next 12 months. With the help of volunteers, we have stepped up the digitization of photographs, ephemera, and manuscripts. Each year we submit a collection to Digital Commonwealth to digitize a collection, which this year will be an album of labeled cyanotypes showing locations in Newton Upper Falls. Historic Newton’s collection at Digital Commonwealth, which includes high-quality images of public buildings in 1906 and 1925.

Outcome 4

Manage Collections to Serve Mission,
Audience, and Sustainability

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
 DEPARTMENT: 603 - HISTORIC NEWTON

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL**

	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ORIGINAL 2024	RECOMMENDED 2025	CHANGE 2024 to 2025
HISTORIC NEWTON SUMMARY						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	246,012	231,597	241,417	269,254	276,665	7,411
52 - EXPENSES	22,523	25,539	27,109	28,770	28,770	0
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	32,472	25,846	25,417	25,829	14,277	-11,552
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	301,007	282,982	293,943	323,853	319,712	-4,141
MUSEUM SERVICES						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	246,012	231,597	241,417	269,254	276,665	7,411
52 - EXPENSES	22,523	25,539	27,109	28,770	28,770	0
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	32,472	25,846	25,417	25,829	14,277	-11,552
TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES	301,007	282,982	293,943	323,853	319,712	-4,141

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
DEPARTMENT: 603 - HISTORIC NEWTON

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL**

	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ORIGINAL 2024	RECOMMENDED 2025	CHANGE 2024 to 2025
603 - HISTORIC NEWTON						
0160370 - MUSEUM SERVICES						
PERSONNEL SERVICES						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	160,798	168,799	172,518	177,686	183,761	6,075
511101 PART TIME < 20 HRS/WK	51,936	54,986	52,102	50,888	52,400	1,512
511102 PART TIME > 20 HRS/WK	30,837	7,364	13,353	38,364	38,788	424
514001 LONGEVITY	1,941	447	3,444	1,941	1,341	-600
515102 CLEANING ALLOWANCE	500	0	0	375	375	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	246,012	231,597	241,417	269,254	276,665	7,411
EXPENSES						
521000 ELECTRICITY	5,665	8,000	7,009	8,000	8,000	0
521100 NATURAL GAS	3,300	4,000	4,911	4,000	4,000	0
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	149	500	182	500	500	0
524010 OFFICE EQUIPMENT R-M	1,828	1,415	1,463	2,000	2,000	0
527600 RENTAL-STORAGE CONTA	3,643	2,650	3,980	3,420	3,420	0
529000 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SV	4,278	4,650	3,678	5,500	5,500	0
534010 TELEPHONE	394	364	320	400	400	0
534100 POSTAGE	0	0	0	250	250	0
534200 PRINTING	894	1,440	3,631	2,000	2,000	0
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,372	2,520	1,935	2,400	2,400	0
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	0	0	300	300	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,523	25,539	27,109	28,770	28,770	0
FRINGE BENEFITS						
57DENT DENTAL INSURANCE	724	532	501	523	0	-523
57HLTH HEALTH INSURANCE	25,277	19,758	19,313	19,046	8,907	-10,139
57LIFE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE	57	52	57	59	0	-59
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	3,340	3,224	3,356	3,903	3,915	12
57OPEB OPEB CONTRIBUTION	3,074	2,280	2,190	2,298	1,455	-843
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	32,472	25,846	25,417	25,829	14,277	-11,552
TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES	301,007	282,982	293,943	323,853	319,712	-4,141
TOTAL HISTORIC NEWTON	301,007	282,982	293,943	323,853	319,712	-4,141