

Historic Newton

Mission

Historic Newton inspires discovery and engagement by illuminating our communities' stories within the context of American history.

Historic Newton is an essential force for vibrant community life in Newton, as both a cultural resource and a steward of community character. We serve the community 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.

Finally, Historic Newton is 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 the city of Newton.

This past year has been productive at Historic Newton. Selected accomplishments include:

- Museum visitation and program attendance reflects active engagement with people of all ages.
- Launched *Long Way Home*, an education program about immigration for schools, tied to curriculum standards, that reveals key historical themes using composite immigrant families from China, Italy, Russia (a Jewish family) and Ireland.
- Staff co-created several educational partnerships with Newton youth groups and schools. Two examples: Communities United (Head Start) is bringing their kids to Jackson Homestead every month, creating a personal “club house” feel for this important population; The *Bench by the Road* project with Newton South High School is connecting students with Newton’s African American history.
- Leveraged partnerships to broaden our impact on Newton and beyond. Examples include: Screening of *9-Man* a film about Chinese street volleyball; Archery Day at Jackson Homestead; *Meet the Makers* days; the Newton History Series of lectures and exhibits at Newton Free Library; the Newton Talks oral history program; and several programs commemorating the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.
- Seventy two volunteers and interns contributed over 1,000 hours on projects such as digitization of collections, research, archival processing, and event staffing.
- Served hundreds of families through *Storytime at the Museums*, Hay Fest, and school vacation week programs. These programs allow children, parents, and caregivers to abandon their electronic devices for hands-on learning and fun.

Building on our 2020 accomplishments, fiscal year 2021 promised to be another successful year. The COVID-19 crisis has, of course, thrown

a wrench in that. Nevertheless, we have moved existing programs to online formats and are planning new virtual programming for FY2021. Even with a tightened budget, we will continue to offer exceptional services and keep the city’s treasures safe. We look forward to the day that we can reopen for the public.

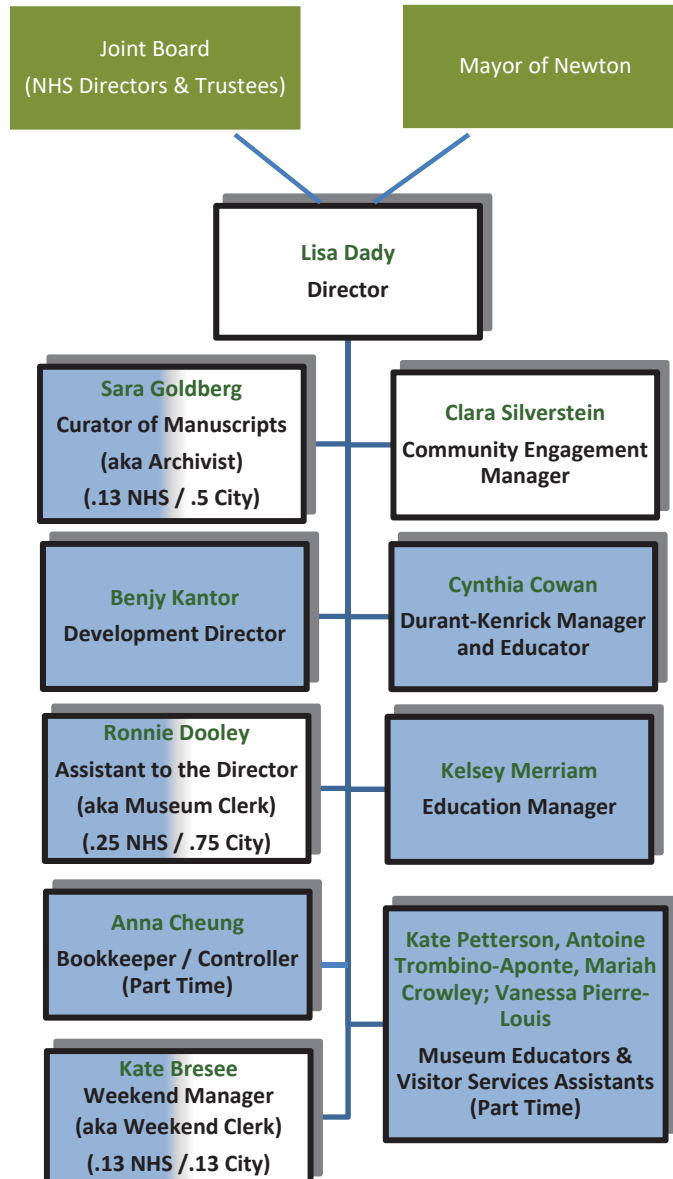
Museums and archives help establish a thoughtful, contextual, and factual understanding for every era which is an important service to our community. This is especially true during historic events like the crisis unfolding now. Historic Newton is dedicated to ensuring that this process of documentation and discovery, of meaning making, will continue for our city’s diverse population.

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

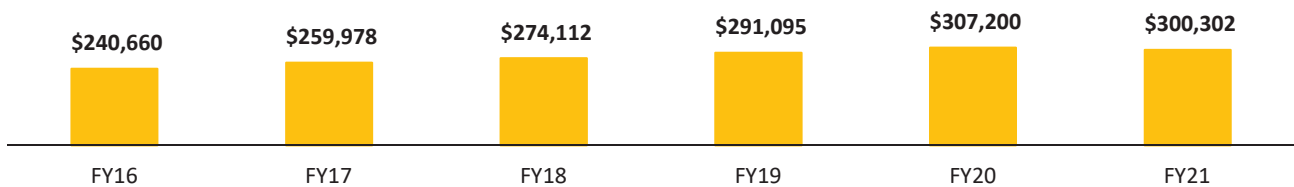
Financial Highlights

	Actual			Adj Budget		Proposed
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Expenditure by Department						
Museum Services	\$ 240,660	\$ 259,978	\$ 274,112	\$ 291,095	\$ 307,200	\$ 300,302
Total	\$ 240,660	\$ 259,978	\$ 274,112	\$ 291,095	\$ 307,200	\$ 300,302
% Incr		8.03%	5.44%	6.20%	5.53%	-2.25%

Personnel

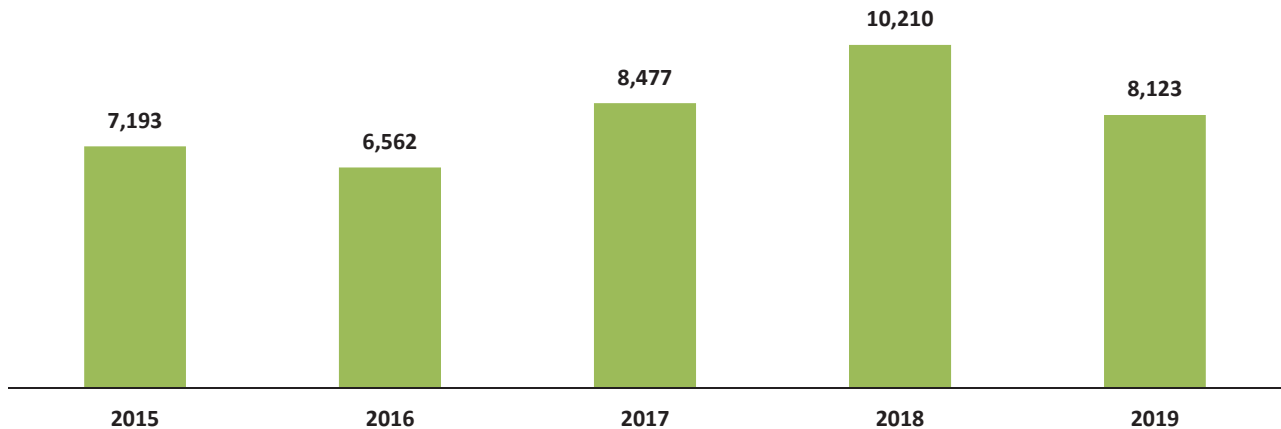
Full-Time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Part-Time	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	5	5	5	5	5	5

Total Historic Newton Expenditures



Operating Highlights

Attendance at Historic Newton Museums and Events



Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2021 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 1

Bring the Past to Bear on the Present

issues. We have a practice of ongoing evaluation in which we use input from various segments of the community to establish and review programs. We also regularly assess our collections, exhibits, and programming for continued relevance.

Our material holdings and intellectual assets are strong during the 1800s to the mid-1900s. So, one area of focus will be to collect and interpret the recent past. History is always being made. This will be done through the collection of oral histories and artifacts while “history makers” are still alive, by supporting scholarship on 20th and 21st century topics, and by providing historical context for compelling contemporary concerns. In FY2021, we will also delve deeper into 18th century history, particularly with African Americans in Newton, as well as Native American history over the last 400plus years.

The value of equity will continue to be central to our work in FY 2021 as we address gaps in collections and programming related to Newton’s diverse demographics and the under-told histories of marginalized groups.

We will continue to offer programs and exhibits that expand the knowledge and appreciation of Newton’s history in the context of regional and American history. Active collaboration with non-profits, academic institutions, and civic groups on programming and marketing helps us to achieve this as does use of social media and target marketing to attract program attendees and museum visitors.

Youth groups are a central audience for our services. Thousands of students from K-12 schools and out-of-school-time youth groups, as well as college-level students, interact with our education team every year. In FY2021, our Education Manager and Archivist will continue to work with Newton South High School on the Bench by the Road project, and with Newton North and the middle schools on other specialty programming.

We also serve thousands of adults, which will continue in FY2021, with an updated and expanded menu of offerings. New exhibitions at each museum and offsite will be a critical part of this work.

With the expectation that there will be continued limits on our ability to gather physically, our work is being planned with virtual options in mind. Even so, we strive to shift visitor behavior from passive observation to active participation. This criterion will continue to inform program planning for FY2021.

Outcome 2

Increase Participation Among Audiences

Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2021 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 3

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

Historic Newton takes seriously its role (along with other City departments) in preserving Newton's City-owned historic gems: the Jackson Homestead and three historic burying grounds (South Parish on Winchester St., East Parish on Centre St., and West Parish on River St.) Through the energy and expertise of volunteers and paid professionals, these sites will remain

protected and be enhanced in the coming year.

In 2020, Jackson Homestead underwent many improvements (lighting, painting, fence repair, new furnace, etc.). This now frees up time and energy for this department, working with the Public Buildings Department and Parks & Recreation Department, to develop a plan for longer-term improvement projects, particularly to the basement spaces at the Homestead.

Conservation work on gravestones in South Burying ground will continue into FY2021. We intend to undertake a multi-departmental process to plan fence and masonry work at all three burying grounds, if time can be spared from our duties around the COVID-19 crisis. We are planning a gravestone conservation workshop, to be held when we can safely gather at East Parish Burying Ground, to train volunteers who will clean gravestones. The annual burying grounds volunteer cleanup projects will continue in the fall unless it is unsafe to do so.

In addition to physical stewardship, Historic Newton is offering educational programming at these sites that not only informs but also builds appreciation for these resources among the community.

Historic Newton is committed to expanding access and achieving equity in how we collect, manage, and share collections.

In 2020, we will go live with an online interface for exploring our collections. This will be accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world, greatly expanding access to and use by researchers and the general public. Only a small percentage of the total collection will be made available in that initial launch, but we will continue to add artifacts and archival material to the database. As a member of Massachusetts's *Digital Commonwealth*, we aim to load one sub-collection from our archives per year to that online forum. Online accessibility is even more important during times of coronavirus shutdown. In FY2021 most or all offsite collections can return to Newton, greatly increasing physical access and thus intellectual access to the entire collection.

We have been very active in expanding collections and scholarship in areas that better represent the demographics of Newton and the histories of marginalized people.

Outcome 4

Collections Managed to Serve Mission, Audience, and Sustainability

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
 DEPARTMENT: 603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

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

	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2019	ORIGINAL 2020	RECOMMENDED 2021	CHANGE 2020 to 2021
HISTORIC NEWTON SUMMARY						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	215,153	220,589	224,202	241,786	242,012	226
52 - EXPENSES	24,526	26,379	27,918	34,230	26,620	-7,610
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	20,300	27,144	27,085	31,184	31,671	487
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	259,978	274,112	279,205	307,199	300,302	-6,897
MUSEUM SERVICES						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	215,153	220,589	224,202	241,786	242,012	226
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FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
DEPARTMENT: 603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

	ACTUAL FY2017	ACTUAL FY2018	ACTUAL FY2019	ORIGINAL 2020	RECOMMENDED 2021	CHANGE 2020 to 2021
603 - HISTORIC NEWTON						
0160370 - MUSEUM SERVICES						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	144,999	146,585	150,974	156,744	160,798	4,054
511101 PART TIME < 20 HRS/WK	39,414	41,496	46,442	48,061	46,758	-1,303
511102 PART TIME > 20 HRS/WK	30,240	31,658	23,905	34,356	32,140	-2,216
514001 LONGEVITY	0	0	370	1,125	1,941	816
515005 BONUSES	0	350	300	0	0	0
515006 VACATION BUY BACK	0	0	1,835	0	0	0
515102 CLEANING ALLOWANCE	500	500	375	1,500	375	-1,125
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	215,153	220,589	224,202	241,786	242,012	226
EXPENSES						
521000 ELECTRICITY	7,620	6,244	7,866	10,000	8,000	-2,000
521100 NATURAL GAS	3,559	4,386	3,326	4,200	4,000	-200
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	3,481	1,650	347	3,000	500	-2,500
524010 OFFICE EQUIPMENT R-M	1,313	1,638	1,998	3,000	2,000	-1,000
527600 RENTAL-STORAGE CONTA	0	1,890	2,730	2,570	2,570	0
529000 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SV	4,654	4,654	6,522	4,900	4,900	0
534010 TELEPHONE	441	453	487	400	400	0
534100 POSTAGE	0	0	0	1,000	250	-750
534200 PRINTING	1,380	964	1,851	1,600	1,600	0
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,033	2,732	2,354	2,400	2,400	0
571000 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	44	267	436	500	0	-500
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	1,500	0	660	0	-660
TOTAL EXPENSES	24,526	26,379	27,918	34,230	26,620	-7,610
FRINGE BENEFITS						
57DENT DENTAL INSURANCE	725	755	720	816	816	0
57HLTH HEALTH INSURANCE	14,975	20,635	20,643	23,212	24,141	929
57LIFE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE	57	57	57	57	57	0
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	2,951	3,031	3,034	3,949	3,509	-440
57OPEB OPEB CONTRIBUTION	1,591	2,668	2,632	3,150	3,147	-3
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	20,300	27,144	27,085	31,184	31,671	487
TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES	259,978	274,112	279,205	307,199	300,302	-6,897
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