

An aerial photograph of a historic site, likely in Newton, Massachusetts. The image shows a large, multi-story building complex with a central courtyard and a circular driveway. A large, dark pond is visible to the right of the buildings. The surrounding area is lush with trees and greenery. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box with rounded corners.

# 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 busy and fruitful at Historic Newton. Selected accomplishments include:

- Achieved reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums.
- Museum visitation and attendance at programs and events increased by 20% over last year.
- Co-created several educational partnerships with Newton Public Schools. Examples: a multi-phase project at Newton South HS connecting students with Newton's African American history; a project with Cabot School Art & Library teachers on three two-part lessons for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about Cabot School history to inform designs for a new mural; a professional development workshop for NPS elementary librarians; a primary source workshop for juniors at Newton North HS; and engaging the NNHS carpentry class to rebuild Jackson Homestead's back railing.
- Leveraged partnerships to broaden our impact on Newton and beyond. Examples include: the Newton History Series of lectures and exhibits at Newton Free Library; the *Expanding Our Narratives* program series (funded in part by the Newton Cultural Council); and spearheading the *Crossing Borders* collaboration (funded by the Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation) with the historical organizations of Natick, Needham, and Wellesley.
- Seventy volunteers and interns contributed over 1,000 hours on projects such as digitization of collections, research, landscape work, and event staffing.
- Served hundreds of families through *Storytime at the Museums*, HayFest, and school vacation week programs.

Building on our 2019 accomplishments, fiscal year 2020 promises to be another successful year. We are maintaining a nearly level-funded budget for FY2020. By using our resources wisely, we will continue offering the exceptional services our department provides.

Museums and archives help establish a thoughtful, contextual, factual understanding for every era which is an important service during times of great change. Historic Newton is dedicated to ensuring that this process of documentation and discovery, of meaning making, will continue for our city's diverse population.

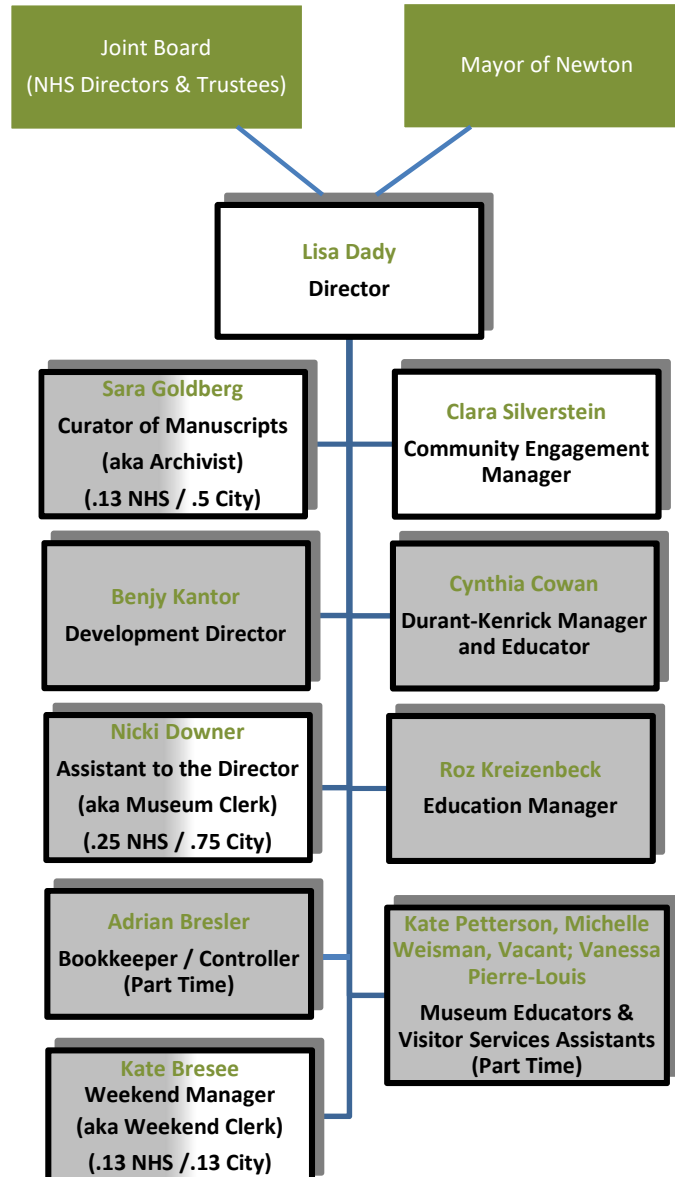
*Lisa Dady*

Director, Historic Newton

# HISTORIC NEWTON

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

February, 2019



# Financial and Operating Highlights

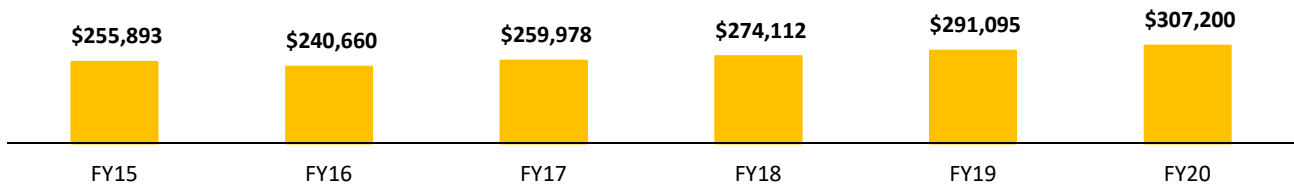
## Financial Highlights

	Actual				Adj Budget		Proposed	
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020		
<b>Expenditure by Department</b>								
Museum Services	\$ 255,893	\$ 240,660	\$ 259,978	\$ 274,112	\$ 291,095	\$ 307,200		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 255,893</b>	<b>\$ 240,660</b>	<b>\$ 259,978</b>	<b>\$ 274,112</b>	<b>\$ 291,095</b>	<b>\$ 307,200</b>		
<b>% Incr</b>		-5.95%	8.03%	5.44%	6.20%	5.53%		

## Personnel

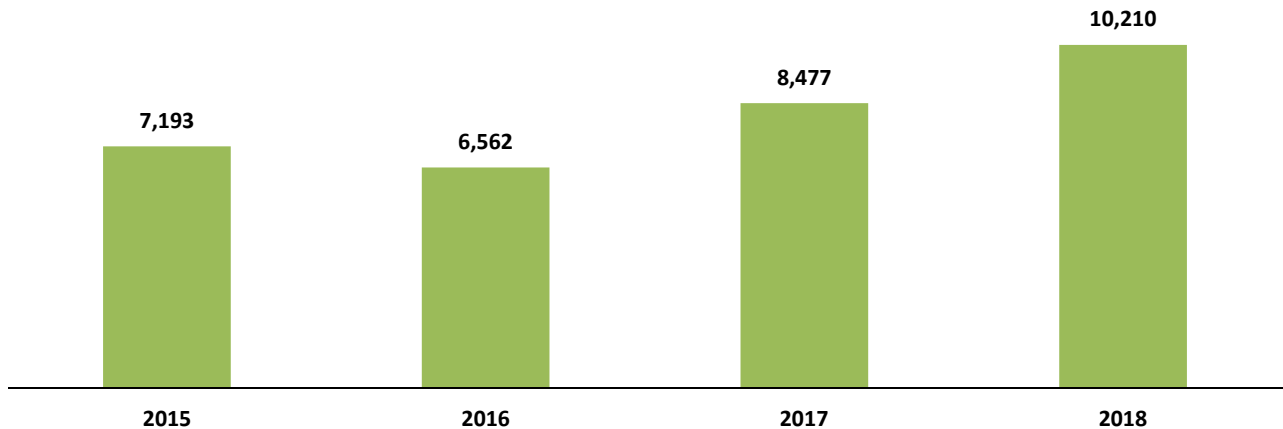
Full-Time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Part-Time	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

## Total Historic Newton Expenditures



## Operating Highlights

### Attendance at Historic Newton Museums and Events



# Historic Newton

## Fiscal Year 2020 Outcomes and Strategies

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### Outcome 1

#### Bring the Past to Bear on the Present

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As the City of Newton's history center, we believe that our collections and presentations should help the people of today make sense of their past and present. In FY2020, we will continue to provide programming that gives context to current

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.

One area of focus will be to collect and interpret the recent past. History is always being made. Our material holdings and intellectual assets are strong in 19<sup>th</sup> century and prior periods but need augmenting as we continue into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will be done through the collection of oral histories and artifacts while "history makers" are still alive, by supporting scholarship on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century topics, and by providing historical context for compelling contemporary concerns.

The value of equity will continue to be central to our work in FY 2020 as we address gaps in collections and programming related to Newton's diverse demographics and the under-told histories of marginalized groups.

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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. Scores of children from K-12 schools and out-of-school-time youth groups interact with our education team every year. Currently, we work with the majority of the Newton Public Schools; in 2020 we aim to connect with 100% of NPS K-12 schools.

In FY2019, we dedicated energy and resources to forming new partnerships with Newton Public Schools and we are devoted to those ongoing relationships. We also served thousands of adults and seniors, but in FY2020 we will reinvigorate our outreach to adult audiences through collaborations, tailored programming, and marketing.

We strive to shift visitor behavior from passive observation to active participation. This criterion, among many, will continue to inform program planning for FY2020.

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### Outcome 2

#### Increase Participation Among Audiences

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# Historic Newton

## Fiscal Year 2020 Outcomes and Strategies

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### Outcome 3

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

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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.

Jackson Homestead will undergo many improvements on the interior and exterior that will improve energy efficiency, preserve the historic structure, protect collections, and enhance the grounds. These include installation of LED lighting, small enhancements to temperature and humidity control, reconfigured collections storage and exhibit space, gutter repair, additional plantings, and shrub and tree maintenance.

By the fall of 2019, fourteen gravestones will be conserved and repaired at South Street Burying ground. We will undertake a multi-department process to plan fence and masonry work at all three burying grounds.

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

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Historic Newton is always committed to expanding access and achieving equity in how we collect, manage, and share collections. This will be a major focus in FY2020.

In the coming year, we will roll out an online interface for exploring a significant portion of 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. We are also members of Massachusetts's *Digital Commonwealth*, another forum for sharing collections highlights online, and we will add to our presence there.

A review of our collections indicates that there is underrepresentation in some stories we can tell. We will build on current initiatives to expand collections and scholarship in areas that will fill gaps to better represent the demographics of Newton, the histories of marginalized people, and 20<sup>th</sup> century history.

Finally, we will prioritize collections management tasks that will optimize storage space toward these ends.

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### Outcome 4

#### Collections Managed to Serve Mission, Audience, and Sustainability

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FUND: 01 - GENERAL FUND  
 DEPARTMENT: 603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL

	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	AMENDED 2019	YTD 4/11/2019	RECOMMENDED 2020	CHANGE 2019 to 2020
<b>NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM SUMMARY</b>						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	215,153	220,589	231,349	177,510	241,787	10,438
52 - EXPENSES	24,526	26,379	30,765	19,977	34,230	3,465
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	20,300	27,144	28,981	22,079	31,184	2,203
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>259,978</b>	<b>274,112</b>	<b>291,095</b>	<b>219,567</b>	<b>307,200</b>	<b>16,106</b>
<b>MUSEUM SERVICES</b>						
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FUND: 01 - GENERAL FUND  
DEPARTMENT: 603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

	ACTUAL FY2017	ACTUAL FY2018	AMENDED 2019	YTD 4/11/2019	RECOMMENDED 2020	CHANGE 2019 to 2020
<b>603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM</b>						
<b>0160301 - MUSEUM SERVICES</b>						
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	144,999	146,585	153,483	116,134	156,745	3,262
511101 PART TIME < 20 HRS/WK	39,414	41,496	44,563	34,591	48,061	3,498
511102 PART TIME > 20 HRS/WK	30,240	31,658	32,928	23,905	34,356	1,428
514001 LONGEVITY	0	0	0	370	1,125	1,125
515005 BONUSES	0	350	0	300	0	0
515006 VACATION BUY BACK	0	0	0	1,835	0	0
515102 CLEANING ALLOWANCE	500	500	375	375	1,500	1,125
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>215,153</b>	<b>220,589</b>	<b>231,349</b>	<b>177,510</b>	<b>241,787</b>	<b>10,438</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
5210 ELECTRICITY	7,620	6,244	7,800	5,640	10,000	2,200
5211 NATURAL GAS	3,559	4,386	4,000	2,574	4,200	200
5230 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	3,481	1,650	3,000	137	3,000	0
52401 OFFICE EQUIPMENT R-M	1,313	1,638	3,000	1,473	3,000	0
5276 RENTAL-STORAGE CONTA	0	1,890	2,520	2,100	2,570	50
5290 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SV	4,654	4,654	5,300	4,732	4,900	-400
53401 TELEPHONE	441	453	500	275	400	-100
5341 POSTAGE	0	0	499	0	1,000	501
5342 PRINTING	1,380	964	1,230	1,230	1,600	370
5420 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,033	2,732	2,271	1,663	2,400	129
5450 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SU	0	0	275	0	0	-275
5710 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	44	267	370	153	500	130
5730 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	1,500	0	0	660	660
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>24,526</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>30,765</b>	<b>19,977</b>	<b>34,230</b>	<b>3,465</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>						
57DENTAL DENTAL INSURANCE	725	755	786	591	816	30
57HLTH HEALTH INSURANCE	14,975	20,635	21,898	16,833	23,212	1,314
57LIFE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE	57	57	57	42	57	0
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	2,951	3,031	3,270	2,400	3,949	679
57OPEB OPEB CONTRIBUTION	1,591	2,668	2,970	2,213	3,150	180
<b>TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>27,144</b>	<b>28,981</b>	<b>22,079</b>	<b>31,184</b>	<b>2,203</b>
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