



David B. Cohen
Mayor

Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program Fiscal 2010 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Date received: _____



Submit 14 printed copies & 1 electronic copy by 4 pm, 16 October 2009 to:

Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459
aingerson@newtonma.gov 617.796.1144

Proposals must follow instructions in the current Proposal & Project Handbook, available upon request and online at www.ci.newton.ma.gov/cpa. You may adjust spaces, but use NO MORE THAN 1 PAGE to answer all questions on this page.

Project CONTACTS	<i>Name & title / affiliation, mailing address, email, daytime phone, & any other way we should contact you (fax, mobile phone, ...) Star (*) name of the project manager, who will track budget & submit updates.</i>			
David A. Olson City Clerk 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459				
Project TITLE	<i>Preservation of Historic Public Artwork</i>			
LOCATION	<i>Full street address (with zip code) or other precise location.</i> Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue 02459			
FUNDING CATEGORIES	<i>CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.</i>	COMMUNITY HOUSING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC RESOURCES	OPEN SPACE
BUDGET <small>ATTACH DETAIL SEPARATELY.</small>	CP FUNDS REQUESTED: \$5,200	OTHER FUNDS TO BE USED:		TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$5,200
SUMMARY	<i>Summarize goals & benefits in NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS (staff will edit longer summaries to fit that limit).</i>			

The City of Newton owns hundreds of historic artworks including paintings, sculptures, dioramas, photographs, and prints that were either created by Newton artists, are of Newton people or scenes, or were once owned by Newton residents or organizations. These works are housed outside the museum setting and are located in the Newton Free Library, the Newton School Department, Newton City Hall, and various public buildings around the city. A majority of these works are in need of restoration, repair and cleaning and many are in danger of being lost to this and future generations. This application seeks Community Preservation Funds to restore, repair, and clean one of the most significant paintings in terms of history, subject, and artist that had been hanging in City Hall and which is now in storage in the Vault of the City Clerk.

In 1873, by an almost unanimous vote, James F. C. Hyde of Newton Highlands became the first Mayor of the City of Newton when a new city charter was granted by the State legislature. Hyde was chosen for his work in the movement to create the municipality. He had been a town moderator and selectman, and was a descendent of one of the first settlers of the area.

The formal portrait of James F.C. Hyde, was painted by Nahum Onthank in the 1870s. Onthank lived on Cherry Street not far from the site of Newton’s first City Hall in West Newton. Over the years the painting and its frame have sustained major damage, and both are in need of repair and cleaning. The painting and frame have been carefully stabilized and is being stored in the vault of the City Clerk. Once the work has been completed it will be reinstalled in City Hall.

1. HOW WILL CP FUNDS BE USED?	<i>Check all that apply.</i>	COMMUNITY HOUSING	HISTORIC RESOURCES	OPEN SPACE	RECREATION LAND
		acquire			
	create		NOT ALLOWED		
<i>allowed IF resource was acquired or created with CP funds</i>	preserve		X		
	support		NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
	rehabilitate/restore		X		

You may adjust spaces but USE NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE to answer all questions on this page. Attach supporting information on separate pages (see attachments checklists)

2. CITYWIDE NEEDS: *How will the project address needs identified in existing citywide plans? (Provide short quotes with plan title, year & page.)*

A goal outlined in Newton’s Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 9 page 9 is to use history to build a sense of place. The two paintings included in this application help to visually represent a sense of place at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th in Newton. The portrait of Mayor Hyde is a symbol of the change in the structure of Newton from a town to a city. The painting represents a key point of change in the kind of place in which we live, and provides a glimpse into who our predecessors were and how they helped to create this place.

An exhibit at the Newton History Museum in 2003 entitled “Rediscovering Newton Artists 1850 – 1950” highlighted the work of Newton artists from this time period and was very well received by the Newton community. The exhibit continues on-line at:
<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/newton-artists/index.html>

3. OTHER FUNDING: *What additional funding have you obtained or are you pursuing? Attach commitment letters or summaries/cover sheets from grant applications.*

N/A

4. STEWARDSHIP: *How will the project be maintained after CP funds have been spent? (Hint: “through the regular City budget” is seldom a persuasive answer.)*

Once restored and preserved, the painting will be the first entry in an artwork catalogue to which additional entries will be made as artwork is catalogued and preserved. The work requested in the application will be the first preservation and restoration work ever undertaken on the painting. Barring unforeseen events, the artwork should not need additional work for the next 50 years. Upon completion the Hyde portrait will once again hang in City Hall, securely mounted to the wall with oversight by the City Clerk’s Office.

5. COMMUNITY CONTACTS: *List email addresses and/or phone numbers for at least 3 people willing to talk with us about the project and the project managers’ qualifications. At least 2 of these contacts should be from outside the project’s immediate neighborhood; none should be the project manager*

- Susan Abele Archivist Newton History Museum sabele@newtonma.gov
- Brian Yates Alderman byates@newtonma.gov
- Ryan Hanson Newton Free Library rhanson@minlib.net

Letters of Support provided by:

- John MacGillivray Newton Veterans Agent
- Benjamin Onthank Descendant of Artist

Draft Project TIMELINE *List major steps & timing. If the project is funded, CP staff will work with you to add missing steps and participants.*

Project TITLE:				
STEPS <i>BIG steps, SHORT descriptions!</i>	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED <i>What must other organizations or City depts. do (raise funds, issue permits, etc.)?</i>	START <i>season/year</i>	COMPLETE <i>season/year</i>	COST <i>estimate</i>
1 Develop RFP and select Conservators	Purchasing Department to consult and to distribute RFP and receive bids	January 2010	March 2010	
2 Send Hyde portrait and frame out for work	Work will be done off site.	April 2010	August 2010	\$5,200
3 Reinstall Hyde Portrait in City Hall	Public Buildings to assist with installation.	September 2010	September 2010	
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Your 1-page **LIST OF ALL ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED** should follow this page, including special attachments required for **HISTORIC RESOURCES** or **HOUSING** proposals.

ATTACHMENTS:

Project Budget..... 5
Qualifications..... 5
Photos..... 6
Historical Significance, Features and Treatment 7
Letters of Support..... 8

Project Budget

James F.C. Hyde Portrait

Conservation, Repair, and Cleaning of painting	\$3,200
<i>The painting will be removed from the stretcher and the tacking margins will be relaxed. The back of the painting will be vacuumed and irregularities will be removed. Beva adhesive will be applied to the back and new lining materials will be attached. The painting will be restretched and surface dirt will be removed, discolored varnish will be reduced, loss will be filled, in-painted, and revarnished.</i>	
Conservation, Repair and Cleaning of frame	\$1,500
<i>Clean and replace missing and damaged pieces</i>	
Sub total	\$4,700
10% contingency	\$500
Total	\$5,200

Qualifications

Project Manager: David A. Olson, City Clerk

Worked on the following CPA funded projects.

Newton City Archives Phase 1	completed
Newton City Archives Phase 2	completed
Newton's Historic Burying Grounds Phase 1	completed
Newton's Historic Burying Grounds Phase 2	initiated

Professional Experience:

THE CITY OF NEWTON, MA

City Clerk/Clerk of the Board of Aldermen

Serve as the chief staff officer for Newton's Board of Aldermen and as the City Clerk overseeing the governmental archives of the City of Newton. Develop and manage an annual budget within the guidelines provided by the Mayor and the Board President

Newton, MA
2006 – present

THE NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM AT THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD

Executive Director

Responsible for the general operations of the museum including collections and archives care and the oversight of staff.

Newton, MA
2001 – 2006

THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES HISTORIC SITES

Museum Director

Oversaw the departments of Interpretation, Research, Exhibits, Visitor Services, Public Programs, Curatorial, Archives and Educational Programs. Responsible for creating the yearly budgets and long range plans.

Salem, MA
1997 - 2001



**Portrait of Newton's First Mayor James F.C. Hyde by Newton artist Nahum Onthank
Currently Stored in the City Clerk's Vault, will be re-hung in Newton City Hall when restored.**

Preservation of Historic Public Artwork – Historical Significance

Portrait of Mayor James F.C. Hyde, first Mayor of Newton

Location: Currently in the Clerk's Vault

In 1873, Newton was in transition and Rowe's History of Newton provides the following description of the situation. Newton was growing rapidly and had the largest population of any town in the Commonwealth. The work of the growing community was putting a strain on the part time selectmen and the town realized it was time to petition the state for a new charter as a City. The Charter was granted by the legislature and by an almost unanimous vote, James F. C. Hyde of Newton Highlands was selected as the City's first Mayor. He was chosen for his work in the movement to create the municipality. He had been a town moderator and selectman, and was a descendent of one of the first settlers of the area. In his first inaugural address Mayor Hyde said: "The old town form of government in Newton has passed away, and the first hour of its new life as a city is just opening upon us. . . . By the will of the people, expressed through their ballots, we have been placed here to organize under the charter that we have recently accepted; to inaugurate a new system of government in place of the old one that we have entirely outgrown. While many of us have had experience under the town form of government, to most of us the duties of our present position are new and untried. We can no longer follow in the old and well-beaten track, but must push out into new paths. The material is about us and ready to our hands, out of which we are to construct a system of government, which I do most earnestly hope and believe will, in nearly all respects, prove superior to the old."



Artist: Nahum Ball Onthank 1823 - 1888

Nahum Ball Onthank and his wife Caroline lived in West Newton from about 1860 until 1881 when he moved to Boston. All of his children were born in Newton and he and his family lived first at 392 Cherry Street, just a block from the old Newton City Hall. They later moved to Washington Place (eventually to become Austin Street) in Newtonville before moving to Boston. Although largely self-taught, he did study under the celebrated artist Chester Harding, who was also a friend.

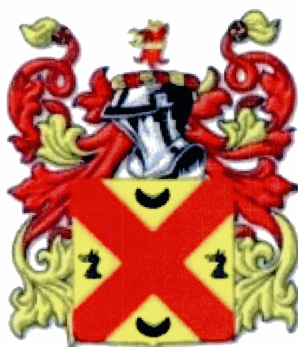
Among his best known portraits are those of US Vice President Henry Wilson, US Senator Charles Sumner, and abolitionist John Brown, as well as other leading men of the day.

Nahum Onthank's works were exhibited at the National Academy in 1848 and 1850 and at the Boston Athenaeum, of which he was a member, between 1853 and 1872. Today his work can be found in: Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA; the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, MA; the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA; the Lyman Allyn Museum in New London, CT; the Nantucket Historical Association in Nantucket, MA; Harvard University in Cambridge, MA; the Wellesley Historical Society in Wellesley, MA; the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, MA; the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston; and here in Newton.

Condition & Treatment

Surface dirt has discolored the varnish. The painting has loose paint, large extensive tears, loss of paint, abrasions, crequelure, accretions, press dents, quilting, brittle supports, and stains. There is damage to the frame.

The painting will be removed from the stretcher and the tacking margins will be relaxed. The back of the painting will be vacuumed and irregularities will be removed. Beva adhesive will be applied to the back and new lining materials will be attached. The painting will be restretched and surface dirt will be removed, discolored varnish will be reduced, loss will be filled, inpainted, and revarnished. The frame will be cleaned and missing and damaged pieces will be replaced.



October 15, 2009

Benjamin Onthank
60 N. Main Street #313
Natick, MA 01760

Mrs. Alice E. Ingerson, Manager
Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Ave. Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mrs. Ingerson,

On behalf of the Onthank family, I would like to offer this letter of support for the Restoration Project of the historic portrait of Mayor James Hyde proposed by the City of Newton's Clerk's Office.

Since the early 1600s when the first ancestor of the Onthank family stepped upon the shores of this great new world, generation after generation following him have bore witness to many turning points throughout our country's great rise in history. From battles at Lexington and Concord, to leading industrial developments and economic growths from coast to coast. Many stars have risen from our family's ranks, but few shine as brightly as that of Nahum Ball Onthank.

While the Onthank family was saddened to learn of the severe accidental damage to such a wonderful example of Nahum Onthank's artistic talent, they are proud to see that the City of Newton recognizes the importance of his work and wishes to restore and properly display this pictorial piece of history to serve as an ever present example of pride for further generations that follow through the hallowed halls of City Hall, to be a reminder of how far we've come in this day and age and lastly to enlighten as to what achievements and notoriety residents of the City of Newton can attain.

This pride I express myself as Nahum Ball Onthank's Great Great Grandson and as a former Newton resident. I'd like to thank Mr. Olson and his staff in the Clerk's Office for allowing me the wonderful opportunity to briefly assist with the hard work that went into preparing their proposal and I, along with the rest of the Onthank family, truly hope the Community Preservation Program will approve the funding for the restoration projects found in this proposal.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Onthank
for the Onthank Family

October 16, 2009

Alice E. Ingerson
Community Preservation Program Manager
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Alice,

I am writing to you in support of efforts to restore and repair the painting of James F.C. Hyde, the first Mayor of Newton.

It is important that the City remember its past and the people who contributed so prominently to making Newton the crown of the Commonwealth. By preserving and displaying the painting of James F.C. Hyde the City will once again have a piece of art that also reflects the history of the city. As you may know, veterans are staunch proponents of history and tradition. Therefore, veterans enthusiastically support this project.

It has been said that "Poor is the nation without heroes. Beggared is the nation that has them and forgets them." Newton is a city rich in history and heroes. We should never forget them. We should take pride in their accomplishments and proudly display them whenever and wherever possible.

As the Veterans Agent for the City of Newton, I strongly support the restoration of the painting of James F.C. Hyde.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

John M. MacGillivray
Veterans Service Officer