

City of Newton



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>		
Cindy Stone, Director, Historic Newton* 527 Washington St., Newton, MA. 02458 cstone@newton.gov 617-796-1451		Laura Costello, Manager 3-D Collection, Historic Newton, 527 Washington St., Newton MA 02458 lcostello@newtonma.gov 617-796-1458		
Project TITLE	<i>Historic Newton Object Collection Preservation and Access Project</i>			
LOCATION	<i>Full street address (with zip code) or other precise location.</i> Historic Newton, 527 Washington St., Newton, MA, 02458			
FUNDING CATEGORIES	<i>CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.</i>	COMMUNITY HOUSING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC RESOURCES	OPEN SPACE
BUDGET ATTACH DETAIL SEPARATELY.	CP FUNDS REQUESTED: \$30,000	OTHER FUNDS TO BE USED: \$5000		TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$35,000
SUMMARY	<i>Summarize goals & benefits in NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS (staff will edit longer summaries to fit that limit).</i>			

Historic Newton is applying for \$30,000 from the CPA for planning/design grant to develop a plan for off-site storage for the collection of historic objects currently housed at the Jackson Homestead. The site of the facility will be in the vacant, second floor loft of the city-owned Craft Street Stables.

The city-owned collection of approximately 12,000 items tells the history of Newton from the time of the early Native American settlements through to recent decades. It is the only collection of Newton-based historic artifacts held by an organization that maintains a museum and exhibits their collections.

This three-dimensional collection is currently housed in spaces not designed for collection storage in areas lacking climate control. Objects are stored as space dictates, crammed into every available nook and cranny in what is essentially a residential building. Work space for collection management is extremely limited, often putting materials at risk.

Our goal is to design a storage facility which meets museum standards for collection stewardship and while respecting the historic fabric of the Craft Street Stables. The project will be managed by the staff of the city's building department together with the staff of Historic Newton. An architectural and engineering team will be hired to develop schematic plans, outline specifications, and an estimate of probable construction cost for the project. They will also help shepherd the project through the Historical Commission, the Public Facilities Committee and other appropriate entities. The Buildings and Grounds Committee (including architects and contractors with experience in historic preservation and collections care) and the Collections Committee of the Newton Historical Society will also lend their expertise to the project.

Improved storage of this important collection will improve the museum's ability to care for Newton's cultural patrimony and create credible exhibitions based on the material culture of many centuries of Newton History.

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

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.)*

Newton’s Comprehensive Plan envisions that by 2015 Newton will be nationally recognized for its innovative, community-based approach to “planning with history.” The Priorities and the Guidelines in the CPA’s Proposal & Project Handbook recognizes the need (page 10) for city agencies such as the Jackson Homestead and Museum to reach out for funding to adequately protect historic resources. The Newton History Museum and Newton Historical Society (Historic Newton) have helped to set the preservation goals for the CPC (page 12).

The object collection at the Jackson Homestead and Museum is the only collection of historic artifacts that tells the story of the community of Newton. Through its programs and exhibitions, of which these collections are an integral part, Historic Newton has the unique opportunity to teach Newton citizens about their own history. Local history instills pride and encourages informed decision-making about the future.

This project is part of Historic Newton’s strategic plan of 2008 and its collection plan last revised in 2006. It is also supported by the Preliminary Space Program Study completed by Solomon+Bauer in 2005 for the museum.

The historic resources of Historic Newton at the Jackson Homestead include the Homestead itself, the archives and the object collection. The preservation needs of both the historic homestead building and the archives collection are in the process of being addressed. With this application, we will be able to preserve the collection of paintings and historic three-dimensional items that tell Newton’s story.

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

For this planning phase, we have received a restricted gift from one of our board members for \$2,500 for care of our object collection. We will be raising an additional \$2,500 toward the planning project.

This project is part of our \$5.5 million dollar capital campaign for which we have raised \$4.5 million already. Developing more defined plans for collection storage will help us with our fund-raising which will come from individuals, foundations, grants and other sources.

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.)*

The collections of Historic Newton will be maintained by Historic Newton’s Manager of 3-D collections. We anticipate that care of our collections will continue to be an on-going part of Historic Newton’s budget.

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*

Duscha Weisskopf: Co- chair of Collections Committee, 617-527-4281, duschaweisskopf@comcast.net

Larry Bauer: architect with expertise in collection storage, 617-924-8200, lbauer@solomonbauer.com

Russel Feldman: Trustee of Jackson Homestead, 781-893-5828, ext. 25, rfeldman@tbaarchitects.com

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 RFQ for Design Team (architects and engineers)	Public Buildings Department	June 2010	July 2010	
2. Hire Design Team	Public Buildings Department Designer Selection Committee	July 2010	August 2010	\$15,000
3. Review of documents, spaces and conditions		August 2010	Sept. 2010	
4. Design iterations of collection storage facility developed and reviewed	Public Building Department DPW	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010	\$15,000
5. Take plans for final design to Historical Commission and other appropriate agencies		Oct. 2010		\$5,000
6. Begin to seek funding to implement project		Oct. 2010		

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

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Analysis of Historical Significance

Attachment 2: Description of Historically Significant Features

Attachment 3: Summary and Justification of Proposed Treatment

Site Access/Control

Letter from Thomas Daley, Commissioner of DPW

Letter from A. Nicholas Parnell, Commissioner of Public Buildings

Map of Location of Craft Street Stables

Photographs of Current Collection Storage

Photographs of Craft Street Stables Loft

Budget for Project

Qualifications

Mission statement for Historic Newton and Similar Projects

Summary of Training: Resume of Cynthia Stone

Organizational Audit Summary

Letter of Support to be coming later

Attachment 1: Analysis of Historical Significance

The collections of the City of Newton's Historical Museum (Jackson Homestead) are managed by the staff of Historic Newton with oversight provided by the museum's Collection Committee and board. The museum which is accredited by the American Association of Museums, has a board approved Collections Policy (revised 2001) which follows rigorous standards and procedures for acquiring, deaccessioning and care of collection items.

In addition the museum has a Collections Plan (revised 2007) which outlines interpretive themes around which the museum collects, many of which run parallel to the National Park Service "themes in American history" but tailored for a locally based organization. These themes include:

Open Space: farms, orchards, parks, and recreation areas

The Charles River: river-based industry and water-related recreation

The Railroad: development of villages and businesses, suburban development

Education: formal schools and informal organizations for both children and adults

Communities: civic life and social life; villages, organizations, ethnic groups, houses of worship et al.

Commerce: businesses, the workforce, and consumerism

Innovation: social and technological advances

Recreation: toys, games, sports, and recreational areas, such as Norumbega Park

Architecture: style, materials, construction techniques, and design

Suburban development and suburban living: proximity to Boston, transportation, the family and home, and domestic help

Social change: civil rights, women's rights, war demonstrations, gay rights

The Abolition Movement: slavery, abolitionists, antislavery organizations, and the Underground Railroad

The mission of Historic Newton is to encourage the inquiry into and exploration of Newton within the broad context of American History. To accomplish this mission the museum maintains a collection and historic properties that interprets Newton's past and present. The museum collects, preserves and exhibits historical artifacts of local significance and presents public programs that involve the diverse population of Newton and the region.

Attachment 2: Description of Historically Significant Features

Historic Newton's three dimensional object collection contains approximately 12,000 artifacts. This vast assemblage of paintings, textiles, furniture, ceramics, archaeological materials, personal objects, and objects relating to the local abolition movement and suburban development, enables museum staff, researchers, and community members to interpret Newton history and further research on the city. These items relate to some of Newton's first Native American settlers during the Middle Archaic pre-contact period (8000-6000 BP) ranging to contemporary representations of modern-day Newton. The objects in Historic Newton's collections contain information of importance to both current research and to answering future questions that have not yet been asked.

The collection highlights not only important social and historic events, but the everyday lives of generations of Newtonites. In this way the object collection helps to reconstruct historical experiences and past ways of life. Farming tools illustrate early subsistence practices and sturdy stoneware crocks show how the harvested food was stored. Wooden alarms and other items from Civil Defense kits hint at what life was like for many Newton residents during WWII. Oil paintings and samplers showcase creative strengths from numerous Newton artists.

Historic Newton's object collection preserves communally significant stories that should not be forgotten. A piece of West African cloth and a braided gold ring flush out an important and unique narrative; these items were sent by ship from an African chief to William B. Dodge in thanks for rescuing and returning to him a kidnapped son who was sold into American slavery. The African gifts were carefully kept by five generations of William Dodge's family until they were donated to the museum in 1991.

Another notable example of an object in the Historic Newton collection is the mid-eighteenth century lap-desk that belonged to General William Hull. Hailed as a hero during the Revolutionary War, General Hull was later court-martialed on charges of neglect of duty following the War of 1812. He retired to Newton after President James Madison spared his life. Hull's inlaid oak writing desk provides a tangible connection to a complex man who played an important role in history.

Collections objects like these are at risk of long-term degradation due to the current cramped and poor environmental conditions at the Jackson Homestead. Good collections storage addresses both the preservation needs of the collection items and the physical access needs of collections staff, scholars, and program. With our current set-up, few of these needs are properly met. There are many challenges to housing 1,317 textiles, 3,521 pieces of clothing or accessories, 463 pieces of art, 130 military items, 528 tools and equipment, 1,105 household items, 1,108 toys and recreational items, 357 personal items, dozens of furniture items and 3,419 archaeological artifacts. It is in the museum and community's best interest to preemptively seek collections storage solutions before important and irreplaceable pieces of Newton history are damaged or lost.

Attachment 3: Summary and Justification of Proposed Treatment

The collections of Historic Newton, which are currently housed at the Jackson Homestead, are inaccessible and inadequately preserved due to their cramped quarters. Our goal with this planning project is to develop a collection storage facility that will allow us to better take care of our collections now and in the future.

In March of 2005, the museum completed a Preliminary Space Program Study with Solomon + Bauer Architects Inc. The study re-emphasized that the Museum's current collections storage space – 985 square ft. for objects and 414 square ft. for documents – is inadequate. The study recommended a minimum of 2,000 square ft. for objects and 720 square ft. for documents. The needed space will be realized through a combination of deaccessioning to better store what the Museum already has and acquiring additional storage space to allow future collecting.

The Building and Grounds Committee, the Collections Committee and staff of the museum have worked to identify appropriate city-owned space that could be converted into museum quality collection storage. They examined a former branch library facility but found the spaces too broken up. The upper floor of the Craft Street Stables has appropriate open space in which a structure could be built to house and protect our collections.

Our collection of artifacts is currently housed throughout the Jackson Homestead, from the attic to the basement. Collection items are stuffed into cupboards underneath the lower level exhibits. Period costumes, kitchen and other utilitarian items as well as quilts and paintings are stored on the second floor. In the attic we are storing ceramics, glassware and some silver among other items.

The lower level basement has moisture problems and water accumulates in the carpet after heavy rains. The attic has no air conditioning so collection items are subjected to major temperature swings. The second floor has no central air conditioning (only window units in human-inhabited rooms.) so collection areas are not cooled. In addition, we do not have adequate space to lay out objects for examination/care or in preparation for exhibition. A larger, climate controlled, appropriately out-fitted space will help to preserve the collections we now hold for decades to come. It will also allow us to continue collecting evidence of Newton's past as we move into the future.

The Crafts Street Stables were built in 1895 to house vehicles and horses which belonged to the city. It continues to serve as a storage place for city vehicles and DPW equipment today. We anticipate that this project will have negligible impact on the historic fabric of the Stables.

City of Newton



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

David B. Cohen
Mayor

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

October 16, 2009

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing in support of the Jackson Homestead/Historic Newton's application for a planning grant for collection storage in the Craft Street Stable building. As you know, the Stable is a municipal building built in 1895. Today it houses the Craft St. highway Division and equipment just as it housed horses and vehicles to carry on many of the same functions a century ago.

The lower floors of the building serve a valuable function for the DPW providing space for snow plows, street maintenance equipment, and a meeting place and lockers for workers before they go out for their daily work assignments. The upper floor is used as open storage for road signs and other means of traffic control. While this upper floor is important storage space for us, we are not using all of it.

In order to help the Jackson Homestead to cope with its extreme space constraints, I am willing to allow the museum to develop 1,900 square feet of space on the upper floor of the Craft Street Stables as a collection storage area. I believe that this will be a compatible use of this space in that it does not require public access and that it will be principally storage. I understand that the museum will be developing a self-contained secure storage unit within this space. I must require that during plan preparation that myself and/or a designee from the D.P.W. being closely involved to insure that both departments will be able to function well within the upper floor together.

If you have any questions about our intentions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Daley, P.E.
Commissioner

Cc: Mayor Cohen S. Pooler D. Turocy S. Tocci

City of Newton

David B. Cohen
Mayor

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

A. NICHOLAS PARNELL, AIA, COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (617) 796-1600

Fax: (617) 796-1601

TTY: (617) 796-1089

52 ELLIOT STREET

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

October 16, 2009

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Historic Newton's application for a planning grant for its object collection storage. The Museum has been looking for an alternative space for its three dimensional and paintings collections in order to move them out of the cramped quarters in the Jackson Homestead. The Craft Street Stable affords them ample space in an area of the Stable which is suitable only for storage. It is a good use of this public building space.

I am pleased that the staff at the Jackson Homestead is launching this project with a planning grant application. This should enable us to do a thorough job of working out the details of the project in advance of procuring full funding. I am happy to work with the staff and the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the museum on this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Nicholas Parnell".

A. Nicholas Parnell, AIA
Commissioner of Public Buildings