



NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Newton History Museum is to encourage the inquiry and exploration of Newton within the broad context of American history. To accomplish this mission the museum maintains collections and historic properties that interpret 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.

The Newton History Museum houses and cares for collections of two- and three- dimensional material that reflect the people and history of the City of Newton. The museum's collections include: photographs; manuscripts; business records; maps; tools and equipment; art objects created by or about local places or people; personal artifacts; costumes; household items; recreational artifacts and toys; textiles; objects relating to the local abolition movement; and suburban development. The goal of the Museum's collecting activity is to preserve items from Newton's history for future generations to experience through exhibitions and research.

The Newton History Museum presents exhibitions that are based on scholarly research and utilize the Museums collections as well as community resources to reach and involve Newton residents. The Museum offers programs for students in grades K - twelve that provide the opportunity to explore the history of American people and culture using the

city of Newton as a case study. The programs engage students in active learning through observation, discussion and participation in hands-on activities.

In 2003, the museum was awarded continuing accreditation from the American Association of Museums. In 2005 the museum began the implementation of a strategic plan that will guide the museum through 2010 and includes The Jackson Homestead's bicentennial in 2009.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. The museum designed a new Education Brochure which was distributed to a larger audience of local and regional school teachers.
2. The Museum achieved a 64% increase in group visitation within the first half of FY06 as compared to the first half of FY05.
3. The Museum launched a Student Curator program which was funded through grants from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the Charles River Neighborhood Foundation, the Newton Historical Society, and private donations. The student curators created our newest major exhibit entitled *Hyphenated-Origins: Going beyond the Labels*. The exhibit tells the stories of seven young adults whose families emigrated from China, South Korea, Mexico, Russia and Hong Kong to Newton. The

exhibit explores what it means to be an American in today's society, including how their personal cultural experiences differ from those of their parents, and what being an American means for young people whose national identities are dually presented to others.

4. New carpeting was installed on the Museum's main staircase and in the Orientation Room.
5. New lighting, carpeting, floor tile, plaster ceiling, insulation, and paint in the Museum Shop/Office area through donations by local businesses and the Newton Historical Society.
6. The Museum developed a 5-year strategic plan for its three-dimensional objects collection which provides a road map for cataloguing and computerizing information about the collection and making it more accessible to staff, researchers and museum visitors.
7. The Museum's Quilt Collection was documented by a team of experts from the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project (MassQuilts) who were brought in to catalogue our collection of about 70 quilts, dating from the early 1800s to ca. 1925.
8. Museum staff created and installed a new photograph exhibit entitled *Saved from the Dump*. The exhibit showcases an extensive collection of Newton images that were rescued from the dump. Information is presented in the context of how and why such collections are important and what can be learned from them.

9. Through the Museum's extensive collection of archives, photographs, manuscripts, and historic property surveys the museum provided research services in person, by phone, and through email to more than 150 people including residents, scholars, real estate agents, and legal professionals.
10. The Museum worked with the Newton Historical Society to promote and administer the Historic Marker program. The Historic Marker program provides historical information to homeowners about their houses and an exterior marker showing the date of construction. More than 200 markers have been installed since the beginning of the program two years ago.
11. The Museum has been able to implement an effective media relations program which has resulted in expanded coverage of Museum events and programs in local and regional media outlets, including several front page feature stories in the Newton TAB and the Boston Globe West.
12. The Museum has expanded its connections with Newton-based cultural groups through a variety of programs including the Museum Shop Open House featuring Newton artists, and the Summer Concert Series with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.
13. The museum has created and launched a monthly E-News communication to Museum constituents to keep them informed of ongoing programs and events.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Vision: The Newton History Museum is a visible and accessible cultural center that is the hub of a broad network of resources including streetscapes, buildings, burying grounds, collections, archives, organizations, and people. By anchoring, cultivating, and leading this network, the museum serves to preserve, document, exhibit, and explain Newton's history to people of all ages—and make that history a vibrant and living part of the present. Education and collections preservation are important tasks in this process. By providing leadership in these efforts and by keeping our past alive in our present, we are able to foster a richer sense of community in Newton based on the shared experiences and common ground among all Newton's residents.

To meet this vision, and our mission, the Newton History Museum has adopted the following four goals to guide the museum through 2010:

1. To have the highest quality array of programs and collections, which stimulate, educate, and enrich.
2. Have high quality facilities consistent with our vision that showcase our offerings, support our staff, and preserve our collections.
3. To be recognized by people within the Newton area as a highly visible, accessible, magnetic, cultural/community center
4. Develop sufficient resources to meet our goals.

DEPARTMENT:

603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY**

OBJECT SUMMARY	ACTUAL 2006	ACTUAL 2007	ORIGINAL	2008		RECOMMENDED 2009	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
				ADJUSTMENTS	TOTAL		2008 To 2009	
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	160,711	178,295	176,332	13,760	190,092	185,609	-4,483	-2%
52 - EXPENSES	17,249	14,769	20,107	0	20,107	20,847	740	4%
SUB-TOTALS:	177,960	193,064	196,439	13,760	210,199	206,456	-3,743	-2%
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	21,477	35,844	39,228	75	39,303	35,199	-4,104	-10%
SUB-TOTALS:	21,477	35,844	39,228	75	39,303	35,199	-4,104	-10%
DEPARTMENT TOTALS:	199,437	228,908	235,667	13,835	249,502	241,655	-7,847	-3%

FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT SUMMARY	ACTUAL 2006	ACTUAL 2007	ORIGINAL	2008		RECOMMENDED 2009	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
				ADJUSTMENTS	TOTAL		2008 To 2009	
0160301 MUSEUM SERVICES	199,437	228,908	235,667	13,835	249,502	241,655	-7,847	-3%
DEPARTMENT TOTALS:	199,437	228,908	235,667	13,835	249,502	241,655	-7,847	-3%

MUSEUM SERVICES	ACTUAL 2006	ACTUAL 2007	ORIGINAL	2008		RECOMMENDED 2009	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
				ADJUSTMENTS	TOTAL		2008 To 2009	
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	160,711	178,295	176,332	13,760	190,092	185,609	-4,483	-2%
52 - EXPENSES	17,249	14,769	20,107	0	20,107	20,847	740	4%
SUB-TOTALS:	177,960	193,064	196,439	13,760	210,199	206,456	-3,743	-2%
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	21,477	35,844	39,228	75	39,303	35,199	-4,104	-10%
SUB-TOTALS:	21,477	35,844	39,228	75	39,303	35,199	-4,104	-10%
Element Totals:	199,437	228,908	235,667	13,835	249,502	241,655	-7,847	-3%

DEPARTMENT:

603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
PERSONAL SERVICES SUMMARY**

ACCOUNT	POSITION TITLE	RANGE	2008 BUDGET		2009 RECOMMENDED	
			FTE	SALARY	FTE	SALARY
511001	Dir.Jackson Homestead	H10	1	76,971	1	80,485
Account Totals:			1	76,971	1	80,485
511101	Sr Curator-Manuscript	H07	0.64	39,474	0.4	32,678
Account Totals:			0.64	39,474	0.4	32,678
511102	Museum Clerk	S05	0.5	23,054	0.5	23,751
511102	Education Manager	H06	0.75	45,541	0.75	47,621
Account Totals:			1.25	68,595	1.25	71,371
Report Totals:			2.89	185,040	2.65	184,534