



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 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, research, and programming.

The Newton History Museum's exhibitions are based on scholarly research and utilize the Museums collections as well as community resources to reach and involve Newton residents. The Museum's primary location, the Jackson Homestead, is significant as a former site on the Underground Railroad. The Museum's exhibitions and programs therefore

include historical themes related to the Underground Railroad, slavery and abolition and related contemporary themes of social justice and diversity.

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 FY 06, the Newton History Museum developed general goals and a vision which would guide it for the next 5 years as part of its strategic planning effort. In addition, the Newton Historical Society which collaborates with the City to support the work of the History Museum was offered the gift of a 1732 house (the Durant- Kenrick Homestead), its collections and a small endowment. Seeing the potential for this property to expand the programmatic offerings and resources of the Historical Society and Museum, the Society applied for and received a planning grant from the CPA. This grant allowed the Museum and Society to develop the costs associated with restoration and programming of the house. At present we are exploring our ability to raise the funds necessary to complete this restoration and endow the programming of the Durant- Kenrick Homestead.

FY07 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following Vision and Goals derive from the strategic planning effort integrated with the exploration of acquisition of the Durant-Kenrick property. Our accomplishments are tied to this vision and these goals.

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. The goals and the associated accomplishments for FY 2007 are as follows:

Goal 1. To have the highest quality array of programs and collections, which stimulate, educate, and enrich.

- A. The History Museum offered 64 public programs that reached approximately 3000 people this year including 6 walking tours, 10 lectures and 9 drop-in programs for children.
 - a. Of these, 20 programs focused on the history of places and on using history to inform community preservation and planning.
 - b. Twenty programs this year focused on issues of diversity and equality. Many of these programs were developed in conjunction with the exhibition Hyphenated Origins including the very successful Hyphenated Arts series. In this series, high school students born abroad taught younger children about the culture of their birth country.
- B. Drawing on the Museum's collections and recent donations of park memorabilia, the Museum staff has created a new exhibition about Norumbega Park and the Totem Pole Ballroom in Auburndale.
- C. 1473 children and adults participated in programs in groups during the first half of this year. This kept pace with the major increase in group visitations we experienced last year.
- D. Newton citizens were able to access information from the Museum's archives, photograph and

manuscript collection through research by staff (over 200 inquiries) and active participation in historical research. These opportunities included *Map Night* and *How to be a House History Detective*.

- E. The Museum is exploring acquisition of the pre-revolutionary Durant-Kenrick Homestead, providing the potential to expand the Museum's offerings to Newton and surrounding communities.

Goal 2 Have high quality facilities consistent with our vision that showcase our offerings, support our staff, and preserve our collections.

- A. Our application for the capital improvement program with the city includes interior and exterior painting and new roofing for the Jackson Homestead. These improvements are sorely needed and will come in time for the bicentennial anniversary of the Homestead's construction.
- B. Our plans for Durant-Kenrick include a sizable workshop space which will allow for messy hands-on activities for adults and children by the busload.

Goal 3 To be recognized by people within the Newton area as a highly visible, accessible, magnetic, cultural/community center.

- A. The Museum worked with over 30 partner organizations to design, promote and deliver this year's programs. Some examples of collaborators include the Newton Free Library, Newton Public Schools, Myrtle Baptist Church, Newton's' preservation commissions, Human Rights Commission, and Green Decade Coalition.
- B. Museum staff provided a training workshop for 44 third grade teachers from the Newton Public Schools on the Massachusetts Native Americans.
- C. The Museum and Historical Society promote and administer the historic marker program which identifies house by date of being built. Over 100 markers have been sold annually since its inception 3 years ago.
- D. The Associated Press article on Hyphenated Origins was picked up by over 40 on-line and print media sources ranging from China to the Cayman Islands including some in Spanish

Goal 4 Develop sufficient resources to meet our goals.

- A. The Historical Society and Museum ran a highly successful gala last fall which attracted new friends and funds to support our collections, exhibitions and programs.

- B. The Historical Society and Museum are conducting a feasibility study to determine how much it can raise to help support the exhibitions and programs at Durant-Kenrick and the Jackson Homestead.

FY 08GOALS

Goal 1 The Museum will expand access to its collections.

Goal 2 The Museum will determine whether to mount a capital campaign to support its exhibitions and programs at the Jackson Homestead , Durant-Kenrick, and in other Newton locations.

Goal 3 The Museum will continue to offer a wide variety of history based programs to diverse audiences.

Goal 4 The Museum will continue to build its base of donors.

Goal 5 The Museum will collaborate with a range of organizations and individuals to effectively reach a broad segment of the community.

Goal 6 The Museum will engage the Newton community by actively promoting its programs, exhibitions and resources through new and time honored marketing techniques.

DEPARTMENT:

603 - NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY**

OBJECT SUMMARY	ACTUAL 2005	ACTUAL 2006	ORIGINAL	2007		RECOMMENDED 2008	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
				ADJUSTMENTS	TOTAL		2007 To 2008	
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	168,445	160,711	167,139	7,700	174,839	173,225	-1,614	-1%
52 - EXPENSES	16,384	17,249	20,107	0	20,107	20,107	0	0%
SUB-TOTALS:	184,829	177,960	187,246	7,700	194,946	193,332	-1,614	-1%
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	15,540	21,477	35,502	0	35,502	39,228	3,726	10%
SUB-TOTALS:	15,540	21,477	35,502	0	35,502	39,228	3,726	10%
DEPARTMENT TOTALS:	200,369	199,437	222,748	7,700	230,448	232,560	2,112	1%

FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT SUMMARY	ACTUAL 2005	ACTUAL 2006	ORIGINAL	2007		RECOMMENDED 2008	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
				ADJUSTMENTS	TOTAL		2007 To 2008	
0160301 MUSEUM SERVICES	200,369	199,437	222,748	7,700	230,448	232,560	2,112	1%
DEPARTMENT TOTALS:	200,369	199,437	222,748	7,700	230,448	232,560	2,112	1%

MUSEUM SERVICES	ACTUAL 2005	ACTUAL 2006	ORIGINAL	2007		RECOMMENDED 2008	APPROPRIATION CHANGE	
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**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
PERSONAL SERVICES SUMMARY**

ACCOUNT	POSITION TITLE	RANGE	2007 BUDGET		2008 RECOMMENDED	
			FTE	SALARY	FTE	SALARY
511001	Dir.Jackson Homestead	H09	1	71,441	1	71,716
Account Totals:			1	71,441	1	71,716
511102	Museum Clerk	S04	0.5	21,966	0.5	22,051
511102	Sr Curator-Manuscript	H07	0.64	36,639	0.64	36,780
511102	Education Manager	H06	0.75	40,921	0.75	41,078
Account Totals:			1.89	99,526	1.89	99,909
Report Totals:			2.89	170,967	2.89	171,625