

# 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.



The triple crises this year - the pandemic, violence against Blacks and other racial minorities, and the economic downturn – meant that Historic Newton needed to pivot quickly and boldly. While the museums closed to public visitation on March 15, the Historic Newton team kept working even harder to serve the community. Selected accomplishments include:

- Attendance for existing programs, such as *Storytime at the Museums* and several lecture series, often tripled after the switch to Zoom and Facebook live. The ability to reach our audience anytime and anywhere was a critical and welcome improvement in overall accessibility.
- Thanks to the innovation of our education staff, nearly 100% of school programs made the switch to virtual formats. In March 2021, all third-grade classrooms from all Newton elementary schools experienced the adapted *Colonial Survival and Civility* program.
- We significantly bolstered our online resources and exhibits, including: *Seeking Freedom* an exhibit about slavery and anti-slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup>- century; *HAIReidentity: Hair, How We Wore it and What it Means, 1840-1980*, an online version of the Jackson Homestead exhibit that opened just weeks before lockdown; *Hayfest*, the popular annual fall festival also transitioned online; *Newton Community Cameras* a joint project of Historic Newton, Newton Community Pride, and The City of Newton’s Cultural Development Department, was photo documentation of the early days of the pandemic.
- The newly popular *Long Way Home* curriculum about immigration from China, Italy, Russia (a Jewish family) and Ireland is being adapted to other programs including oral history interviews and two recorded “walking” tours. Indeed, last year we planned to launch an *Active History Series*, history tours by biking, running, and kayak/canoe. While the coronavirus stymied touring in person, we

recorded the tours for online video presentations, as we did for other tours such as *Great Inventions: A Newton Cemetery Tour* and a session at the East Parish Burying Ground.

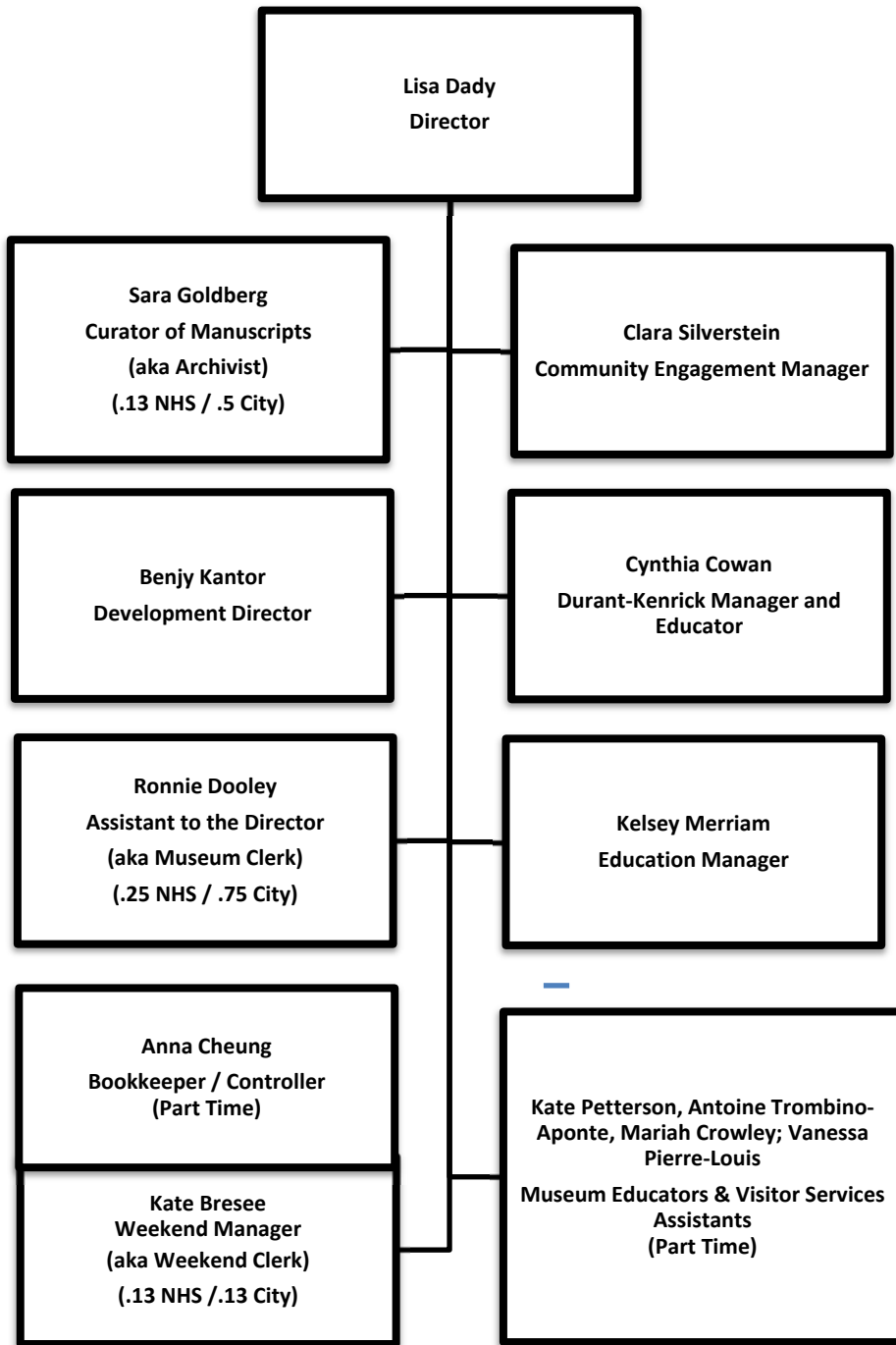
- Overall, the year was marked by going online and heading outside. The goal of keeping people safe also yielded more avenues for engagement. For example, we installed the first Village-based outdoor educational sign in West Newton Square, tied to a webpage full of ways to dive deeper into the history (the first of more projects to come.) All of these efforts can be found on our Museum Without Walls webpage.

Even with a budget strained by new public health demands and other needs, Historic Newton will continue to offer exceptional services and keep the city’s treasures safe. We look forward to safely reopening the museums to the public in 2021. See you then, *and* before!

*Lisa Dady*

Director, Historic Newton

# HISTORIC NEWTON



# Financial and Operating Highlights

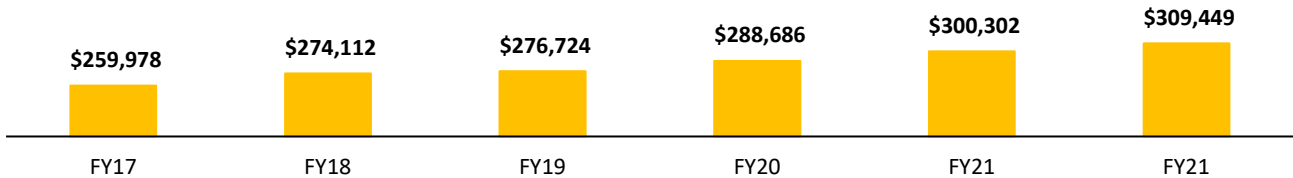
## Financial Highlights

	Actual				Original	Proposed
	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
<b>Expenditure by Department</b>						
Museum Services	\$ 259,978	\$ 274,112	\$ 276,724	\$ 288,686	\$ 300,302	\$ 309,449
<b>Total</b>	\$ 259,978	\$ 274,112	\$ 276,724	\$ 288,686	\$ 300,302	\$ 309,449
<b>% Incr</b>		5.44%	0.95%	4.32%	4.02%	3.05%

## Personnel

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

## Total Historic Newton Expenditures



## Operating Highlights

### Attendance at Historic Newton Museums and Events



\*2020 Numbers include online visits

# Historic Newton

## Fiscal Year 2022 Outcomes and Strategies

---

### Outcome 1

Commit to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access

---

The values of diversity, equity, and inclusion will continue to be central to our work in FY 2022. We are committed to researching and sharing the under-told histories of marginalized groups. While increasing access to our collections, scholarship, and programming has always been an important goal, the pandemic taught us new methods for doing this. Having learned how to best provide online resources, we are ready to expand these offerings in the future. Even as FY2022 will bring the resumption of in-person services, virtual and outdoor experiences will continue to be an important part of Historic Newton's menu.

Historic Newton is launching an intensive effort to build comprehensive expertise on 400 years of Black history in Newton. Jackson Homestead and the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds are sites where enslaved people lived and worked as well as homes to some of the fiercest antislavery activists in New England. With this tradition, and informed by the reinvigorated social justice movements of 2020, HN is dedicating significant research, collecting, and storytelling resources to fill gaps in knowledge while building on what we already do well. In FY 2022, we will launch an online exhibit that features newly uncovered stories of Black Newtonians in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Simultaneously, our Educators are responding to increased demand from the Newton Public Schools and Newton community for more knowledge about Black history in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

We will also unveil an online exhibit, based on months of research in partnership with the Natick Historical Society, titled *Newton to Natick* which explicates this region's history in the 1630s-1660s, including the complicated interactions between English settlers and Indigenous people such as the Massachusetts.

---

During the COVID crisis, we learned that virtual programming was not only tolerated but appreciated by our audiences. Therefore, after the pandemic eases, we will continue to offer some programming in a virtual format. For years, Historic Newton has worked on expanding access to our collections, scholarship and educational programs and this is a powerful new tool in that effort.

In addition to expanding to an online modality, we saw the promise and power of operating out-of-doors, beyond the museum walls, and across the 13 villages. In FY2022, this will entail:

- Continued work on installing outdoor educational signs in Village Centers (following the successful pilot project in West Newton Square).

---

### Outcome 2

Increase Participation through *Museum Without Walls*

---

# Historic Newton

## Fiscal Year 2022 Outcomes and Strategies

- Information, online and at the location, tied to the wrapped electrical boxes around the city.
- Partnering with sister City departments on murals, outdoor artworks, and educational features at playgrounds.

The shorthand title for our package of virtual and outdoor services is Museum Without Walls (MWW). In FY2022, MWW will also incorporate the three historic burying grounds and the cultural landscapes at Jackson Homestead and Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds.

Hundreds of students from K-12 schools, youth groups, and college-level students interact with our education team every year. In FY2021, every third grader in Newton Public Schools attended a virtual “field trip” about colonial New England life. In FY2022, we will continue this program and expand to new curricula for eighth graders. We will also provide a Professional Development day to NPS teachers.

Thousands of people – seniors, families, kids – stuck with HN in 2020-2021, and we look forward to seeing you back inside the museums once more, as well as online and outdoors.

---

### Outcome 3

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

---

Historic Newton, along with Parks, Recreation, and Culture, and the Public Buildings department, oversee the maintenance and preservation of 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 Street.)

By summer 2021, Jackson Homestead’s fence (running along Jackson Road) will be replaced using preservation guidelines. Also, a new partial retaining wall and a replacement fence will be installed along the northern border of South Burying Ground. Thank you to Newton’s Community Preservation Committee for approving CPA funds for these projects.

Jackson Homestead and the burying grounds occupy line-items in Newton’s Capital Improvement Plan. However, the descriptions and cost estimates for these projects are outdated. Historic Newton will work with the PRC and PB departments to update these plans.

Our plans for a gravestone conservation workshop, which includes training volunteers to clean gravestones, was put on hold by COVID. In FY2022, plans for in-person activities such as this and the NewtonSERVES clean-up projects will resume when it is safe to do so.

In addition to physical stewardship, Historic Newton is offering educational programming at these sites, as always, but now in both virtual and physical formats.

---

# Historic Newton

## Fiscal Year 2022 Outcomes and Strategies

The 2020-21 lockdown gave Historic Newton an opportunity to analyze how we acquire, manage, and share collections. We continue to address the issue that our artifacts and archives represent a lop-sided picture of America and Newton. For example, the community is proud that Jackson Homestead was a site on the Underground Railroad, but our collections do not sufficiently document and convey the legacy of slavery and Abolitionism in Newton. HN staff are motivated to fill these gaps and honor the enslaved, freedom-seeking, and anti-slavery activist people of Newton who represent a significant chapter in our local history.

We have been active in expanding collections, scholarship, and programming in areas that better represent the demographics of Newton and the histories of marginalized people. The oral history project *Newton Talks* is one way to accomplish this. We are also collaborating with community partners. A helpful step in this project was the return, in FY2021, of hundreds of artifacts and archival boxes back to the museums from offsite storage. This will result in greater physical and intellectual access in FY2022 and beyond.

The historic properties at 527 Washington Street (Jackson Homestead) and 286 Waverley Street (Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds) are holistic sites that, in addition to an 1809 home and a 1734 farmhouse, feature cultural landscapes. In FY2022, long-term planning begins for a planting, landscape maintenance, and educational programming that showcases these historic resources.

---

### Outcome 4

Collections Managed to Serve Mission,  
Audience, and Sustainability

---

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND  
DEPARTMENT: 603 - HISTORIC NEWTON

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL**

	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2020	ORIGINAL 2021	RECOMMENDED 2022	CHANGE 2021 to 2022
<b>HISTORIC NEWTON SUMMARY</b>						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	220,589	224,202	236,739	242,012	248,845	6,834
52 - EXPENSES	25,058	25,436	21,742	26,620	26,620	0
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	27,144	27,085	30,205	31,671	33,983	2,312
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>272,791</b>	<b>276,724</b>	<b>288,686</b>	<b>300,302</b>	<b>309,449</b>	<b>9,146</b>
<b>MUSEUM SERVICES</b>						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	220,589	224,202	236,739	242,012	248,845	6,834
52 - EXPENSES	25,058	25,436	21,742	26,620	26,620	0
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	27,144	27,085	30,205	31,671	33,983	2,312
<b>TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES</b>	<b>272,791</b>	<b>276,724</b>	<b>288,686</b>	<b>300,302</b>	<b>309,449</b>	<b>9,146</b>



FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND  
DEPARTMENT: 603 - HISTORIC NEWTON

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2020	ORIGINAL 2021	RECOMMENDED 2022	CHANGE 2021 to 2022
<b>603 - HISTORIC NEWTON</b>						
<b>0160370 - MUSEUM SERVICES</b>						
<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	146,585	150,974	156,749	160,798	168,099	7,301
511101 PART TIME < 20 HRS/WK	41,496	46,442	50,213	46,758	46,732	-26
511102 PART TIME > 20 HRS/WK	31,658	23,905	27,835	32,140	32,140	0
514001 LONGEVITY	0	370	370	1,941	1,500	-441
515005 BONUSES	350	300	0	0	0	0
515006 VACATION BUY BACK	0	1,835	0	0	0	0
515102 CLEANING ALLOWANCE	500	375	1,573	375	375	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b>220,589</b>	<b>224,202</b>	<b>236,739</b>	<b>242,012</b>	<b>248,845</b>	<b>6,834</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
521000 ELECTRICITY	6,244	7,866	5,973	8,000	8,000	0
521100 NATURAL GAS	4,386	3,326	1,976	4,000	4,000	0
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	1,650	347	197	500	500	0
524010 OFFICE EQUIPMENT R-M	1,638	1,385	2,054	2,000	2,000	0
527600 RENTAL-STORAGE CONTA	1,890	2,730	2,850	2,570	2,570	0
529000 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SV	4,833	4,654	3,720	4,900	4,900	0
534010 TELEPHONE	453	487	364	400	400	0
534100 POSTAGE	0	0	136	250	250	0
534200 PRINTING	964	1,851	1,953	1,600	1,600	0
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,732	2,354	2,263	2,400	2,400	0
571000 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	267	436	256	0	0	0
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,500	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>26,558</b>	<b>25,436</b>	<b>21,742</b>	<b>26,620</b>	<b>26,620</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>						
57DENT DENTAL INSURANCE	755	720	758	816	703	-113
57HLTH HEALTH INSURANCE	20,635	20,643	23,344	24,141	26,288	2,147
57LIFE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE	57	57	57	57	57	0
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	3,031	3,034	3,171	3,509	3,608	99
57OPEB OPEB CONTRIBUTION	2,668	2,632	2,875	3,147	3,327	179
<b>TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	<b>27,144</b>	<b>27,085</b>	<b>30,205</b>	<b>31,671</b>	<b>33,983</b>	<b>2,312</b>
<b>TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES</b>	<b>274,291</b>	<b>276,724</b>	<b>288,686</b>	<b>300,302</b>	<b>309,449</b>	<b>9,146</b>
<b>TOTAL HISTORIC NEWTON</b>	<b>274,291</b>	<b>276,724</b>	<b>288,686</b>	<b>300,302</b>	<b>309,449</b>	<b>9,146</b>