

Historic Newton

Mission

To connect our community with its history in order to enrich future generations.

Historic Newton is an essential force for vibrant community life in Newton, as both a cultural resource and a steward of our community's character. We serve the community of Newton 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.

Historic Newton serves as 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 second year of the pandemic had a mixed impact on community engagement.

Because we successfully pivoted to programming within the parameters of public health measures the year before, we continue to see high attendance at programs and events. Our *Museum Without Walls* initiative continues. By going on-line and heading outside, we have expanded community engagement.

The museums reopened in June 2021 with a limited two days per week schedule because we predicted that attendance would not return to pre-pandemic numbers until people felt safer going out. We aim to return to full hours in March 2022.

Highlights of last year include:

- The monthly eNews has been packed with more history content. www.historicnewton.org has expanded with even more resources such as virtual exhibits, videos, research resources, and finding aids for the archives.
- Zoom-based and other virtual programs continue to be popular. (Virtual lectures, for example, still attract higher participation, on average, than many in-person lectures).
- The village-based outdoor history signs project continues.
- Our walking tour at the West Burying Ground was sold out and we will be offering it again in June in collaboration with the Newton Cultural Alliance/Allen House.
- *Hayfest*, the popular annual fall festival, returned to the in-person format with about 600 people learning and playing in Jackson Homestead's backyard the first weekend in October.
- Newton School groups were accommodated through virtual "field trips" and by museum educators going into the classrooms.

In the past year, Historic Newton (HN) has continued to analyze our collection and its ability to serve our mission. Our artifacts and archives currently represent a lop-sided picture of American and Newton history. HN staff have been working to fill these gaps as we shape and manage our collections.

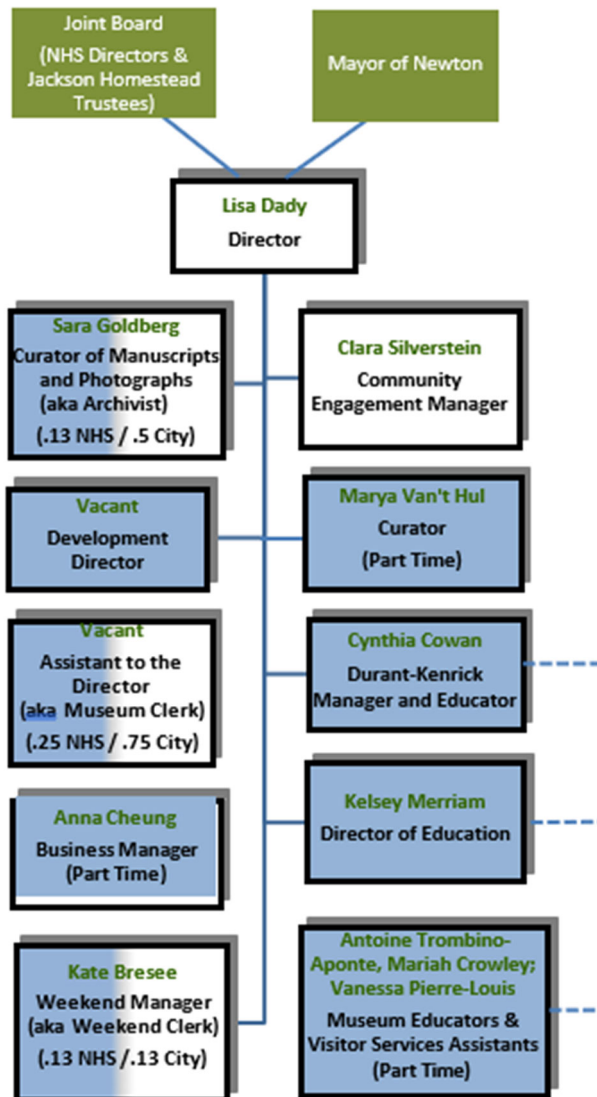
Even in an environment strained by public health demands and other needs, Historic Newton will continue to offer exceptional services and keep the city's treasures safe. We look forward to seeing you at Newton's museums and at our programs in fiscal year 2023!

Lisa Dady

Director, Historic Newton

HISTORIC NEWTON

Blue indicates positions funded by the Newton Historical Society and white indicates City of Newton employees.



Financial and Operating Highlights

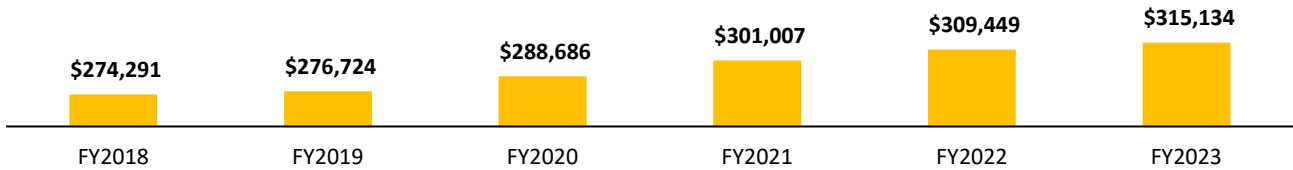
Financial Highlights

	< -----Actual ----->				Original	Proposed
	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Expenditure by Department						
Museum Services	\$ 274,291	\$ 276,724	\$ 288,686	\$ 301,007	\$ 309,449	\$ 315,134
Total	\$ 274,291	\$ 276,724	\$ 288,686	\$ 301,007	\$ 309,449	\$ 315,134
% Incr		0.89%	4.32%	4.27%	2.80%	1.84%

Personnel

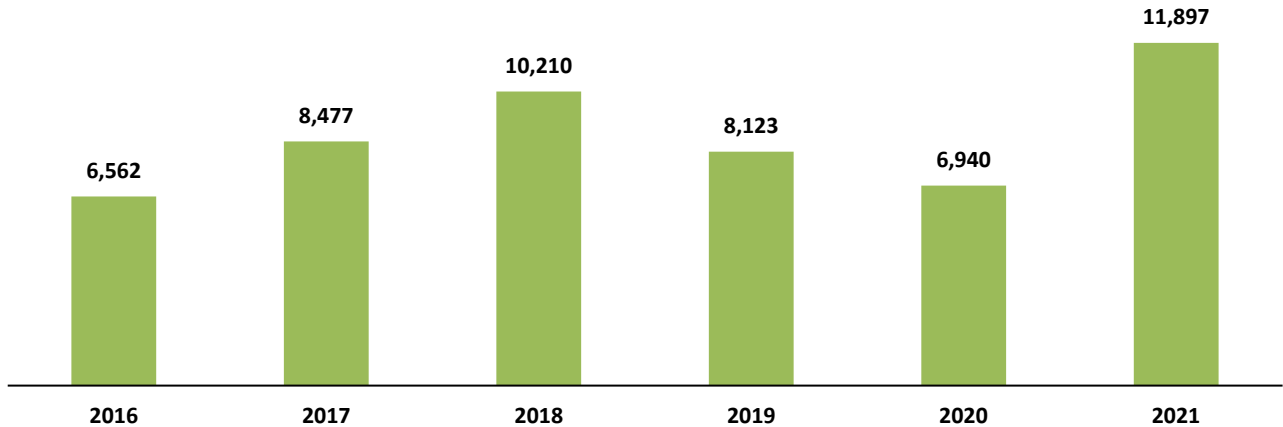
Full-Time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Part-Time	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	5	5	5	5	5	5

Total Historic Newton Expenditures



Operating Highlights

Attendance at Historic Newton Museums and Events



*2021 Numbers include online visits

Historic Newton

Fiscal Year 2023 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 1

Focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access

The values of diversity, equity, and inclusion will continue to be central to our work in FY 2023. We are committed to researching and sharing the under-told histories of marginalized groups of Newtonians.

Historic Newton's intensive effort to build comprehensive expertise on 400 years of Black history in Newton continues with expanded research into 20th-century topics, such as migration from southern states to Newton. In fiscal year 2022, we piloted a new Black history program for K-12 student groups, *In the Footsteps of Giants*, and now schools are booking the program for the coming year. In fiscal year 2022, we launched the [Finding Pamela: Writing a New History](#) online exhibit. A physical, travelling exhibit based on this research and other stories of Black history will begin to circulate in summer- fall of 2022.

In terms of exhibits, the reorganization of the exhibits at Jackson Homestead will be complete by the end of fiscal year 2022. In the coming year, Historic Newton will be making more accessible the incredible amount of research we have done on the early indigenous history of Newton and the region. Finally, research and content development for a new, major Newton History exhibit will begin. This exhibit will feature a more diverse and inclusive set of stories.

Historic Newton offers [10 different education programs](#) for the k-12th grade audience. Almost every third grader in Newton Public Schools attends these programs, as well as other grades. In 2022-2023, we will see an expansion of our service to eighth graders. We will also provide a Professional Development day to NPS teachers. Additionally, we have [a menu of 11 different programs](#) that can be booked for adult groups. These are popular with seniors and assisted living centers, college-aged groups, and libraries and community groups around the region. These offerings underscore how the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion run through our work every day.

Historic Newton (HN) will continue to expand access to our collections, scholarship, and educational programs through a package of virtual and outdoor services called *Museum Without Walls* (MWW). (The pandemic lockdown spurred us to “double-down” on this approach, to great success.) Outcome 4 explains ways in which *collections* will become more publicly accessible. In addition, in fiscal year 2023 Historic Newton will:

- 1) Continue to promote the many [virtual exhibits](#) launched during the pandemic.

Outcome 2

Increase Participation through *Museum Without Walls*

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Fiscal Year 2023 Outcomes and Strategies

- 2) Continue installing outdoor educational signs around the city. Following the pilot projects in West Newton Square and at the Hyde Center, HN has now developed a comprehensive plan for establishing outdoor history signs throughout the city. Signs will also be installed at the three historic burying grounds in fiscal year 2023.
- 3) Create information tied to the wrapped electrical boxes around the city. Each box will have a caption that better explains the image on the box. A QR code and URL will also be applied to the boxes which connects to HN's BoxArt web page. There, people can go deeper into the history associated with the picture on the box.
- 4) Create an educational sign for the City Hall rotunda which explains the history of the seal embedded in the floor.

Finally, hundreds of students from K-12 schools, youth groups, and college-level students learn from our education team every year. We will continue to do this at the museums and in the classroom, but also online.

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.

A new retaining wall and a replacement fence will be installed along the northern border of the South Burying Ground by the end of fiscal year 2022. Next, we will install a new fence and entry gate along the eastern, Winchester Street, side. Thank you to Newton's Community Preservation Committee for approving CPA funds for these projects. In addition to physical stewardship, Historic Newton continues to offer educational programming at the burying grounds, as always, including a new, popular presentation at the West Burying Ground at River and Cherry Streets.

At Jackson Homestead, parts of the stone foundation are in critical need of repair. Planning has begun to address this and, finally, to solve the climate issues in the basement. Moisture affects the foundation walls and fluctuating relative humidity (often in the too-high range) is detrimental to the artifacts and exhibits. Moreover, the HVAC system needs to provide a more even temperature state for artifacts and visitors alike.

In addition to the physical rehabilitation of the basement, it is time for a new, general Newton history exhibit. The current exhibit was created in the 1980s and after 40 years it is a poor vehicle to represent our heritage. In FY 2023, we will begin the initial stages of updating the exhibit using current museum

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Fiscal Year 2023 Outcomes and Strategies

techniques which will help the public understand the past and take pride in our community. Moreover, the current exhibit is focused on 18th and 19th-century Newtonians of European descent, just a sliver of Newton's heritage. The new exhibit will greatly broaden the histories we tell, including the immigration of Asians, Italians, Irish, Jews, and others to Newton; deep research into Black and indigenous history; and filling in the gaps of the late 20th century.

Realizing the goals of this new comprehensive approach to the Homestead's structure and exhibit space will be a multi-year project, with the aim of completing the bulk of the basement rehabilitation by the end of FY 2023.

Historic Newton is expanding collections, scholarship, and programming in areas that better represent the demographics of Newton and the histories of marginalized people. We often do this in close collaboration with community partners.

Outcome 4

Manage Collections to Serve Mission, Audience, and Sustainability

In terms of collections, the focus in the coming year will be perennial issues faced by museums by their own nature and some Historic Newton-specific challenges and opportunities. We will conduct regular, basic collections management functions - climate monitoring, integrated pest management, light accessioning, and as-needed cataloging. This year we will update the Collections Management Plan (last revised in 2011).

Efforts to increase accessibility to the collections include:

- 1) Going live with a searchable database of collections.
- 2) Submitting two collections to Digital Commonwealth, a site that “provides access to [digitized] photographs, manuscripts, books, audio recordings, and other materials of historical interest... [from a] consortium of libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies from across Massachusetts,” to add to [Historic Newton's sub-area](#) of that database.
- 3) Video and audio recordings are a fascinating part of Historic Newton's archival collection. The oral history project [Newton Talks](#), a partnership with the Newton Free Library, is one way we will add to this collection in 2022-2023.
- 4) In collaboration with the Newton Cultural Alliance / Allen Center, create a documentary film highlighting the work of Newton educator Nathaniel Allen and the West Newton English and Classical School in advancing a radical new vision of equality in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This will showcase Historic Newton's extensive collection of Allen and education reform-related materials.

The most welcome and salutary way we will be able to serve our audiences and deliver on our mission is with the return to full hours for museum visitation. We hope to see you at Jackson Homestead and/or the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds in the coming year!

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

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL**

	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2021	ORIGINAL 2022	RECOMMENDED 2023	CHANGE 2022 to 2023
603 - HISTORIC NEWTON						
0160370 - MUSEUM SERVICES						
PERSONNEL SERVICES						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	150,974	156,749	160,798	168,099	173,157	5,058
511101 PART TIME < 20 HRS/WK	46,442	50,213	51,936	46,732	49,791	3,059
511102 PART TIME > 20 HRS/WK	23,905	27,835	30,837	32,140	36,301	4,161
514001 LONGEVITY	370	370	1,941	1,500	1,500	0
515005 BONUSES	300	0	0	0	0	0
515006 VACATION BUY BACK	1,835	0	0	0	0	0
515102 CLEANING ALLOWANCE	375	1,573	500	375	375	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	224,202	236,739	246,012	248,845	261,124	12,279
EXPENSES						
521000 ELECTRICITY	7,866	5,973	5,665	8,000	8,000	0
521100 NATURAL GAS	3,326	1,976	3,300	4,000	4,000	0
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	347	197	149	500	500	0
524010 OFFICE EQUIPMENT R-M	1,385	2,054	1,828	2,000	2,000	0
527600 RENTAL-STORAGE CONTA	2,730	2,850	3,643	2,570	3,180	610
529000 CLEANING/CUSTODIAL SV	4,654	3,720	4,278	4,900	5,320	420
534010 TELEPHONE	487	364	394	400	400	0
534100 POSTAGE	0	136	0	250	250	0
534200 PRINTING	1,851	1,953	894	1,600	1,800	200
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,354	2,263	2,372	2,400	2,400	0
571000 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	436	256	0	0	0	0
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	0	0	0	300	300
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,436	21,742	22,523	26,620	28,150	1,530
FRINGE BENEFITS						
57DENT DENTAL INSURANCE	720	758	724	703	501	-202
57HLTH HEALTH INSURANCE	20,643	23,344	25,277	26,288	19,313	-6,975
57LIFE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE	57	57	57	57	57	0
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	3,034	3,171	3,340	3,608	3,787	179
57OPEB OPEB CONTRIBUTION	2,632	2,875	3,074	3,327	2,201	-1,126
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	27,085	30,205	32,472	33,983	25,860	-8,124
TOTAL MUSEUM SERVICES	276,724	288,686	301,007	309,449	315,134	5,685
TOTAL HISTORIC NEWTON	276,724	288,686	301,007	309,449	315,134	5,685

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
 DEPARTMENT: NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY**

	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2021	ORIGINAL 2022	RECOMMENDED 2023	CHANGE 2022 To 2023
FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT SUMMARY						
98001080 SCHOOL COMMITTEE	211,905,404	236,372,312	243,145,343	253,207,930	262,070,208	8,862,278
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT	211,905,404	236,372,312	243,145,343	253,207,930	262,070,208	8,862,278
OBJECT SUMMARY						
5795 - UNDISTRIBUTED BUDGET	211,905,404	236,372,312	243,145,343	253,207,930	262,070,208	8,862,278
TOTAL OBJECT	211,905,404	236,372,312	243,145,343	253,207,930	262,070,208	8,862,278