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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE CHANGE OF SCOPE RECOMMENDATION FOR FY16 AND FY19 AWARDS FOR SOMERVILLE MUSEUM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 5 AND COLLECTION PRESERVATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In FY16, the Community Preservation Committee recommended, and the then Board of Aldermen approved, a \$423,480 award of Community Preservation Act funds for the Somerville Museum Capital Improvements Phase 5 project which would provide resources for the Somerville Museum to become ADA compliant and care for its historic collections. This included building an elevator to meet ADA requirements, reinstalling the Museum's original Palladian window that was removed in 1986 per a deed restriction with the Massachusetts Historical Society, upgrading security systems, inventorying the Museum's holdings, and planning for Phase 6 of the Museum's strategic plan. \$20,217 has been spent to date. In FY19 the Community Preservation Committee recommended, and the then Board of Aldermen approved, a \$100,000 award of Community Preservation Act funds for the Somerville Museum Collection Preservation project which would make climate control improvements, improve fire safety systems, and remediate mold in the building in order to protect its historic Museum collection. To date only \$13,200 has been spent. On July 22, 2020, the Community Preservation Committee recommended amending the scope of these two projects project to allow most of the remaining funds from these grants (CPA FY16 \$403,263 and CPA FY19 \$86,800) to go toward supporting the construction of a new addition onto the Museum's building that will enclose an elevator. The Somerville Museum will construct an elevator, the design of which has been approved by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission.

ELIGIBILITY

Historic resources: The Somerville Museum is a local historic district and is currently not ADA accessible.

RECOMMENDED FUNDING

On July 22, 2020 by a vote of 8-0 the Community Preservation Committee recommended changing the scope of the CPA FY16 award and the CPA FY19 award to the Somerville Museum to allow most of the remaining funds from these grants to go toward supporting the construction of a new addition onto the Museum's building that will enclose an elevator, for the overall purposes summarized in this document.

Project Budget

Recommended funding amount:

Expenses	Amount
Study	\$0
Soft costs (insurance, architect and other consultant fees)	\$159,795

Construction	\$1,390,450
Total	\$1,550,245
Sources	
CPA FY15 grant funds, repurposed to elevator	\$18,010
Mass. Cultural Facilities Fund 2020	\$200,000
CPA FY16 Remaining Grant Funds repurposed	\$403,263
CPA FY19 Remaining Grant funds repurposed	\$86,800
CPA FY20 Funds	\$505,436
Donor Matching Fund	\$200,000
Somerville Museum Building Fund (current)	\$127,816
Donations pledged	\$8,920
Total	\$1,550,245

ALIGNMENT WITH FY21 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN

The Somerville Museum collections and the interior of the building cannot currently be enjoyed by all Somerville residents because the building is not currently ADA accessible.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

1. Execution, and recording, of an historic preservation restriction, which includes a public access agreement, that was required by the FY15 CPA grant.
2. Upon commencement of the Project and as appropriate, the Somerville Museum agrees to post a sign stating that the Project was funded through the City of Somerville's Community Preservation Act program.
3. CPA funds will only go towards costs directly related to the construction of the elevator.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The goal of this project is to make the Somerville Museum building, events, exhibitions, and other cultural offerings accessible to all.

The success of the ADA project will be physically evident when visitors in wheelchairs are able to access the building's cultural events and with the increased number of public organizations that can hold their cultural events at the Museum. Once the Palladian window is installed as described, it will be a success.

The full proposal is available at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/community-preservation-act/2020-cpa-projects>