August 20, 2011

Hurricane Irene
Slate Valley Museum 2011
Slate Valley Museum 2011
WHEW!
Hurricane Sandy
October 29, 2012
Tornados

Barnum Museum
Fire
Earthquakes
LIGHTNING STRIKE AND FIRE DAMAGE KEENY CENTER

Flagship Museum Building Benefits from Resulting Restoration

The Keeney Memorial Cultural Center suffered a lightning strike and fire on the evening of October 11, 2007. Lightning struck the base of the cupola and fire damaged the cupola and portions of the slate roofing. Water used to extinguish the fire caused damage to the interior of the building. While the damage to the Keeney Center was serious in terms of both fire damage to the cupola and roofing, as well as the water damage to the interior walls, ceilings and flooring, the Town of Wethersfield and the society are very fortunate in that there was no significant damage to the museum collections or exhibits.

The society is deeply appreciative of the dedication and professionalism of the fire fighters and key Town of Wethersfield staff who responded to this emergency as well as the countless volunteers, friends and professional colleagues who provided assistance in the hours immediately following the fire. The society’s most sensitive objects have been removed to alternative storage as a precaution against the extreme conditions that existed within the building.

The society anticipates a full recovery of normal operations. Recovery and restoration are currently underway and full museum and cultural center operations are expected to resume in the near future.
In 2005, a nationwide study was conducted which concluded that immediate action is needed to prevent the loss of 190 million museum artifacts that are in need of conservation treatment.
A national survey of more than 3,000 museums, libraries, and archives revealed:

- 79% of history museums and 96% of historical societies do not have a Disaster Plan and staff trained to carry it out.

- 74% of nation’s collections are held by small institutions.

- 65% had collections damaged due to improper storage.
• 59% of such institutions had collections damaged by light.

• 59% of institutions’ collections are stored in areas large enough to accommodate them safely and appropriately.

• 53% had collections damaged by moisture.

• 50% of respondents do not have a long-term plan for collection care.
Media across the county reported on the findings:

**The New York Times**
December 6, 2005
History Is Slipping Away as Collections Deteriorate, Report Says

**Library Journal** archive
December 16, 2005
Heritage Health Index: Valuable Library Collections at Risk

**The Christian Science Monitor**
February 15, 2006
Museums' survival depends on their ability to reach out...
U.S. Museum Collections in Dire Condition

Museum Artifacts In Danger Of Disintegrating

Museums face challenges in keeping artifacts intact
Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action:

a multi-year, multi-faceted national initiative to raise public awareness and inspire action.
New York’s 2009 survey project

• Fewer than 50% of New York repositories have a disaster plan in place.
• 75% of respondents said they did not have collections care staff with formal training.
• 47.5% noted a general conservation/preservation survey of their collections had not been done.
• Perceived barriers to staff training opportunities: Travel costs (74.25%), registration costs (64.7%), unavailability in the region (58.2%), and distance to training site (57.2%).
Survey Comments

• “Due to a lack of funding, for example, the facility has no environmental controls. Professional help in evaluating the site and to propose procedures ... is needed.”

• “More money needs to be available for basic issues such as climate control and storage.....also ways of getting help would be great.”

• “We had a terrible mold problem for years and I tried contacting the state for support since no one would recognize our issue. I got no help at all. It took 8 years of fighting...I would hope in the future for support for this issue since it is very serious.”

• “If you had a web site ... to get quick advice for novices, that would be a time-saving help.”
Collections at Risk

55% Books and Paper
Collections at Risk

52% Photographic collections
Collection at Risk

49.5% Digital Materials & Electronic records
Collection at Risk

40% Art Objects and Historic and Ethnographic Objects
Ceramics, Glass, Metal & Wooden tools
Archaeological & Ethnographic artifacts, Decorative Objects & Furniture
Paintings, Decorative Arts, and Textiles
What can be done to assist collecting institutions and collections at risk?
Last fall, Greater Hudson Heritage Network, was awarded through the fall of 2014, a grant from IMLS to present preservation training in connection with the collection types identified as "at risk" in New York State.
Greater Hudson Heritage Network is a regional service organization formed to advance and to advocate the preservation and interpretation of the area's historical, ethnic and cultural heritages.

Greater Hudson Heritage Network promotes professional standards of excellence and fosters cooperation among member organizations and individuals through education, information and assistance.

**Highlights**

**Behind-the-Scenes Networking Event**
The Captain David Crawford House
Historical Society of Newburgh Bay & the Highlands
April 26, 2013
**REGISTER NOW!**

**Let's Talk About...Processing an Archival Collection**
Red Hook Historical Society - Elemendorph Inn
April 29, 2013
**REGISTER NOW!**

**Connect With Us**

Greater Hudson Heritage Network
2199 Saw Mill River Road
Elmsford, NY 10523
914.592.6726 (phone/fax)
914.414.6726
info@greaterhudson.org

**Email List**

**Donate**

Greater Hudson Heritage Network
GHNH April 16th of Note #constantcontact conta.co/110QJXX
2 days ago - 48 mins - retweeted - favorites
2013 Conservation Treatment Grant

The Conservation Treatment Grant Program, administered by the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN), in the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), provides support for treatment procedures to aid in stabilizing and preserving objects in collections of museums, historical, and cultural organizations in New York State. The work must be performed by, or under direct supervision of, a professional conservator.

Applicant Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from non-profit museums and historical organizations or other cultural institutions that own, care for and exhibit collections to the public. Grant awards will be made to institutions lacking in-house conservation staff with expertise in the area for which support is requested. Collections owned by state or federal agencies are ineligible for grant support. Organizations may submit only one request, which may involve a single object or a group of related objects, all owned by the applicant institution.

Eligible institutions of all sizes are welcome to request support from this state-wide program; those with small budgets are encouraged to apply. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have not yet received three consecutive treatment grants.

Application Deadline: June 3, 2013

Completed grant applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered to Greater Hudson Heritage Network by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2013.

For a downloadable version of the 2013 Conservation Treatment Grant flyer, please click here.

Have questions about the grant? Give us a call at 914.592.6726 or 914.414.6726 or email Priscilla Brendler at director@greaterhudson.org

What We Fund

Support is available for conservation treatment of paintings, works on paper (including individual drawings, watercolors, prints or photographs), textiles (including costumes, domestic textiles and upholstery), furniture, frames, sculpture, historical, ethnographic and decorative objects. Support is also available for treatment costs for supports, frames, stands and mounts that are integral to the treatment of the object.

Grants will support in-state transportation costs for the objects and/or the conservator, and the cost of insurance for the work(s) to be treated.

What We Do Not Fund

Grants will not support staff salaries. Grants will not support out-of-state transportation, or the cost of obtaining the treatment estimate for this proposal. Grants will not support conservation of archival collections. Funds are not available for preventive care, such as rehousing or reformatting of objects, purchase of storage furniture, monitoring or upgrading of environmental systems.

Application Checklist

Please use the following forms for your application. This year, we will be using writeable PDF or Word/Excel applications.

Please submit 2 sets of the following, collated in this order:
1. Application Checklist (1 with original signature): PDF or Word
2. Application Cover Sheet (1 with original signature): PDF or Word
3. Narrative Project Description: PDF or Word
4. Conservator's Condition Report
5. Conservator's Treatment Proposal & Cost Estimate
6. Conservator's Resume (maximum 2 pages) and Letter of Commitment, acknowledging AIC Code of Ethics, Guidelines and Commentaries
7. Project Budget: PDF or Excel
8. Visual Support Material: Submit one original set of photographs and 7 color copies sets which must include at least one overall and one detail image of each object proposed for treatment.
How will the project help?

- webinar series (14 in all), viewable independently or in groups to encourage discussion and networking

- web-based "How-To" video tutorials providing instruction to organizational staff and to a more general audience who may have personal collections
• **circuit rider mentoring program** where professionals offer 'house calls' to organizations throughout the state

• **C2CNYS.org** - an interactive cross-disciplinary knowledge portal website - will serve as the 'go-to' site for collections care best practices, a 'home' for disaster preparedness plans, conservation and preservation resources, the webinar series, and the "How-To" video tutorials
With the collaboration of 20 heritage organizations and libraries throughout the state, it is estimated that the project will reach approximately 5,000 cultural heritage institutions throughout New York State!
Our Partners

Albany Institute of History & Art
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Buffalo Museum of Science
Capital District Library Council
Central New York Library Resource Council
Fenton History Center
Greater Hudson Heritage Network
Historic House Trust of New York City
Long Island Library Resource Council
Metropolitan New York Library Council
Museumwise: Museum Association of New York
New York State Council on the Arts
Niagara County Historical Society
Northern New York Library Network
Onondaga Historical Association
Oyster Bay Historical Society
Rochester Regional Library Council
South Central Regional Library Council
Southeastern New York Library Resource Council
Western New York Library Resource Council
Thank you to

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

For making this initiative possible for collecting institutions throughout New York State!
Introducing.....

I NEED
AN EXPERT TO VISIT MY SITE

I WANT
TO PROTECT MY MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

I ASPIRE
TO PRESERVE MY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

I ASPIRE
TO STAY CURRENT

I WANT
TO CORRECTLY MONITOR MY COLLECTIONS' ENVIRONMENT

I NEED
TO WRITE A DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

GREATER HUDSON HERITAGE NETWORK
Connecting New York's Collections