



For Release: Immediate

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Historical Society Takes Major Steps to Restore Museum

Restoring a 145-year old historic building is not an easy task. Yet, The Garden City Historical Society, an all-volunteer organization not receiving any financial assistance from the Town or Village, has taken on the enormous task of restoring and preserving the exterior of its Museum building.

In anticipation of the visible start of this considerable and meaningful restoration project, The Garden City Historical Society will hold a capital campaign fundraising event on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the Garden City Country Club, 6-9 p.m. This year, the Society takes pride in acknowledging the clear and continued support of three true friends of preservation and the Historical Society: Former Village Mayor Nick Episcopia, Old World Quality Corporation owner Vinny Muldoon, and Society Past President Brian Pinnola.

The Historical Society encourages the community to share its pride in our past and support this restoration effort by becoming sponsors and attending the May 11 cocktail reception and supper, and at the same time, recognize the contributions of this year's honorees.

With the help of local contractor Vinny Muldoon, the Society hosted a private fundraising event at the Museum in December, and through the gracious support of a couple dozen individuals and families, the Society was able to boost its capital campaign funds significantly. Heartened by this result, the Society met with the principal of Page Ayes Cowley Architectural Firm, LLC, of Manhattan, and ultimately, in December, took the first step toward developing a Preliminary Summary Master Plan by engaging Page Cowley's services. The firm will provide a Building Report, which will greatly advance the start of work.

"Your group is so worthwhile, particularly in promoting historic preservation in a period of urban growth and change," wrote Ms. Cowley in her introductory letter to the Historical Society. "What better way to demonstrate this than by leading the way by using your building as an educational tool to show how even small projects can make a significant impact."

The Cowley architectural firm will review previous building documentation and its relocation/reconstruction at its present site, as well as conduct a physical survey and assessment of the building. In compiling a Master Plan and Priority of Repairs Report, they will identify repairs that require expertise of specialists or structural and mechanical/electrical/plumbing consultants, and they will serve as "prime consultant" and client point-of-contact with contractors. The firm's practice is that they remain with the client until the project is completed, so as to advise on materials to be used and assure the client that the work is progressing to standard.

The Society is proud to announce that it has a commitment from Vinny Muldoon to work with the Society and Cowley architects to begin the restoration project as early as this Spring. Barring priority projects that will be immediately addressed, work will begin on the roof and continue to the ground level.

The Society's capital projects track record includes the restoration and preservation of the Museum's interior. In 2002, with the assistance of Senator Kemp Hannon, the Society received a \$260,000 grant from the Empire State Development Corporation that helped the Society complete the restoration of the main floor of the 1872 structure, and ultimately open its doors in 2005 as The Garden City Historical Society Museum.

Ten years later, in the fall of 2012, the Society's board of trustees, under the leadership of then-President Albert Intreglia, took the spirited step to begin its current capital campaign to restore and preserve the exterior of the Museum building.

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Photos and caption:



The Garden City Historical Society's capital campaign preservation project's Scope of Work includes roof and Widow's Walk repairs; windows and doors; exterior work (strip existing paint, prep and restore wood trim; repair soffits; and repaint entire structure in period color); electrical; and to some extent, improvements to the driveway and parking area. These photos show some of the current deterioration of the building.



Windows



3. Widow's Walk



Roof Line

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