

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. All Categories that involve property (land and/or buildings)

- 1. Provide the parcel ID number(s) for property included in the project:** Parcel ID# 111100052
- 2. Does the applicant own the property?:** Yes
- 3. N/A**

C. Historic Preservation Questions

Historic preservation projects must follow the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. Assisted properties will be required to be subject to an exterior preservation restriction or to be placed under local historic district protection.

1. Will the owner agree to a preservation restriction or local historic district designation?:

Yes, the Springfield Science Museum now has a preservation restriction as a result of receiving previous CPA funding.

2. What steps will be taken to ensure the work complies with the Secretary's Standards?:

For this project, we are working with architect Steve Jablonski of Jablonski DeVriese Architects, who specializes in restoration and preservation projects, to ensure all components of this project align with the Secretary's Standards. Taylor Davis Landscape and Construction, the construction company who will restore the patio, completed similar work on a historic building on our campus in 2017. Our facilities staff and Mr. Jablonski are familiar with these standards as the Springfield Museums cares for multiple registered historic buildings that require such preservation.

3. What is the age of the property?: 123 years old

D. Open Space & Recreation Questions.

1. Is this project in a wetland or does it abut a wetland? No.

2. If so, has the Conservation Commission been informed? N/A

3. If the project is on municipal park or conservation land, attach a letter of support from the Park Commission or Conservation Commission. N/A

II. NARRATIVE

A. Project Summary

Introduce the project with a summary which notes the CPA category, goals, project scope, and budget

The Springfield Museums is requesting a \$206,082 Community Preservation grant to restore the Science Museum's Patio on Quadrangle Plaza. Formerly an entrance but serving today only as an exit, this underused space will benefit from restoration that allows greater recreational access to the public. To achieve this, we propose:

- Removal and replacement of damaged slate pavers (not original) with highly durable pavers that complement the Museum façade, thereby creating ample patio space for outdoor recreational activities (food tables, DJs, vendors, etc.)
- Addition of low sloping ramp to the Plaza (mirroring ramps at the D'Amour and Seuss Museums) making the Plaza fully accessible. The ramp will extend just to the Plaza terrace as approved by the Building Commission, but not the central door which is designated only for egress; the Museum has an accessible main entrance and exits.
- Restoration to the original design by removing an unused side door (superfluous from 2004 welcome center remodel) and replacing it with a replica of the window originally located there, to match in size and material with the steel window opposite the plaza.
- New landscaping for beautification and a welcoming setting for visitors.

B. Proposal Description

1. Describe the proposal and how it will benefit Springfield (200 words or less)

Our museums surround a Quadrangle greenspace, with heritage trees, rain and pollinator gardens, public benches, and serene landscaping. This project will create a new, accessible outdoor seating, eating, and public engagement space for Springfield residents and visitors of all abilities to further enjoy the campus, while restoring one of its oldest museum buildings to its original architectural detail.

The Science Museum was founded in 1899 in City Hall by and for Springfield residents, and the Museums remain free to city residents. This project is a community-driven investment in concert with recent efforts to renew the city including: the placement of local public art by the Museums in Pynchon Park; the Museums' redevelopment of property at 95-97 Chestnut Street; the city's efforts to improve the Chestnut street corridor and Apremont Triangle as a functional, bikeable, and walkable green space; and a collaborative "Seuss in Springfield" tour that will highlight and drive visitation to Seuss landmarks throughout the city. Accessibility improvements, placemaking and continued preservation of our campus and city landmarks will help economic growth and development in Springfield through increased visitation and tourism.

2. Identify what CPA criteria this proposal achieves and how they are accomplished

- Consistent with priorities identified in the Community Preservation Plan: With 350,000 visitors in the average year, the Science Museum is the most visited and highly used museum on our

campus and contributes to the cultural tourism that highlights Springfield's heritage and historic character. Tourism and visitation also speak to the advantageous cost/benefit value; the Museums average a \$21 million impact on the regional economy due to tourism each year (Americans for the Arts). This project will allow for a return to the original building design, with timely yet harmonious and informed changes that make the space available to all. It also supports local skilled crafts and tradespeople including masons, metalworkers, building contractors, landscapers, suppliers and an architectural firm based in Springfield.

- Protect resources that would be otherwise threatened: The Quadrangle became the new entrance to the Science Museum when it opened in 1933, with two sets of granite stairs, a highly decorative carved limestone frieze around the entryway, terracotta medallions, and classical balustrades to designate the terraced area. We are committed to preserving this unique space. The Springfield Museums have a large responsibility and sacred trust to care for our campus of 10 buildings, eight of which are historic, in addition to serving as an educational and recreational resource, and a community anchor. Deferred maintenance is a very real issue and threat to these historic buildings. We strive to maintain buildings and equipment with the best possible care and replace them with sustainable, long-lasting solutions whenever possible. The patio floor is in particular need of repair. The completion of this project would add useable space for recreation with long lasting materials that will ensure this space to be used to its potential for years to come.
- Serve more than one CPA purpose: This is a Recreation request to restore the patio with increased accessible recreation space alongside the Quadrangle green that will greatly complement outdoor programs including public performances and concerts and is regularly used by the public as a park even when the Museums are closed. The work done to the façade of the Science building will also fulfill CPA's Historic Preservation values, bringing the structure closer to its original intent and beautifying the Quad as a historic shared space.
- Demonstrate practicality and feasibility so the project can be implemented within budget and on schedule: Working with designers and contractors who have accomplished high quality work on our campus before, it is estimated that this work can be completed in five months, including time for contingencies.

3. Describe the need that this proposal will address

This proposal will address the deferred maintenance issues of the Science Museum patio and façade, particularly the poor condition of the slate pavers, some of which are missing, chipped and broken, presenting a safety hazard. Importantly, this project addresses the shearing limestone where the bronze handrail is secured on both sides of the exit stairs, as that will continue to erode and is an additional safety hazard for exiting visitors.

The ramp addresses the need for greater access to the public spaces on our campus, and facilities nationwide. Accessibility is critical for our high population of older adult residents and guests, visitors with mobility issues, and families with young children. At 34.9%, Springfield has the highest adult disability rate in New England. It is important that we continue to make our campus as welcoming, accessible, and inclusive as possible while maintaining our commitment to historic preservation. The

Springfield Museums will continue to move this important work forward in alignment with our mission towards Universal Participation and recognizes that accessibility is an evolving goal that requires ongoing information, feedback, and strong partnerships. We value your thoughts, concerns and feedback on this process.

Finally, the conversion of the superfluous door (created in 2004) back to the original 1933 window design that matches the window opposite it, is an important historic preservation step for the Museum.

4. What is the expected outcome of this proposal?

The expected outcome of this proposal is to return the Science Museum patio and facade to its original state as a premier space to welcome visitors, extend the Science Museum experience to the outdoors, and provide an additional safe, welcoming, and accessible gathering place for our community to enjoy the beautifully landscaped campus.

We hope this project will elevate the new programs and exhibits inside the Science Museum while offering a comfortable seated space to enjoy the beautiful exterior as well. We hope to draw more attention to the original architectural details, including the carved frieze around the doorway and the hexagonal terracotta medallions lining the perimeter of the Science Museum that are prominently featured in the Plaza space. Each medallion features a different animal species or natural history object; an owl on the left side, and three sharks and a crab on the right. The hexagonal shape will be echoed within the pavers around the exit stairs in a harmonious nod to these special architectural features.

C. Feasibility & Sustainability

1. What other funding sources have been secured or are being pursued?

An individual donor has committed \$5,000 to the project and the Springfield Garden Club has committed to in-kind plantings to celebrate the new ramp and related landscaping. The Museums will commit up to 10% of the funding for this project and will draw down from the Museum's Historic Preservation Endowment as necessary to complete the improvements.

2. Once the proposal is complete how will it be sustained or maintained? The application for funding should include a maintenance schedule (if applicable).

As the plaza surface is being excavated, we will assess the drains and make any repairs as needed to ensure proper function. This will prevent water buildup and damage from the elements, ensuring a longer lasting paver and surface. For the plaza and ramp surface, we have identified slip and skid resistant, highly durable products that are guaranteed to withstand snow and backed with a lifetime warranty. For the door removal and window replacement, the replica will be produced and manufactured by a steel and bronze specialist, guaranteed to last 100+ years. We will ensure the masonry repairs are also completed to the highest standard to ensure longevity. Our intent is that this project will require little maintenance besides snow removal and routine cleaning.

D. Applicant Experience

1. What similar projects/programs has the applicant successfully completed?

The Museums campus includes five public museum buildings, two built before the turn of the 19th century; museum staff work to maintain the needs of each unique structure sustainably, in accordance with historical preservation standards, balanced to meet the needs of our visitors and daily operations.

With support from CPA, the Springfield Museums have successfully completed a comprehensive, multi-phased, historic preservation project at the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum in 2022. Over the past ten years, the significant building envelope and interior environmental climate were stabilized and sealed by installing sustainable mechanical systems, restoring 33 original 19th century Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows, and repairing and replacing the museum's roof and 23 original skylights (fully restored and filtered with UV safety glass). More recent work included arch-top stained glass windows; oak front doors and decorative entryway millwork; original 1896 cast iron lighting sconces and metalwork; and repair to the entryway's original brownstone and masonry stairs. This work was completed by highly skilled local artisans and contractors, represents over one million dollars of investment in preventive conservation through federal, city, private and internal funding. This project ensures responsible stewardship of the internationally significant collections and will protect the building for generations to come.

CPA has also supported two phases of restoration and repair work on the Doctor Phillip Kilroy House, built 1905 in the Mission Revival style at 63 Chestnut Street. Phase one of this project supported roof repair as a source of water intrusion and an analysis/planning phase to determine how best to repair the existing stucco facade while abating asbestos (discovered during phase one's stucco analysis). Phase two of this project, taking place this year, will repair the exterior damage and ensure the integrity of the building.

CPA funding enabled these critical phases of historic restoration work. **THANK YOU!**

The Springfield Museums has also made major strides on an elaborate restoration of 74 Fairfield Street—the childhood home of Theodor Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. Known historically as the Henry Russell house, 74 Fairfield Street is a Colonial Revival home built in 1903 by McKnight Builders in the Forest Park Heights Historic District. Purchased in 2016, the Museums have since restored the home aesthetically to the time when young Ted Geisel lived there in the early 20th century. We have also repaired damage, upgraded systems, and equipped the house for the 21st century. By widening doors and adding an accessible bathroom, we have made the first floor of the house fully accessible.

2. Describe the professional experience of the applicant/project team

Steve Jablonski, of Jablonski Devriese Architects located in Springfield, has been in the field since 1988. The firm emphasizes attention to detail, respect for traditional materials, a commonsense approach to maintenance and adaptive reuse of historic buildings to inform their design process. Steve has been involved in numerous local historic preservation projects including the Wistariahurst Museum and Latino Professional Building in Holyoke; the Barney Carriage House, Sacred Heart Church, and Old First Church in Springfield; and the Polish Center and Elms College Admissions building in Chicopee. His work for the adaptive reuse of Springfield College's 1894 Judd Gym received a 2011 Paul E. Tsongas Award by

Preservation Massachusetts. Mr. Jablonski has brought his talent to numerous projects on our campus including the adaptive design of the Lyman & Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History, the design and completion of a low sloping ramp at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts entrance, and the design of the Museum's Welcome Center.

Sean Mullett, Director of Facilities at the Springfield Museums, will manage this project with help from Steve Jablonski, Contractors Ed Severance and Taylor Davis of Taylor Davis Landscape and Construction, and Maintenance Manager James Webber. Mullett has 22 years of, construction, historic preservation, and personnel management experience, with an emphasis in facilities management and environmental services, physical plant operations (building and grounds), energy management systems, supervision of maintenance and repair activities, and achieving strategic objectives. Mullett and Jablonski will ensure the project runs smoothly and is completed according to historic preservation standards that withstand New England winters and high public use.

III. TIMELINE

The timeline should identify the estimated start date and estimated completion date along with the completion of phases or important milestones of the project/program. Please provide the timeline in a list format.

2023:

- March: Weather permitting, Taylor Davis Landscape and Construction will begin the ramp work, followed by the patio work. This will ensure the surface of the plaza is not marred while the ramp is installed.
- April-May: Door removal and window replacement.
- May – June: Plaza and ramp work ongoing; masonry repair to begin as weather is warm enough. Limestone replacement to seal window.
- June-July: Extra time if needed for completion of patio, ramp, window and masonry repairs.
- July – August: Summer public programs to occur on and around Plaza and in Quadrangle to celebrate the newly activated space.