



BIDDEFORD MILLS MUSEUM

BIDDEFORD, MAINE

TO: Honorable Mayor Casavant
Honorable City Council
James A. Bennett, City Manager

FROM: Jon Edstrom, Vice-President, Biddeford Mills Museum

DATE: January 30, 2019

The Biddeford Mills Museum (BMM) respectfully requests of the City of Biddeford \$14,650 to support of its capacity-building efforts.

The BMM has operated since 2012 providing tours of the former Pepperell Mill buildings to a variety of groups. The BMM has served thousands of people including tourists, local residents, schoolchildren and city officials. Former mill workers act as guides, and relate many historical stories enriched by the compelling architectural details of the many buildings. The museum has found itself captivating enough to attract a variety of groups from outside Biddeford.

Building on the success of its tours, the BMM, with the help of the Maine Historical Society, installed a temporary exhibit at Pepperell Mill Center. An official opening is planned for March 7, 2019. This exhibit is a gripping reminder of the deep history of the textile industry here in Biddeford and the many ways in which innovation spurred prosperity here. During its time at Pepperell Center, the exhibit will provide a unique focal point for the entire Mill District. It was made possible in part by a generous \$30,000 gift of support by the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. The BMM is honored to have been awarded the Maine Governor's Conference on Tourism Originality Award in 2017.

Currently, the BMM is currently digitizing its collection of images and ledgers for scholarly, as well as general interest purposes. The BMM board is eager to continue this and many other initiatives to fulfill its unique mission.

The long-term goals of the BMM is to continue its role as a destination place for visitors from the broader New England region, as well as the Southern Maine area, acting as an economic and community development driver for Biddeford. According to a report by Oxford Economics in 2017, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) added by museums nationally is \$50 billion. Museums are clearly a significant economic part of vibrant local economies. To fulfill this role, the museum plans to establish a dedicated museum with a permanent, professionally curated collection. The BMM also wishes to provide stronger educational programming in support of the Biddeford School Department.

However, incremental steps are being taken at this time. This funding request will be used to help purchase audio/visual equipment and/or a welcome kiosk for its exhibit at Pepperell Center. Both of these features support the important story-telling aspect of the museum's work. The best way to convey history is with a good story.

Biddeford Mills Museum Proposed FY20 Budget

Collections, Services and Exhibit Production	
Exhibit Production / AudioVisual	\$ 6,500
Exhibit Production / Greeting Station Kiosk	\$ 4,000
General Operating	
Office & Archival Supplies	\$ 250
Promotional Costs	\$ 1,500
Special Events and Programs	\$ 500
Website Maintenance	\$ 100
Electricity	\$ 50
Computer Hardware / Other Equipment	\$ 250
Phone	\$ 50
Professional Memberships/Associations	\$ 750
Postage	\$ 25
Merchandising	\$ 1,000
Educational Programming	\$ 2,000
Strategic Planning & Consulting	\$ 2,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000
General Overhead	
General Liability Insurance	\$ 725
Management Liability Insurance	\$ 650
Administration (including corp filings etc)	\$ 750
Total Expenses	\$ 22,600
Income	
General Donations	\$ 1,000
Grant Funding	\$ 1,000
Summer Historic Tours for Public	\$ 2,500
Corporate Sponsors & Donations	\$ 1,000
Special Group and School Tours Off-Season	\$ 1,250
Outreach / Presentations	\$ 750
Promotional Income (Photos, Merchandise, Etc)	\$ 250
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 200
City of Biddeford	\$ 14,650
Total Income	\$ 22,600