

THE PEEKSKILL MUSEUM

Application to Pomeroy Fund for NYS History

Statement of Need

How your organization has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

How grants funds will help you increase your capacity to serve your audience or sustain operations

The COVID-19 pandemic hit our community and has impacted The Peekskill Museum just as our Spring programming and fundraising activities were to begin. We rely on our visitors and especially our programs at the Herrick house as a major source of income and new membership. Our Annual Tea Party In June is our largest fundraiser and now may not happen until the Fall, if at all.

We are cut-off from our public. An outdoor projection slide show on the side of one of the old department stores in Downtown Peekskill has been cancelled along with our monthly programs. Additionally, we were also well along with plans to re-configure the Museum for our 75th year anniversary, redoing exhibition rooms, and preparing exhibits is now very difficult as teams cannot work together.

As part of our recent push to re-catalog and digitize our collection to allow for greater access via the Internet, we recently decided to upgrade our PastPerfect software to allow for more users and the ability to add imagery to our database.

Our hopes are to use digital versions of our collection to reach out to community via social media and our website with historic posts and videos. We have been taking advantage of the shutdown to work on cataloging our collection and beginning the digitization of our photography collection.

Our upgrades to the PastPerfect software will allow multiple users in different parts of building to catalog and scan in images. A roadblock to doing so is the advanced age and limited ability of our current desktop computer and laptop, which lack the speed, memory and hard drive space to do so. The present installation of PastPerfect crashes constantly due to the limits of the one laptop it is presently licensed for.

Grant funds will enable Museum to purchase a new server with the proper speed, server software and backup hard drives to protect our digital assets and move forward with a means of safeguarding our digital assets, putting them in a form with which we can share with our members and community long distance and have a capacity for real-time presentations.

A new Chromebook will allow us to have one individual work offsite and will solve many problems running Powerpoint talks when we re-open as we usually run our talks off the current unstable laptop.

With an updated computer system, we can then continue updating our mailing lists, accession docs, etc. using our new upgraded software. We will have the speed and capacity to continue scanning our thousands of images, both as negatives and prints.

We also hope to use the new computers to enable us to host Zoom talks given by our regular lecturers and powerful enough to allow the use of software such as AfterEffects and Adobe Premiere to create short films about subjects in our collection for posting on Social Media and our website.

Proposed Expenditures:

We have received a quote from Dell Computer for a Precision 3630 Tower to operate as both a desktop for scanning and file management storage, a Dell Monitor and a Vostro Notebook 3590 to use at locations around the museum while cataloging and for running our projector during Museum talks.

Precision 3630 Tower	\$1,015.30
Vostro Notebook 3590	\$731.65
Dell 22 Monitor-E2220H	\$94.49
Total:	\$1,841.44