



FRAMINGHAM HISTORY CENTER Board/Strategic Plan

VISION

The Framingham Historical Society and Museum serves as an educational and cultural resource to the community. Its unique buildings, the quality collections and exhibits they house, and its programs are central to the cultural landscape of the area. It attracts multi-generations to learn more about the town's diverse industrial/suburban/rural past that is rich with its own brand of New England history. The caretakers of this cultural memory share a passion to collect preserve and promote this history – a history that continues to infuse all who choose to settle and work here with a sense of place and belonging. This will manifest itself in a broad base of community support endowing the Framingham Historical Society and Museum's mission.

MISSION

To foster a sense of excitement in learning about Framingham's rich history. To create strong connections to the community and encourage pride of place now and for generations to come by collecting, preserving and sharing the stories and cultural material that most illustrate this history.

Core Values

To act as stewards of our structures & collections; To use our historic resources as learning platforms in order to create exciting and innovative ways for visitors of all ages to discover the rich heritage of Framingham; To foster a sense of local identity by providing authentic connections to Framingham's diverse history that continues to enrich the quality of life for the members of our community.

Preservation, Collections & Documentation

FHSM is dedicated to the stewardship of the Old Academy Building, the Edgell Memorial Library, The Village Hall and the museum's holdings. These include over 10,000 objects and include art, manuscripts and photographs that span four centuries of the town's history and document Framingham's commitment to educational excellence, civic engagement, and community pride. As stewards of these historic structures and collections, the stories they tell and the traditions they preserve, we are obligated to their long-term care and stability. This obligation includes managing the sites and collections in accordance with our mission, best practice standards as appropriate, preservation restriction agreements, and the intent of donors. It also means striving to have sufficient personnel, operating support and endowment to fulfill those obligations.

Education & Programs

Education is at the heart of our mission. Our goal is to provide engaging opportunities to learn about the heritage of Framingham and its impact on the surrounding region through exhibits, educational programs, lectures, workshops and events. The museum serves as a resource for creating innovative programming and life long learning for a variety of audiences. These programs are enriched by collaboration with community organizations and schools. Our ability to define volunteer opportunities at all levels of the museum's operations is key to the organization's growth. We are committed to recruiting and training volunteers to support these activities and further expand our ability to deliver quality learning experiences.

Community Engagement

Since its founding in 1888, FHSM volunteers have reached out to the community to celebrate Framingham's heritage, build membership, collections, and financial support for the organization. Volunteers will continue to be a vital force in the future and are the museum's most valuable ambassadors in the community. Our historic sites serve as resources for research and genealogy. We are committed to sustain the relationship between our past and present, and to foster a continued sense of community identity that enriches the lives of our residents.

Strategies

Conservation & Documentation

In order to care for its buildings, the FHSM will:

- Develop a plan for each structure
- Identify and prioritize short & long term restoration/preservation needs
- Procure professional expertise for preservation and restoration
- Address most critical needs for each structure first
- Devise routine maintenance and inspection schedules for each site
- Secure funds for restoration, capital improvements & long term stewardship
- Adhere to preservation restriction agreements
- Balance visitation and use with preservation issues

FHSM will care for its collections with the following initiatives

- Create a collections development plan in order to facilitate accessions and deaccessions that fulfill the organization's mission
- Acquire collections that align with mission and FHSM
- Identify and prioritize short & long term conservation/preservation needs
- Secure sufficient funds for preservation, cataloguing and storage
- Protect collections on exhibit by limiting environmental damage, securing items & monitoring visitors
- Monitor temperature and humidity for collection storage and exhibition space
- Supervise use of collections for research
- Work toward intellectual control of entire collection

Education & Programs

*FHSM promotes learning through **education programs** by:*

- Offering curriculum based programs for school age children
- Collaborating with other organizations to provide comprehensive multi-disciplinary programming
- Working with educators on programs and creating professional development for teachers
- Offering self-guided tours as well as guided tours by trained docents

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*FHSM promotes education through **exhibits** by:*

- Developing an exhibit plan for major exhibitions
- Offering compelling rotating exhibits once core exhibit plan is in place
- Collaborating with other organizations on exhibits and themes both on and off site
- Securing funds for exhibit planning & installation

*FHSM promotes education through **public programs** by:*

- Offering compelling lectures, workshops and classes, as well as, social and family oriented events
- Collaborating with scholars, experts, educators, organizations, etc. to deliver quality programming and training

Institutional Development

FHSM reaches out to the community to support its mission and vision and strengthen its core values by:

- Building and sustaining a strong membership base representative of Framingham's diverse constituencies
- Raising funds for operating support, programs, capital improvement and endowment through annual appeals, major gifts, grants, corporate support, special events, campaigns & planned giving
- Cultivating new donors via membership, events, giving circles and recognition events
- Monitoring program and museum attendance
- Achieving a balance between visitor interests, donor interests and community needs

*FHSM reaches out to the community through **volunteer programs** by:*

- Providing a variety of volunteer opportunities to match individual talents and interests with FHSM needs
- Working with local businesses to create venues for their employees to get involved with the FHSM & community

*FHSM increases **community identity & enrichment** by:*

- Raising awareness regarding Framingham's heritage through a variety of communication vehicles including newsletters, collaterals, curriculum guides, media, web site, publications and events
- Creating income streams by offering Framingham related gifts and products including images, merchandise, custom items, etc.
- Maximizing the rental of The Village Hall as an additional revenue source
- Providing the public with supervised access to collections for research
- Collaborating with other organizations on destination marketing activities