



CONCORD
MUSEUM

MEDIA CONTACT

Barbara Evangelista
978-369-9763 x229
bevangelista@concordmuseum.org

Concord Museum Awarded \$132,780 Grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

IMLS Grant Will Be Used for Historic Clothing Conservation

(CONCORD, MA – September 4, 2023) The Concord Museum has received a *Museums for America* grant for \$132,780 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The funding from IMLS will support a detailed conservation survey of the Museum’s historic clothing collection as part of an initial step to fully conserve and rehouse the collection.

“The conservation survey is part of the Museum’s ongoing commitment to preservation and access to our permanent collections,” says Lisa Krassner, Edward W. Kane Executive Director. “Thanks to the IMLS grant, we will be able to embark on the first phase of a conservation project that will preserve the historic clothing collection for future learning, research, exhibition and educational programming.”

The Concord Museum’s historic clothing collection consists of over 2,000 pieces of clothing, shoes, and hats, most dating from the early 1700s to early 1900s and many with histories connected to Concord, Massachusetts. It includes a wide range of items intended for both special event and everyday wear, including dresses, skirts, shirts, petticoats, uniforms, coats, pants/breeches, vests, shoes, hats, shoes and socks. The largest portion of the collection is from the 1840s to 1890s. Thirty-one pieces date from before 1800, including a wool frock coat that was used as a model by sculptor Daniel Chester French for the iconic Minute Man statue in Concord, which depicts the coat draped over the Minute Man’s plow. Portions of the historic clothing collection have been exhibited in three recent special exhibitions: *Behind Closed Doors: Asleep in New England* (2014-2015), *Fresh Goods: Shopping for Clothing in a New England Town, 1750- 1900* (2018), and *Every Path Laid Open: Women of Concord and the Quest for Equality* (2021).

The conservation project will enable the Museum to increase access to the historic clothing collection through object-based learning and promote new research on the collection, including the identities and histories of the dressmakers and materials, ties to enslaved and immigrant populations, and local and global trade.

"As pillars of our communities, libraries and museums bring people together by providing important programs, services, and collections. These institutions are trusted spaces where people can learn, explore and grow," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "IMLS is proud to support their initiatives through our grants as they educate and enhance their communities."



About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Concord Museum

The Concord Museum connects people to Concord's multi-faceted history and its continuing influence on American cultural, political, environmental, and literary life. Founded in 1886, the Museum presents centuries of objects from Concord and surrounding areas for everyone to experience and explore. These objects let us bring to life the stories of the diverse people who lived in Concord since its earliest days. Every day, Concord's history comes alive in our collections, exhibitions, and programs. To learn more, visit www.concordmuseum.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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