


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES, MUSEUMS
FOR AMERICA GRANT, TO FUND THE PROCESSING OF THE
HISTORIC COLLECTIONS OF THE STABLER-LEADBEATER
APOTHECARY MUSEUM

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Museums for America Grant, to fund the processing of the historic collections of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit the grant application (due November 1), requesting \$45,000, in Museums for America grant funding;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Museums for America Grant, administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Science, provides support for projects that further a museum's mission, helping institutions to achieve their goals and strengthen connections to the communities they serve. This grant will specifically support collections stewardship.

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum consists of two buildings located at 105 - 107 South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. The museum tells the story of a 141 year old family-owned and operated business, showcasing its evolution from a small apothecary shop to a major manufacturing and retail operation in the Washington, DC region. In 2006, the Landmarks Society of Alexandria (now known as the Mortar & Pestle Society) donated the museum and its important contents to the City of Alexandria.

Over the past two years, one part-time temporary staff person has been able to process over 4,000 objects, ranging from medicine bottles to pharmaceutical equipment. These

objects help tell the story of this important Alexandria business, providing a tangible snapshot of its business and clientele. To date, funding for this important collections work has been received through a Save America's Treasures grant and donations from the Mortar & Pestle Society.

DISCUSSION: If grant funds are awarded, one part-time curatorial staff person for the will be able to continue cataloging the museum's important collection at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. If the funding is not awarded or reduced, other funding will be sought or the project will be discontinued.

GRANT PERIOD: Awards will be announced in late July 2009. The term of the grant is October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant requires a 50% percent (\$45,000), match of non-federal funds, through donations, cash or in-kind contributions. The matching funds will be generated through a combination of museum donations and general operating supplies specific for collections' care.

STAFF:

Gretchen Bulova, Director, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Office of Historic Alexandria
Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
Karen L. Winey, Grants Coordinator