

Proposed *Museum of Durham History* Receives National Conservation Bookshelf Award

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 23, 2009 Durham, North Carolina – Treasured objects and artifacts to be organized by the proposed **Museum of Durham History** will be preserved for future generations with help from the **IMLS *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources** donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The proposed Museum of Durham History was one of 900 institutions awarded this grant in this nationwide competition.

"We are thrilled the vision for the Museum of Durham History was competitive with well established museums from around the nation and that this Federal grant was awarded," says Tom Krakauer, Chairman of the Board of the Museum of Durham History. "*The Collections Bookshelf* will ensure we are heading in the right direction and both staff and board can focus on the needs of our collections. It will guide our architectural planning and help clarify for board, governmental leaders and other stakeholders the space and staff needs of our collections. It will also help us keep our collections relevant to our mission, avoid the acquisition of "random stuff," and ensure that we do not face a deaccession problem in the future."

"When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the state of our nation's collections, we understood that materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide," said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. "We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations."

The Museum of Durham History will receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for the care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study it released in partnership with Heritage Preservation, *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on*

the State of America's Collections. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections.

1 of 2

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. www.ims.gov.

About the Museum of Durham History

The mission of the Museum of Durham History is to make the stories of Durham's past available to the local community and its visitors and encourage people to appreciate the captivating richness of Durham's history.

The Museum of Durham History Planning Group envisions using carefully chosen artifacts, interpretive text, multimedia presentations, programs, a museum web site, and guided tours to tell Durham's stories. A myriad of fascinating subjects will be available for interpretation: tobacco, textile mills, civil rights, sports, architecture, the blues, early settlers, Native Americans and these are just the beginning. The Group anticipates eventually having a permanent location in downtown Durham.

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