



## **Museums for America**

**Sample Application MA-31-15-0438-15**  
**Project Category: Collections Stewardship**  
**Funding Level: \$5,000-\$25,000**

### **Celia Thaxter Museum in Vaughn Cottage (Star Island Corporation)**

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$24,990

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

Please note that the instructions for preparing narratives for FY2016 applications differ from those that guided the preparation of FY2014 and FY2015 applications. Most obviously, the names of the three narrative sections and the order in which they appear have changed. Be sure to use the narrative instructions in the FY2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program and project category to which you are applying.

## Star Island Corporation Grant Application Abstract

The Celia Thaxter Museum requests a \$24,990 IMLS Museums for America Collections Stewardship grant to carry out a plan designed to create a better preservation environment for the museum's collections, to improve intellectual control of the collections, and to improve storage methods for the 3-dimensional artifacts and large paper items in the collections. The proposed project will address the highest priority actions recommended by the conservator and historic architect who carried out our 2014 CAP Assessment. The project will take place between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016.

The Celia Thaxter Museum is located on Star Island, one of nine islands that comprise the Isles of Shoals off the New Hampshire coast. It is owned and operated by the nonprofit Star Island Corporation (SIC); the Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee (IHAC) serves as an advisory group to the SIC on policies and procedures relating to development, use, and preservation of the museum building and all of the museum's the membership of the collections. Star Island welcomes all, hosting approximately 4,000 attendees of conferences, 7,500 day and overnight guests, 375 school children, military kids, and children from scouting programs. We look forward to expanding the numbers of young people, who are able to visit Star, stay a while and learn about our rich New England history, maritime lore, sea life and the flora and fauna of the Isles of Shoals.

For years, the Thaxter Museum was maintained by volunteers and a paid staff person with no formal museum training, and the SIC had only minimal resources to devote to the museum. In recent years, the membership of the Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee, which advises the administration and activities of the museum, was upgraded to include several museum professionals. The museum's administration has also been strengthened, and is now headed by Kyle Belmont, the SIC's Outreach Coordinator and museum manager. We applied for and received a Conservation Assessment Program grant (CAP) grant that covered both the collections and historic building in which it is housed. As a result of the CAP report, the IHAC and SIC now have a clearer understanding of the issues of collections care and management faced by the museum. We are fully committed to the Thaxter Museum and the stewardship of its collections, and are eager to raise the level of the museum's collections management and care.

In addition to laying out short-, mid- and long-term goals, the CAP grant helped us identify top priorities for improving the preservation and management of the collections. We have already carried out or started work on a number of CAP recommendations (See Long-Range Collections Stewardship Plan, Appendix A). This proposed project will continue to address the highest priority recommendations of the CAP assessors. We will 1) improve the interior environment of the museum building by tightening the building envelope and installing a vapor barrier over the dirt crawlspace beneath the building; 2) install air conditioning units and commercial grade dehumidifiers specified by Landmark Facilities Group environmental consultants 3) install blackout blinds (for closed hours) and UV and light-filtering blinds (for open hours) to significantly lessen light exposure in the exhibit room; 4) hire two interns from a museum studies program to inventory the artifact and art collections, upgrade storage methods, and record new storage locations. All work on the building will be carried out under the supervision of Jack Farrell, Facilities Director for Star Island, and Kyle Belmont, Outreach Coordinator and museum manager. All work with the collections will be accomplished in consultation with the CAP conservator.

The proposed activities will result in a greatly improved environment for the long-range preservation of the collections, both on exhibit and in storage. This result will be measurable with our HOBO temperature and humidity monitors. The reorganization and improved storage methods proposed for the artifact collections will result in safer physical care for the collections, evident in an orderly and clean storeroom. Completion of the inventory and its reconciliation with our PastPerfect database will ensure intellectual control of the collections. This achievement will become visible when we are able to post collections records on the Star Island website.

## 1. Project Justification

**Brief Project Summary:** The Celia Thaxter Museum requests a \$24,990 IMLS Museums for America Collections Stewardship grant to carry out a plan designed to create a better preservation environment for the museum’s collections, both on exhibit and in storage, and to better organize and house those collections. The proposed project will address the highest priority actions recommended by the conservator and preservation architect who carried out our 2014 CAP Assessment (Supporting Document 1, 2). We will improve site drainage and place a vapor barrier over the earth crawlspace beneath the museum to significantly lessen moisture penetration into the building. In addition, we will install air conditioning units and commercial grade dehumidifiers on the advice of Landmark Facilities Group, an engineering company with special expertise in museum environments. We will purchase blinds to limit light exposure of the collections. Finally, we will hire two interns from a museum studies program to conduct an inventory of the collections against PastPerfect records and upgrade our storage methods. The prime motivation for the project is the fact that many objects are deteriorating. This project has therefore been given utmost priority because, without improving environmental and storage conditions, the Thaxter Museum cannot achieve its mission to preserve its collections for future generations

**Description of the Museum and the Collections:** The Thaxter Museum is located on Star Island, one of nine islands that comprise the Isles of Shoals off the New Hampshire/Maine coasts. Star Island, the museum, and its collections are owned by Star Island Corporation (SIC). This nonprofit organization has, since 1916, offered a variety of religious, artistic, and educational programs to guests at the island’s Oceanic Hotel and to visitors from New England and other parts of the United States who make day visits or stay for conferences and personal retreats. In this way, Star Island, with its rich history and current use, keeps alive vital aspects of the intellectual and cultural history of New England. Star Island welcomes all, hosting 4,000 attendees of conferences, 7,500 day and overnight guests, 375 school children, and children from scouting programs. We especially look forward to expanding the numbers of young people who are able to visit Star Island and learn about our rich New England history and maritime lore of the Isles of Shoals.

The Thaxter Museum was founded in 1960 to preserve archival materials (photographs, books, documents, and ephemera), paintings, and artifacts associated with the history of the Isles of Shoals and to educate visitors through exhibits and interpretive programs about the cultural and economic history of these islands. The museum is named for the 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Celia Thaxter, who spent much of her life on the Isles of Shoals, first at the White Island lighthouse where her father was lighthouse keeper, on Star Island as the wife of its school master, and finally at her family’s hotel on neighboring Appledore Island. The hotel became a popular summer destination for well-known artists, musicians, and writers; Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, and the artists William Morris Hunt and Child Hassam were frequently entertained in Celia Thaxter’s salon.

The museum occupies Vaughn Cottage, a small stone building constructed in 1960. The ground floor comprises the museum exhibit room and a library/reading room, in which books relevant to the Isles of Shoals are available for guests to read on site or borrow. The second floor attic is used for general collections and archives storage, while a “storage vault” located halfway up the stairs is used to house the most important items from the collections. Vaughn Cottage has electricity but no heating or cooling systems and no water.

The Thaxter Museum’s collections chronicle more than 400 years of life on the Isles of Shoals, and fall into three distinct eras of New England history: the Gosport Village Fishing Era, the Grand Hotel Era, and the Conference Era. The Shoals represent moments in the history of New England that remain fundamental to our understanding of our American history. Some of the artifacts have distinctive artistic value of more than

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regional importance and the collections represent a national treasure in their representation of American cultural life.

Examples of artifacts from the Fishing Era (16<sup>th</sup> – mid-19<sup>th</sup> c) include a medicine box of Martha Olive Foss Downs, who was occasionally a midwife, who lived with her husband, John Downs, a fisherman, in a cottage that remains on the island; a toy boat found in the walls of another cottage; as well as shoes, newspapers, cans, clothes, bottles also found in walls. Collections from the Hotel Era—the Appledore Hotel owned by the Laightons (Celia Thaxter’s family) and the Oceanic House on Star Island in the second half of the 19th century—includes hotel china, souvenirs, menus, advertisements, receipts, hotel registers, and ledgers. Many extraordinary hand-painted china pieces executed by Celia Thaxter and paintings by Ross Turner and Appleton Brown are of special interest. The Conference Era (1897 to present) is documented with conference photos, staff yearbooks, conference ephemera, scrapbooks, artwork, and books. In addition, we have found artifacts across the island, coming from the island’s pre-European history and forward.

Because our database is not yet complete, we are unable to give precise figures, but we are able to produce a close estimate of the makeup of our collections. In all, our archives and ephemera collections include approximately 2,000 photographs, 6 historic films, 5,000 pieces of ephemera, 500 books, 20 maps, blueprints, charts and miscellaneous documents, 35 scrapbooks and photo albums that document the history of the island. Our artifact collections comprise 300 archaeological objects, 60 glass and ceramic items, including 27 painted by Celia Thaxter, 20 pieces of furniture, 11 textiles, costumes and accessories, and 300 historic objects. The art collection includes 14 paintings on canvas, and about 60 watercolors and prints.

Our collections form the core of exhibits as well as serving researchers and those interested in New England history or family genealogy. Several books have been written based on our collections: *One Woman’s Work: The Visual Art of Celia Laighton Thaxter* by Sharon P. Stephan; *The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend* by Lyman V. Rutledge; *Gosport Remembered* by Peter E. Randall and Maryellen Burke, and *Land of Lost Content* by Robert H. Whittaker to name just a few. The museum’s collections are also regularly shared (using photographs/PowerPoint and reproduction objects) through presentations at New Hampshire historical societies and in public schools. Currently, an 1871 artifact is on loan to the Museum of the Earth, Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Museum hours are long during the Island’s “open” season to accommodate conference-goers and boat schedules. SIC hires a staff member as “curator” to design and maintain exhibits, answer questions, share island history and legend at the museum, and provide presentations for groups. The curator also takes visitors on historical tours of Star and Appledore Islands and works with youngsters of all ages, bringing them programs in which they learn about Shoals history. When there is time, s/he also accessions objects and, in the last three years, has been involved in digitizing our collections into PastPerfect with a future goal of allowing the general public to access our holdings on line. Given the spread of duties and limited time available, many tasks, particularly collections management and entering items into PastPerfect, get short shrift. Overwhelming needs of island maintenance consume SIC resources for life safety-related and other projects mandated by regulators.

To improve the environment, which the CAP assessors determined to be very bad for the collections, we will follow the advice of the CAP preservation architect. We will start (pre-grant) addressing issues of electrical safety identified in the cap report and preparing for the installation of new air conditioners and dehumidifiers (this will integrate into star island’s recently completed solar array installation). We will also seal cracks and gaps in the attic storage room where air can penetrate the space. (This work will take place as soon as the island “opens” in the spring of 2015.) During the pre-grant period, we will also improve drainage by diverting rainwater away from the building.

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Under the grant project, we will 1) install a Stego heavy-duty polyolefin vapor barrier over the earth crawlspace beneath the building. The preservation architect advises that this will greatly lessen the amount of water vapor that enters the structure. 2) We will engage a mechanical engineer who specializes in museum environments to evaluate the building structure, volume, and the conditions recorded over 13 months by HOBOS located in the attic storage room, the vault, and the museum exhibit room. He will use this information to specify the correctly sized air conditioning units and commercial grade dehumidifiers for the spaces. We will then purchase the equipment specified. 3) We will also address high light levels in the Museum Exhibit Room by installing a combination of blackout blinds (to be used when the museum is closed) and UV filtering solar blinds that will reduce both light levels and UV levels when the museum is open. (The conservator has tested samples of the proposed blinds with an Elsec Monitor and found them effective.) 4) In June 2016 we will hire two museum studies interns from a recognized museum studies program to work during the summer season. Using the PastPerfect database, they will physically inventory the artifact and art collections, ensure that catalogue numbers are written on each artifact, and clean artifacts as needed with a HEPA vacuum. Existing storage shelves will be lined with polyethylene foam, and objects will be placed on shelves or in drawers or boxes, as appropriate. A new powder-coated flat file that meets conservation standards will be purchased under this project to house large maps, documents and works of art on paper, thus ensuring their safekeeping, preservation, and continued availability. Interns will record new storage locations in the PastPerfect database. The conservator will meet with the interns at the beginning of the rehousing process to review handling, cleaning and storage techniques; will meet with them again after three weeks, and will be available for questions by phone and email throughout the project.

**Needs and Challenge this Project Will Address:** For years, the Thaxter Museum had only minimal resources and was maintained by volunteers and a part time paid “curator” with little formal museum training. In recent years, a more effective Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee that includes several museum professionals was formed to guide the administration and activities of the museum. The museum is now managed by Kyle Belmont, the SIC’s Program & Outreach Coordinator. In this capacity, Belmont also serves as the Museum Manager. The IHAC and SIC now have a clearer understanding of issues of collections care and management. We are fully committed to the stewardship of the museum’s collections, and are eager to raise the level of collections management and care.

Our CAP assessment pointed to several areas in which we should concentrate our efforts: 1) Ensure the fire-safety of electrical wiring in the museum building. 2) Improve our intellectual control of the collections by completing entry of collections records into PastPerfect and an inventory of inventory the collections. 3) Improve the environment in the museum building (temperature, relative humidity, light) to create better preservation conditions for the collections. 4) Upgrade physical storage of the 3-dimensional collections and large-scale paper items.

In response to these recommendations, we are taking action on the question of fire safety, and have scheduled an inspection by a licensed electrician as soon as Star Island opens after winter “closed” period, in May 2015. To improve intellectual control, a volunteer with a museum background is now working to complete the PastPerfect records by June 2015. This proposal is concerned with the third and fourth recommendations: improving the museum’s building envelope and environment, and upgrading the storage of the artifact and art collections.

*Need for Environmental Improvements:* Up to this point, we have had no records of temperature or relative humidity in the different spaces of the museum building.<sup>1</sup> However conditions on the days CAP assessors visited revealed very poor environmental conditions, with the temperature in the attic storage room at 83 and

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<sup>1</sup> At the suggestion of our CAP assessors, we have purchased three HOBOS and now are recording conditions in the exhibit room, the vault, and the attic.

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84°F and relative humidity ranging from 60 – 62%. The storage vault was 85° the day of the first site visit and 77° on the second visit with RH at 74% and 73%. The museum exhibit room was 72° on the first visit and 80° on the second, with RH in the low 60% both days. Some mold on collections objects provides evidence that we have sustained high humidity in the attic and vault.

The first thought of the CAP preservation architect and conservator was to install undersized air conditioners (so that they would run continuously) to lower both temperature and RH in summer, but this solution would not address humidity at other times of year, and might not lower RH enough, even in summer. Since this is not a simple matter, we will consult a mechanical engineer with extensive museum experience who will assess our building, our spaces, and our HOBO data, and then specify exactly the air conditioning units and dehumidifiers that will best serve our situation.

Storage of our archival materials is in good order, owing to help we received several years ago from a volunteer who was a professional archivist, and we have found it easy to keep the collections in good order since that work was completed. The CAP conservator recommended, as a priority, inventorying, reorganizing and improving the physical storage methods of the three-dimensional artifacts and large paper items to bring their storage status to the same level as the archival materials. Although most have catalog records (now being entered into our PastPerfect database), these artifacts have never been fully inventoried, many have not had a catalog number applied, and they are physically disorganized. Three-dimensional artifacts in storage are very overcrowded, with objects and boxes on the floor, under and between other objects. Storage shelves are filled to capacity. Some objects are contained in boxes, but many fragile items are wrapped in tissue of unknown source and/or bubble pack and laid, in their wrappings, on open wooden shelves. Large paper items, primarily maps and art on paper, are stored on open wooden shelving units in the attic. There they are exposed to light from the window and to dust, and would be very vulnerable to damage from rodents.

Even though this storage room seems crowded, space is not used well. Some objects housed there are not part of the collections: these must be removed. Storing the more fragile objects in new archival boxes with archival padding materials will be much safer, and will also increase space efficiency. We are confident that, with reorganization, the attic can provide adequate space.

We are requesting funding for two interns from a museum studies program to bring organization and care of these collections up to the standard of our archival collections: conduct an inventory, apply catalog numbers, reorganize and rehouse artifacts correctly, and record storage locations. We need the help of interns who have knowledge of “best practices” to carry out this work. We are confident that, just as we have maintained the archival collections in good order since their reorganization, we can maintain improvements in the three-dimensional collections.

**Project Beneficiaries:** The prime motivation for this project is to better preserve the museum’s collections for future generations. Week-long conference-goers and visitors to Star Island show a great interest in the history, culture, and economy of Star Island from its beginnings as a place inhabited by Native Americans, then an outpost for cod fishermen in the 17<sup>th</sup> century through its years as a summer resort from mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to its present role as a retreat and conference center since 1897, formalized when the SIC acquired Star and Appledore and incorporated in 1916. Current and future visitors to Star Island – the general public, children, and researchers – will all benefit from better preservation, management, and increased access.

**Goals and Results:** The proposed activities will result in a greatly improved environment for the long-term preservation of the collections both on exhibit and in storage. These improvements will complement other planned activities to improve physical and intellectual control of the cultural heritage of which we are stewards. As the initial phase of work is completed, we will write articles about this project in publications to inform Friends of Star Island and to encourage further private donations. We will also write press releases for local and

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regional newspapers to let the public know about the Celia Thaxter Museum and to encourage visits. Once PastPerfect records are complete and the inventory has been carried out, we will make collections records available on the Star Island website.

### **Long-range Conservation Plan to Advance SIC's Strategic Plan**

The SIC's Strategic Plan places a high premium on enhancing facilities to support its mission and vision; that is, providing safe, structurally sound and well maintained facilities in compliance with all pertinent standards and regulations. It also specifies improving accessibility of island resources by communicating opportunities to engage in our Star Island community and by making the general public aware of the opportunity for enrichment, education, and recreation. Within Star Island's overarching Strategic Plan, the mission of the Thaxter Museum is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and advance knowledge of the history, culture, and art of the Isles of Shoals in a well-maintained building, compliant with pertinent standards and regulations. This project to improve the long-term preservation of our collections is central to this mission and is therefore the greatest priority for the museum's Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee and the museum's administration.

The 2014 CAP grant gave Thaxter Museum, for the first time, a unified overview of the needs of its collections and its building. On the basis of prioritized recommendations of the CAP assessors, and with the input of the museum's IHAC and the Museum Manager, we have developed a Long-Range Collections Stewardship Plan to preserve and maintain the museum building and collections. This plan, which has been approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the SIC, is included as Supporting Document 3.

## 2. Project Work Plan

Star Island presents a unique situation, as it is not accessible for work during the winter months. Should we receive a Museums for America grant, work will be carried out in October – November 2015, before the island is shut down for winter, will continue when the island reopens in the spring of 2016, and will be completed in September 2016. Tasks that do not require access to the island will take place during the winter of 2016.

1. Museum Manager Belmont will give the Landmark Facilities Group readings taken by the three HOBO monitors we placed in the attic, the vault, and the museum exhibit room in September 2014, along with building plans and photographs. With this information, Landmark will provide us with recommendations on how best to utilize low-cost air conditioning units and commercial dehumidifiers working off solar energy to improve the interior environment for these three collections spaces. (*Belmont, Landmark, October 2015*).
2. Belmont will purchase and install the equipment (*Belmont, October-November 2015*), and will continue to take HOBO readings so that the effect of the equipment can be evaluated and further modifications can be made if needed.
3. HL Patten (a local, recommended firm experienced in the installation of vapor barriers) will install a Stego Wrap Vapor Barrier over the dirt crawl space beneath the museum, as recommended by the preservation architect who conducted our CAP assessment, to lessen moisture penetration into the building (*HL Patten supervised by Facilities Manager Farrell, October 2015*).
4. Belmont will order and install UV and light-filtering blinds (for open hours) and blackout blinds (for closed hours) in the exhibit room and in the attic (*Belmont, October 2015*).
5. Belmont will purchase supplies and equipment recommended by conservator Moore: a HEPA vacuum cleaner, a powder coated flat file, archival folders and interleaving sheets for large maps and documents, a footcandle meter, and assorted storage supplies as specified by Moore (See Supporting Document 4 for complete listing.) (*Belmont, Jan. – April 2015*).

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6. Two museum studies interns from recognized museum studies programs will physically inventory the artifact and art collections using the PastPerfect database. They will ensure that catalogue numbers are written on each artifact, and clean artifacts as needed with the HEPA vacuum. They will organize the collections on polyethylene foam-lined storage shelves or in boxes, or in the drawers of a new powder-coated flat file. They will record new storage locations in the PastPerfect database. The conservator will meet with the interns at the beginning of the rehousing process to review handling, cleaning and storage techniques; will return a second time three weeks into the project, and will be available for questions by phone and email throughout the project

### **Evaluation and Tracking Progress:**

The Museum Manager will take responsibility for keeping the project on track, including adjusting the timeline if needed. He will closely monitor key project benchmarks (e.g. installation of the vapor barrier and the blinds, equipment deliveries, and the collections management/rehousing described above) so that project activities take place in the right order and to schedule. During the collections management/rehousing work phase, he will meet weekly with the museum studies interns to facilitate communication of progress and to address any existing or anticipated problems or delays, and will be available at all times to assist in any way.

Results of the environmental components of the project will be evaluated by comparison of HOB0 readings before and after installation of the vapor barrier and environmental equipment, and by comparison of light readings before and after installation of the blinds. The success of the inventory/reorganization/rehousing element will be judged by the anticipated improvement in both physical and intellectual access to the collections, facilitating exhibition, teaching and research.

**Sharing Project Results:** We will create a temporary exhibit to educate our public about our conservation efforts. We will contribute to the museum's blog, accessed from the Star Island website, over the course of the project. In addition, we will communicate results through articles in the Star Island Newsletter, which is distributed on paper to 4,000 recipients and also available on the Star Island website. We have good relations with the news media, and we will submit articles about the IMLS project to local and regional newspapers.

### 3. Project Results

*Completion of the project will represent a transformation in the care and management of our collections. The storage environment for the collections will be greatly improved, and artifacts and art will be safely housed and better protected from damaging elements, ensuring their long-term preservation and continued availability to our audiences for research, teaching, and exhibits.*

**Environmental Improvements:** *Temperature, Relative Humidity, Light:* The addition of a vapor barrier over the dirt crawlspace beneath the museum and installing the recommended air conditioning units and dehumidifiers will transform the museum's interior environment. This will be achieved using Star Island's sustainable solar energy. UV and visible light levels will be substantially reduced with the installation of the 5% blinds, and blackout blinds will eliminate light exposure during closed periods.

While we cannot expect these changes to give us ideal conditions for the collections, our consultants believe that the improvements will be substantial. We will document this by continuing to record temperature and relative humidity with our HOB0 monitors. With that data, we will take advice on what additional actions might be taken in the next stage of improvements (e.g. installing more effective insulation, introducing a small amount of heat in winter, and further tightening the building's envelope through additional work suggested by the preservation architect). On our CAP conservator's recommendation, we purchased three Hobos and have been recording humidity hourly since September, 2014. Readings will begin to let us know whether we have



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achieved an environment more conducive to the preservation of paper, photographs, and other artifacts. The Hobos give us a “pre-test” which can be compared with measurements after interior and exterior work is accomplished.

**Improvements to the Care, Condition, and Management of the Collections:** The Art and Artifact Collections will be inventoried and organized in a logical way. Objects now stored very inadequately will be reorganized on polyethylene foam-lined storage shelves, or in the drawers of a new powder-coated flat file. Where extra protection is needed, objects will be contained in protective boxes, thus ensuring their safekeeping, preservation, and continued availability to support the museum’s mission.

**Changes in Knowledge:** The student interns who will work with the collections will gain skills and knowledge of collections stewardship and safety or project evaluation practices that will solidify their professional qualifications. The Museum Manager, Curator, and the IHAC will learn, as well, from their experiences on the project and by working with the museum studies interns and the conservator.

**Tangible Products from the Project:** A number of tangible products will result from our project:

- 1) An updated inventory and database with storage locations that will facilitate curation and research
- 2) An online searchable catalogue of the collections that will be available by the end of the project
- 3) Articles in Star Island’s newsletter, blog, and local and regional newspapers
- 4) A temporary public exhibit highlighting IMLS project activities
- 5) An information page posted in the “News” section of the Star Island website featuring the project

**Sustaining Project Benefits:** The project is a critical step in our progression toward caring for, managing and housing collections according to professional standards. We have sustained, and greatly benefited from, the work of the volunteer archivist who carried out a reorganization and rehousing project of our archival, photograph and ephemera collections. In the same way, once we gain intellectual and physical control of the collections that are the subject of this proposal we are confident of our ability to maintain it into the future.

Progressive and sustained stewardship of our collections and their data are foremost priorities. Members of the IHAC and the Museum Manager are committed to reaching, and then maintaining, a professional standard in collections care and preservation. The rehoused artifacts will be professionally and safely contained and accessible to local, state, regional, national, and international users.

