

Press Release March 10, 2015

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The Fitchburg Historical Society announces receipt of a grant of \$19,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help pay for the installation of air conditioning and humidifying equipment in the historic Phoenix Building at 781 Main Street in Fitchburg. The Phoenix Building, designed by Henry M. Francis, is part of Fitchburg's cultural district corridor whose events serve our diverse community and audiences.

Because the Phoenix Building is historic, needed adaptations such as air conditioning and humidity control are expensive and difficult. Air conditioning will permit our volunteer researchers, the public users of open archives, and administrative officers as well as donors to work on the third floor of our building in comfort. Air conditioning also will allow us to welcome visitors to our second floor Exhibit Hall for viewing displays and programs during the summer months and protects fragile items on exhibit.

The humidifier for our storage area in the basement of the Phoenix Building is essential to protect paintings, documents, historic photographs, and other art objects and artifacts. Installation of air conditioning for the second and third floors of the Phoenix Building and humidifying equipment in its basement is scheduled to begin this late spring.

The Fitchburg Historical Society is grateful to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for this grant which enables us to continue and better serve our community with interpretation of exhibits, maintenance of open and closed research archives, and school programs connected to our exhibits as we work with other cultural organizations in the community to strengthen our abilities to enrich the lives of all.

For verification of this information contact Susan Navarre, Executive Director, at 978-345-1157.