



Museum of Durham History

Follow-Up Request: FY25–26 Carryover Budget Request

Dear Managers Hager and Ferguson,

On behalf of the Museum of Durham History's Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of our mission and for the inclusion of core operating support in the FY25–26 budgets. As a follow-up, we write to respectfully request fulfillment of two unmet needs from our original request that are critical to the Museum's growth and long-term sustainability.

Unmet Priority #1 – Facility Planning Funds

Request: \$46,900 (FY25–26, to be shared by City and County)

To complete the due diligence recommended by the joint City/County/MoDH Facility Planning Working Group, the Museum requires additional funds for:

- Final report and revised program study – \$17,900
- Construction cost estimation by architects – \$13,000
- Museum operations budget modeling by consultant – \$16,000
- (Less \$3,700 carried forward from FY24–25 allocation)

Why this matters:

- Aligns with the recommendations of the working group convened at the direction of City and County leadership.
- Provides data-driven clarity on construction feasibility, operational sustainability, and long-term viability.
- Positions Durham to leverage private investment and capital funding for a permanent facility at 500 W. Main Street.

Unmet Priority #2 – Operating Support Adjustment

Request: \$46,245 (ongoing annual support, to be shared by City and County)

To ensure stability for our staff and programs, we request an adjustment to base operating support to cover:

- 3–4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for full-time staff.
- Adjustment of hourly and part-time wages to Durham's recommended minimum livable wage of \$21.90/hour.

- Increased capacity for education programming, outreach, and development of new learning resources for Durham Public Schools and the broader community.

Why this matters:

- Mirrors COLA adjustments recommended for local government employees.
- Ensures nonprofit partner staff can remain competitive in Durham's high-cost labor market.
- Supports the Museum's ability to expand free educational resources and community programming.

Economic Impact of MoDH

- Estimated \$1.6 million annual impact through:
 - Local spending by 24,000+ visitors
 - Cultural tourism as a downtown destination
 - Partnerships with 50+ local organizations, artists, and educators

(Sources: Americans for the Arts – Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6); Destination International Event Impact Calculator; MoDH visitation records 2023–24; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis tourism multipliers.)

Total Supplemental Request

- \$46,900 (one-time facility planning, FY25–26)
- \$46,245 (ongoing operating support adjustment)

Combined Total: \$93,145

We recognize the many demands on public resources, but these two investments are essential to ensuring the Museum's long-term ability to move forward and serve Durham as a free, inclusive, and educational civic asset.

Thank you for your continued partnership and consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Mucklow

Executive Director

Museum of Durham History