

Community Preservation Act Funding Proposal FY26

NBFHC Archives Phase IV

New Bedford Fishing
Heritage Center
38 Bethel Street

Historic
\$35,000



New Bedford
Community
Preservation
Committee



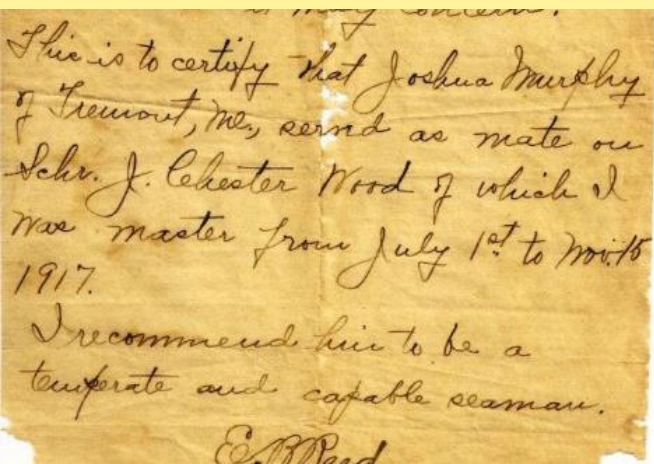
Project Overview

Since opening in 2016, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center has amassed a significant collection of local fishing community history. The collection includes more than 80,000 digital images and over 1000 audio recordings as well as charts, logbooks, tools, and many other objects. Through our ongoing oral history projects, we continue to collect valuable first-hand accounts from the community.



In May 2024, we launched our online archive. Since then:

- **5,232** searches conducted (avg of 275/month)
- **25,484** searchable records in online catalog
- **81** hours of oral histories uploaded
- **190** hours of Working Waterfront Festival recordings uploaded
- **58** hours of embedded streaming videos



As word has spread, more community members are accessing the collection and more people are coming forward with materials including some very large and significant collections. We need additional funding to keep pace with the growth of the collection and time to secure alternate funding to support the work in the future.

Goals and Objectives & Community Need

- 1) **Remediate mold** from **NB Seafood Producers Association Scrapbook Collection**; Digitize, catalogue and upload to FHC's online archive.
- 2) Solicit, process, digitize, catalogue, and upload to online archive: **logbooks and settlement sheets from retired New Bedford fishermen**
- 3) Process **Lang/Xifares Labor Collection**
- 4) Expand existing collection descriptions to include descriptions of each item and key words, **making thousands of additional photos and documents publicly accessible**
- 5) Enhance online database by **including embedded media** when appropriate
- 6) Continue to **train and supervise volunteers** in archives best practices
- 7) Facilitate **increased community engagement** (public programs and monthly newsletter article)
- 8) Implement NEDCC **digital redundancy** recommendations to ensure collection preservation

Who Will Benefit?

Fishing Family Members
Students & Teachers
Journalists
Authors
Film makers
Researchers
Policy Makers



Project Budget

- Total Project Cost: \$81,840 of which \$19,100 is in-kind
- CPA Request: \$35,000

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Project Timeline

Q1: Remediate mold from NB Seafood Producers Association Scrapbook Collection. Scrapbooks 25% catalogued and uploaded to FHC's online archive.

Q2: Process Lang Xifares Labor Collection. Scrapbooks 50% catalogued and uploaded.

Q3: Scrapbooks 75% catalogued and uploaded

Q4: Scrapbooks 100% catalogued and uploaded

Ongoing:

- Process, digitize, catalogue, and upload logbooks and settlement sheets.
- Implement NEDCC digital redundancy recommendations to ensure collection preservation
- Add "item level" descriptions making many thousands of additional photos and documents available for researchers online
- Public engagement
- Volunteer training

Why New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center?

We are the only institution dedicated to preserving the history of the New Bedford fishing community. We have the trust, knowledge, and expertise.

