

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

City of Newburyport
Community Preservation Committee

Applications for funding are due by **Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** with the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Office of Planning and Development, City Hall, 60 Pleasant St., Newburyport MA 01950.

Application Instructions:

- Applicants should file ten (10) paper copies and one electronic copy of the completed application and all accompanying documents.
- Applications should be stapled or clipped. Bound applications are not required.
- Please be mindful of extraneous paper – double sided copies are acceptable.

PROJECT NAME: First Guardians Statue

PROJECT ADDRESS: Newburyport Waterfront

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MAP/LOT: Not Applicable, at this time.

APPLICANT NAME: The Lighthouse Preservation Society (Group or Committee Affiliation)

CONTACT PERSON: James Hyland

TELEPHONE/FAX NO.: 1-800-727-BEAM (2326)

ADDRESS: The Lighthouse Preservation Society
11 Seaborne Drive
Dover, NH 03820

EMAIL: lps@naisp.net

AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING REQUESTED: \$80,000

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CATEGORY: *(Please check all that apply)*

☐ Open Space ☐ Historic Resource † ☐ Affordable Housing * ☐ Recreation

† Applicants seeking Historic Preservation funds for the preservation, restoration or renovation of historic structures must, as a condition of funding award, record a perpetual Preservation Restriction (PR) on the subject structure(s) prior to any distribution of funds. Applications should attend a meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) as early as possible to discuss and confirm the nature and scope of the required Preservation Restriction. The NHC's advisory opinion will be incorporated as appropriate into any Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommendation, City Council appropriation, and/or grant award letters or agreements thereunder. *Please Note: The Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) is an official City board and should not be confused with the local Newburyport Preservation Trust (NPT), a non-profit advocacy group.*

* Applicants seeking Affordable Housing funds must attend a Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust meeting to review and discuss their application. This review must occur prior to the Community Preservation Committee deliberations.

PROJECT SUMMARY: Provide a description of the Project, including the property involved and its proposed use.

The Lighthouse Preservation Society has completed a yearlong competition to create a sculpture, commemorating the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard in Newburyport. Using \$19,000 in funds from our popular lighthouse dining program at the Newburyport Rear Range Light on Water Street, we commissioned 4 regional artists to come up with their interpretations of three people, working together in the ocean surf to perform a rescue at sea. Each figure would represent one of the three original federal agencies that later merged to become the modern Coast Guard, and would be clothed in traditional 19th Century uniforms from those three respective agencies. The agencies were: 1) the Revenue Cutter Service, the oldest of the three services, which was formed under the direction of Alexander Hamilton to protect our nation's shores and stop smuggling. A kind of early navy, it is the oldest of the 3 agencies. Under Hamilton, the Revenue Cutter Service built its first sailing ship, "The Massachusetts", in Newburyport. It is for this reason that Newburyport claims to be the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard. 2) the U.S. Lighthouse Service, which for years maintained as many as three lighthouses in Newburyport - a very large number for one community. The Newburyport Harbor Light on Plum Island is actually one of the oldest lighthouse sites in America, being one of the original twelve lights that were constructed in the colonies under British rule. 3) the U.S. Lifesaving Service maintained a lifesaving station out on Plum Island for many years. During storms, the men stationed there would row out into the ocean surf in large rowboats to rescue people from sinking ships. Their motto was "you have to go out, but you don't have to come back". They were true heroes, and in the 1800's, they were as popular as the U.S. Cavalry. Surprisingly, there is currently no monument to commemorate these founding agencies to the U.S. Coast Guard. This is a fact which The Lighthouse Preservation Society hopes to change with a larger-than-life statue on the Newburyport waterfront. The rough scale model, which we commissioned, called a "sketch" put forth the sculptor's vision of what a sea rescue would look like during the 1800's with representatives from each of the three original agencies. As it turns out, joint sea rescues were often undertaken, especially with the Lighthouse Service and the Lifesaving Service, because lighthouses and lifesaving stations were often found near each other, as was the case on Plum Island. The winner of our sculpture contest is Michael Keropian, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. His work includes the Korean Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. and the nine giant tiger statues that adorn the Detroit Tiger's Baseball Stadium.

Our next step is to get a much more refined and finished 'third scale' model done, that could be enlarged into a larger-than-life bronze statue that would then be placed somewhere on the Newburyport waterfront. Being early in the conceptual stage of this project, the actual place is yet to be determined, and subject to negotiation. There are however, several potentially suitable locations for such a work of art on Newburyport's waterfront. At this point, we are seeking funds to cover the 2nd phase of this project, which is a finished and reproducible "third scale" working model. In addition to the three figures that comprise the statue, there will also be a bronze bas relief work of art on the back side of the statue. This image will portray: 1) the Revenue Cutter Service ship "The Massachusetts"; 2) the Newburyport Harbor Lighthouse; and 3) the old U.S. Lifesaving Station on Plum Island. This back side of the statue will also be given to historic text.

PUBLIC BENEFIT*: Describe in detail the benefits Newburyport will receive from the Project and how the Project fulfills the Community Preservation Committee's Project Evaluation Criteria.

*** Deed Restrictions:** The City may require, as a condition for funding, that the applicant grant to the City or other authorized grantee certain restrictions, including: Preservation Restrictions on rehabilitated or acquired historic resources, Conservation Restrictions on preserved or acquired lands, and Affordability Restrictions on affordable housing projects. The restriction shall be recorded at the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds.

Currently, there is nothing but a couple worn and weathered plaques around the Newburyport waterfront, laying claim to the fact that the city is the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard. Unfortunately, they are easily overlooked by the casual visitor. Although well intentioned, these worn and somewhat obscure plaques fail to grab anyone's attention, make an important statement, or capture the imagination. What The Lighthouse Preservation Society proposes to do is create a worldclass memorial statue that will depict the early history of the Coast Guard in a dramatic way, similar to what the Man at the Wheel Fisherman Memorial Statue has done for Gloucester. In that community, the statue has become a virtual icon for the city, and a symbol representing its maritime heritage. Newburyport could and should do the same, if we truly want our unique designation as the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard to be recognized and promoted. If this is really Newburyport's claim to fame, and the historical fact that makes us unique, then the community really needs to do something to show they're truly proud of this heritage. So far, other than a few signs, they have not. An investment in a worldclass work of art, which dramatically portrays the heritage we claim to be so proud of, is what's needed to galvanize civic pride in Newburyport's unique place in history. Like Gloucester's Fisherman statue, a powerful, larger-than-life depiction of Newburyport's heroic First Guardians, appropriately located along the waterfront, in a key location, could easily become a magnet for tourism and a symbol for the community, helping Newburyport establish and promote its unique heritage and claim to fame.

CONTROL OF SITE: Indicate whether the applicant owns or has a purchase agreement for the Project site. If the property is under agreement, include a description of the agreement and the timing and conditions. If the applicant does not have site control, explain.

Since it is early in the development of our First Coastal Guardians Statue, we have not yet decided on exactly where it would be best to put it. Clearly, it should be along the waterfront in an appropriate location that would show it off best, and have good public access. Several places along the boardwalk area could potentially make ideal locations for the statue, including the new park that was recently reclaimed from the old parking lot.

FEASIBILITY: List all steps that may be required for completion of the Project, such as environmental assessment, zoning or other approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation restrictions, and any other known issues. For projects that may impact abutters or the neighborhood, describe support or objections from those affected.

Other than finding an appropriate location for the finished statue when it's completed, we see no issues surrounding the feasibility of this project.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Describe the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the Project. Demonstrate whether the Project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year.

We should have a completed "third scale" statue within a year from receiving funds for this second phase. A number of changes will be made to the statue, as we attempt to refine it. Consequently, it will not look exactly as the "sketch" model depicted here with this

proposal. Some expressions, postures, arm and leg placements, and props will be changed until the sketch is refined and finished. The bas relief image, which is a work of art in its own right, must also be completed for the back side of the statue. To fund and complete the full scale statue, complete with bas relief scene of Newburyport's maritime history on the back, with historic text, we have been informed that we should expect to have it take a good two to three years to complete, with a total additional cost – beyond the cost of this “third scale” phase - of roughly \$400,000.

FUNDING:

- A. **Project cost estimates:** Provide recent cost estimates for the proposed project, dated within the past six (6) months, detailing the scope of work and associated costs for each task.
- B. **Amount of Newburyport Community Preservation Funding Requested:**
\$80,000
- C. **Other Sources of Funding Available:** If funding from other sources may be available for the Project, please complete the following table:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS (COMMITTED Y/N IF NOT-WHEN)	CONTINGENT ON CP FUNDS (Y/N)
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ATTACHMENTS:

Include the following with ALL copies of the application:

- Assessor's map showing location of the Project
- Photographs
- Recent written estimates of cost with detailed scope of work
- Proposed oversight and management plan for the Project
- If the project involves public property, provide verification that the applicable public agency or department supports the project as presented and will oversee the project if funded.
- Historic resources include buildings, structures, vessel real properties, documents or artifacts that are listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic place or determined to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city by the local historic preservation commission. If the project involves a historic resource, please provide evidence (date of listing on the state register or a letter from the Newburyport Historical Commission confirming its determination of significance) with the application that it meets these criteria

Include the following, if applicable and available:

- Architectural plans and specifications, for new construction or rehabilitation



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DONNA D. HOLADAY, MAYOR

60 PLEASANT STREET - P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
978-465-4413 PHONE
978-465-4402 FAX

December 2, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of the City of Newburyport, Massachusetts, I wish to endorse the work of nationally recognized sculptor Michael Keropian, and The Lighthouse Preservation Society, the spearheading nonprofit organization that will be working together with Newburyport to create a statue commemorating the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard on our waterfront. This work-of-art, entitled the "First Coastal Guardians Statue", will depict the 3 most important heroes from each of the 3 old federal agencies that merged to become the modern Coast Guard.

Those famous representatives include Joshua James from the old U.S. Lifesaving Service, Ida Lewis from the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and Ellsworth Bertholf from the Revenue Cutter Service. All three of these agencies were amply represented in Newburyport, which has 3 historic lighthouses and two lifesaving stations. Furthermore, the oldest of the these agencies, the Revenue Cutter Service, had its first ship, *The Massachusetts*, built in Newburyport, at the direction of Alexander Hamilton, the site where the Coast Guard got its start. This proposed statue, through bronze text and artwork, will help tell that story, thus further solidifying Newburyport's historic role as the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I hope you will join me in supporting The Lighthouse Preservation Society in its efforts to raise funds for this important project and advance Newburyport's place in history as the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Sincerely,

Donna D. Holaday, Mayor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Lighthouse Preservation Society is the nonprofit organization that has made lighthouse preservation a national issue with Congressional hearings, conferences, the sponsorship of National Lighthouse Day and its celebrations, the nomination of 30 U.S. lighthouse stamps, and the raising of nearly \$6 million for over 160 lighthouse projects. This prestigious group is also the recipient of a Presidential Achievement Award from the federal government for its efforts to preserve our lighthouse heritage. Specifically, the Society's accomplishments include:

CREATED FEDERAL ACTION

- Proposed and passed a Congressional \$3 million Lighthouse Bicentennial Fund that provided matching grants for over 160 lighthouse restoration projects.
- Lobbied successfully for a Congressional hearing on lighthouse issues.
- Persuaded Congress to mandate a U.S. Coast Guard review of lighthouse management issues, which led to numerous policy changes.
- Had Congress proclaim National Lighthouse Day in celebration of America's Lighthouse Bicentennial & created exhibits for the Senate and House Rotundas.
- Nominated 30 U.S. lighthouse postal stamps from 1990 through 2013.
- Received the prestigious Presidential Achievement Award from the federal government in 1992.
- Hosted 3 National Lighthouse Conferences in Washington, D.C., which led to the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000.
- Initiated and funded the study to create the National Lighthouse Museum at Staten Island, New York.

DIRECTLY AIDED LOCAL ACTION

- Proposed and passed a Massachusetts \$2 million lighthouse grants program through the state legislature.
- Created an incentive program which led to the nomination of 124 lighthouses to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Funded a thematic National Register nomination for Maine's Lifesaving Stations.
- Provided technical and advocacy support to dozens of local lighthouse groups.
- Coordinated 70 coastal lighthouse celebrations for the Lighthouse Bicentennial.
- Invented the acclaimed "Dine at the Top of the Lighthouse" fundraising program.

INITIATED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- Isle au Haut Lighthouse (now The Keeper's House inn).
- Thacher Island North Tower (restored and relit).
- Monomoy Point Light (now used for wildlife tours).
- Ten Pound Island Light (restored and relit).
- Portland Breakwater Light (restored and relit).
- Newburyport Front and Rear Range Lights (currently being restored).
- Roanoke River Light (purchased, moved, and transferred to the State of NC).



Michael Keropian is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the oldest art school in the United States where he was honored a working scholarship, exceptional training and learned to sculpt in a traditional figurative style.

His experience in sculpture encompasses all aspects of the discipline. Mike's work history includes a decade at the Tallix Sculpture Foundry in Beacon, New York where he was responsible for enlarging, restoration and mold making important monuments such as the Korean Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. Mike has extensive knowledge of the sculptural process involved in bringing a work of art from conception to completion.

Along with developing a unique personal style in figurative sculpture; Keropian created Keropian Sculpture LLC in 1989 that provides sculptural services to a variety of clientele. He specializes in dynamic custom sculpture; figure and animal compositions, portraiture and relief sculpture, architectural, memorials and historical sculpture. Other services provided are design, instruction and consultation, sculpture restoration and casting services.

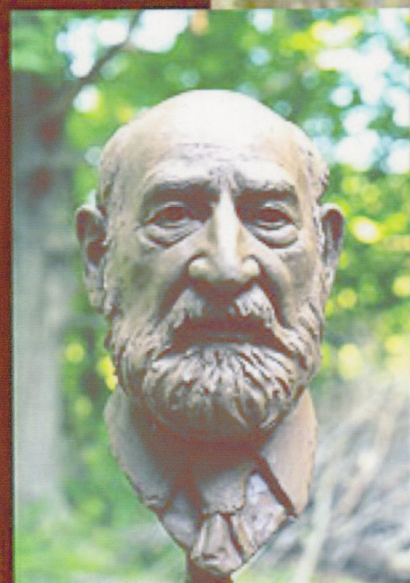
As a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society in New York City, Mike stands amongst the leading figurative sculptors in our country. He regularly attends the society's meetings in New York City and has had his work published in *Sculpture Review* magazine which has been called the foremost figurative sculpture magazine in the world. His work is reproduced in more than a dozen publications. Mike's achievements in the field of figurative sculpture have earned him numerous awards and first prize awards, including the coveted Hudson Valley Art Associations Gold Medal in 2010.

One of Keropian's most public commissions was creating nine heroic-sized tiger sculptures to adorn the new stadium of the Detroit Tiger's Baseball Team, Comerica Park. The mix of these grand sculptures with an iconic American pastime is brilliant. He has an impressive portfolio, which includes portraits of famous musicians and celebrities, Native Americans, martial arts masters, a college president and the former Mayor of Brewster, New York. Keropian's work is in numerous private collections around the world.

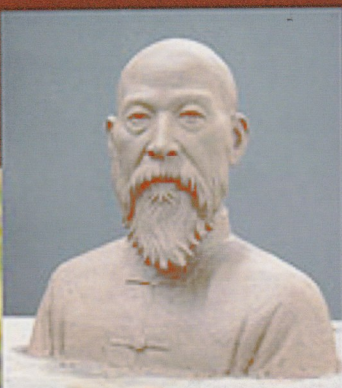
HISTORIC STATUARY



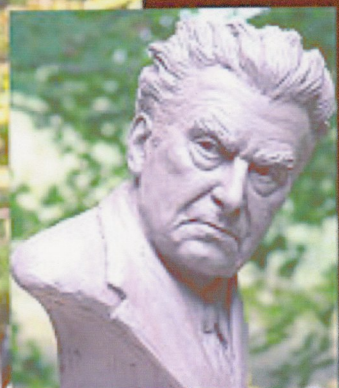
MONUMENTS



MILITARY



PORTRAITS



MEMORIALS



MICHAEL KEROPIAN SCULPTURE



THE FIRST COASTAL GUARDIANS