



The Whaling Museum & Education Center

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Whaling Museum Puts an End to Climate Change Gardiner Foundation Awards Grant to Repair Collections HVAC

Logbooks, harpoons and mold do not mix.

In an effort to remain proactive in the fight against damage done by the fluctuating humidity of the Long Island climate, The Whaling Museum & Education Center has been awarded an \$11,900 grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for a new HVAC system being installed this week in the museum's underground, climate-controlled collection storage.

A stable and controlled environment is a necessity for object preservation. Every type of physical object is at risk when the temperature or humidity fluctuates. Natural materials such as paper, cotton, and bone will swell and contract as the humidity changes. This will cause objects to become brittle, crack, and surface decoration to flake off. Metals oxidize at a greater rate when the humidity fluctuates, and certain types of glass become prone to weeping and crizzling. Finally, higher humidity levels attract pests. A large part of the Museum's collection is made up of objects that could be a food source for pests, including paper, wood, and bone.

"We are extremely grateful to The Gardiner Foundation for awarding the museum this grant," said Nomi Dayan, Executive Director of the Whaling Museum. "This funding addresses the essential need of preserving our culturally significant collection for future generations, which was in threat of becoming damaged if

major revisions to the museum's outdated climate control system were not made.”

By improving the humidity control in its collection storage, the museum is better preserving the physical artifacts of Cold Spring Harbor's maritime heritage. In the 1830s-1860s, the port of Cold Spring Harbor was a whaling community, bringing in whalers from all over the globe. The museum shares that unique history with visitors in innovative ways by connecting the public with its 6,000 piece collection through changing exhibits and educational programs. A preserved collection is a shared collection. Highlights in the collection include scrimshaw created on the whalers' journeys, Captains logbooks and other artifacts that remain a physical reminder of our whaling past.

“The Gardiner Foundation is delighted to support this conservation project. The collections of the Whaling Museum offer scholars and the community an important link into the maritime life and culture that was essential to all of Long Island,” said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

About The Whaling Museum

The Whaling Museum & Education Center is located at 301 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724 and specializes in the culture and history of our maritime heritage as illustrated by the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Industry of the 1850s.

Winter hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12-4 and Saturday-Sunday from 11-5.

Learn more at www.cshwhalingmuseum.org



The Whaling Museum's mission is to explore the ever-changing relationship between humans and whales through inquiry-based education and interpretation of artifacts that emphasize the cultural, scientific and environmental significance of Long Island and the Sea.

We help members and visitors make informed decisions about our marine environment.