

Lewis Latimer House Museum Awarded Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Grant to Digitize Its Collections

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FLUSHING, NY - July 7, 2025 -[The Lewis Latimer House](#) is pleased to announce its grant award from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to digitize its collections, and the Latimer Family Papers Collection at the Queens Library Archive. The digitization project will make these invaluable resources more accessible to historians, students, researchers, and educators throughout Queens and beyond.

This grant supports the Lewis Latimer House in promoting and preserving the legacy of African-American inventor, artist and scientist, Lewis Latimer. Born in 1848 as the son of self-emancipated slaves from Virginia, Latimer rose to become a groundbreaking self-taught inventor, draftsman and humanist, whose contributions to science continue to shape the modern world. The digitization project will provide global access to artifacts, drawings, photographs, documents, and more, highlighting Latimer's personal and professional life and providing insight into his work, family, and legacy.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for recognizing the impact of Lewis Latimer's story, and ensuring that it is accessible to the public," says Ran Yan, Executive Director of the Lewis Latimer House. "This grant will allow us to inspire generations of innovators, historians, and advocates, dedicated to shaping a better future."

"Quote from Gardiner"

The digitization of the Lewis Latimer House's collections aligns with the museum's mission to provide underrepresented communities with the resources to thrive in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) fields. This funding from RDLGF matches the grant Lewis Latimer House received from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, marking a pivotal step towards an equitable future, where the contributions of diverse innovators are celebrated.

About Lewis Latimer House:

The Lewis Latimer House preserves and celebrates the legacy of Black inventor and humanist Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928). His historic Landmarked home serves as an open space that empowers and fuels tomorrow's problem-solvers by helping them cultivate the "Lewis Latimer Mindset" of imagination, connection and resilience.

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