



ROYALL HOUSE ASSOCIATION
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October 22, 2007

Mr. Frank Keefe, CEO
The Boston Museum
55 Court Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Keefe:

The Royall House Association is very pleased to offer this letter of support for the work of the Boston Museum. Greater Boston is blessed with many wonderful cultural institutions and heritage sites, but the history of our region tends to be scattered and presented in piecemeal fashion. We recognize that it is sometimes difficult for residents or tourists to glimpse the scope of our nearly 400-year legacy, to understand, as Governor Deval Patrick noted in his inaugural address, that "Massachusetts invented America."

Our understanding is that The Boston Museum, the city's newest "invention" in the arts and cultural realm, will strengthen the appreciation of our state's pivotal role by weaving the many threads of our history and presenting them as the essential fibers of the American narrative. We appreciate the museum's mission of broadening the appreciation of all that our region has to offer, its plans for joint exhibitions with other museums, and the shared work in educational programming that has already begun.

As importantly from our perspective, the Boston Museum can become an important partner in our efforts here in Medford. The Royall House and Slave Quarters is a National Historic Landmark that features a fine Georgian mansion and the only known freestanding slave quarters in the Northeast. We tell the important stories of "freedom and independence in the context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans." With a modest annual operating budget and limited funds for marketing, we believe we could benefit greatly from the Boston Museum's central role as a "portal" to the history of Massachusetts, and its connection to many of the region's hidden or underappreciated historic treasures.

Moreover, we hope that this partnership will also evolve in the area of educational programming and teacher training. We have made considerable progress in these realms, and the fit with your audience and outreach efforts has great promise. We look forward to further talks on how this partnership might develop.

We wish your organization every success in implementing your ambitious mission.

Sincerely yours,


John Woods
President

Recycled paper

The Royall House Association explores the meanings of freedom and independence before, during and since the American Revolution, in the context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans.

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