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# THE MUSEUM'S EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Education is central to the Martha's Vineyard Museum's mission to inspire all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections with this Island and its diverse heritage. Our renewed commitment to teaching Island history to each segment of the Vineyard community is every bit as transformative as the Marine Hospital project itself. By dedicating a significant portion (\$2.5 million) of its endowment to education, the Museum will assure the health, vitality, and growth of its education program for generations to come. This endowment is an essential component of the strategic plan to address the Museum's future needs, and an integral part of the campaign goal.

## **MUSEUM EDUCATION & SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Like many raised in rural communities, Island youth can benefit from a boost in self-esteem and pride in their Island heritage. It is vital to help these children understand that being a Vineyarder comes with a deep past that can be a source of strength and pride. The Martha's Vineyard Museum provides an opportunity to make Island life relevant by tracing its roots in the landscape and its unique history within the national context. By engaging kids in the Vineyard's story through structured lessons, field trips to see the collection, student-designed exhibits and educational programs on the Museum campus, the Museum enfold them into the community, builds connections and develops a stronger sense of identity by providing much-needed context and relevance.

In addition to working with the public schools, the Museum regularly collaborates with Martha's Vineyard Community Services, Island Grown Schools, The Farm Institute, and assorted independent artists and historians including the Martha's Vineyard Film Society.

## **THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AT THE MUSEUM**

While the Museum is growing at record speed, it is facing human and financial challenges when it comes to meeting the growing demands of the Vineyard schools. In the short term, MVM has addressed a capacity and facility deficiency by establishing a satellite program at the Mayhew Schoolhouse on Main Street in Vineyard Haven that began in early 2015 and will operate for three years. This has been funded by the Beagary Charitable Trust, and is known as the Morgan Learning Center. The Morgan Learning Center provides the MVM Education Department with an additional classroom and location with trained staff; a second venue (the Edgartown campus being the first) for summer Discovery Days children's programming; and an occasional event and exhibition space for continuing community outreach and audience development. In the long term, the Vineyard Haven Marine Hospital will provide an ample program space dedicated to children's education during the day and adult learning at night. Once again reunited on one campus, the Museum and its Education Department will function as planned. In these ways, and many others, the Martha's Vineyard Museum is building its future around education.

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION:  
A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY**

Grantors and donors in both the public and private sector have responded enthusiastically to the Martha’s Vineyard Museum’s commitment to education. In December of 2014, we learned that we were the recipient of a \$500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This grant was matched by \$1,500,000 in private donations creating a \$2 million endowment for the critically important educational functions that support the Museum’s humanities-based interpretive programs, including the position of Education Director.

A lead gift of \$250,000, donated by Dr. Roy and Diana Vagelos, is seeking to attract an equal amount from close friends and colleagues of Sheldon Hackney. Given a successful incremental challenge fundraising effort as part of the capital campaign, the Museum Board has resolved to designate \$500,000 in its future endowment to underwrite annual operating support for the Hackney Fellows Program, another component of the Education Endowment.

Although funding for the NEH challenge grant is complete, the Martha’s Vineyard Museum welcomes gifts of any size from individuals, families, foundations or corporations to the Hackney Fellowship Initiative. These gifts are considered gifts to the Museum’s capital campaign and are eligible for Named Gift Opportunities.

NEH Challenge Grant	\$500,000
Matching funds from private donors	\$1,500,000
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Core Education Endowment	\$2,000,000
Hackney Fellows Challenge	\$250,000
Matching funds from private donors	\$250,000
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Hackney Fellowship Endowment	\$500,000
Private donations toward general endowment	\$2,000,000
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Total MV Museum Endowment	\$4,500,000

The Challenge Grant from the NEH, in particular, was a resounding endorsement of the Museum’s strategy for strengthening and enriching its programs. Perhaps Andrea Anderson, Acting Director of the NEH Office of Challenge Grants, said it best: “the museum will increase public understanding of the humanities for residents and visitors alike. All agreed that the biggest beneficiaries will be the Island’s more than 2,100 public schoolchildren who will show gains in improved historical literacy and critical thinking skills. The museum is an important cultural entity for the island, and it has an opportunity to reach beyond its local audience to serve the many international visitors who come to Martha’s Vineyard each year.”