



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stanley-Whitman House Awarded Museum Makeover Grant

Museum Makeover is designed to improve the visitor experience at cultural heritage organizations throughout Connecticut.

FARMINGTON, Conn. – Stanley-Whitman House, a ca. 1720 National Historic Landmark located in the historic village of Farmington, is pleased to announce that it was recently selected for a Museum Makeover, a new collaborative project designed to improve the visitor experience at cultural heritage organizations throughout Connecticut. This two-year program provides twelve organizations per year with expert consultation and funding to make immediate, concrete changes that will increase their ability to effectively serve the public.

Stanley-Whitman House was selected to help curate an exhibit that would tell an inclusive and diverse history of Farmington in its Nancy Conklin Exhibit Gallery. The Museum Makeover includes two free site visits from a team of Museum curators who will examine the exhibit area and develop a plan to improve it and elevate the visitor experience. Stanley-Whitman House staff and volunteers will be actively involved in all phases of the Museum Makeover and will work closely with the Traveling Curators to implement the recommendations. Stanley-Whitman House will receive up to \$3,000 to help cover the costs of upgrading the exhibit gallery. In addition, Stanley-Whitman House will receive a free consultation with a marketing professional who will provide guidance on how they can promote the transformations completed through the Museum Makeover program.

“Prioritizing and securing funds to redesign the museum's permanent exhibit has been extremely challenging but imperative to do in light of the moment that we are in with regard to effectively telling the hard histories of Indigenous erasure and the enslavement of captive peoples which is a particular challenge for a colonial museum. We, like so many other institutions, are reassessing everything and we do in spite of limited staff, bandwidth, and resources but we’re set upon making progress. The Museum Makeover engagement and funding will be a tremendous kick start to our efforts significantly setting the bar and creating the template for how we might then address other rooms in the historic house and, for that matter, our other historic properties that we steward and care for.” - Andres A. Verzosa, Executive Director, Stanley-Whitman House.

Museum Makeover is a program of [Conservation ConneCTion](#) and is supported through a partnership with the [Connecticut League of History Organizations](#) and funded by a grant from the CT Cultural Fund. The CT Cultural Fund is administered by CT Humanities, with funding provided by the [Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts](#) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

Stanley-Whitman House, a National Historic Landmark, is a living history center and Museum that teaches through the collection, preservation, research, and dynamic interpretation of the history and culture of 17th- to 19th-Century Farmington, Connecticut. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to immerse themselves in history by doing, acting, questioning, and engaging in colonial life and the ideas that formed the foundation of that culture. The Museum facility is centered on a ca. 1720 house furnished with period antiques. Surrounding the house are period raised bed gardens, an apple orchard, and heritage stone walls. The Museum manages Memento Mori, Farmington’s ancient burial ground on Main Street, Scott Swamp Cemetery on Route 6, and the Village Green, located at the intersection of Routes 4 and 10. Stanley-Whitman House is supported in part by the Farmington Village Green and Library Association. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and by appointment. Last tour leaves at 4:00 pm. For more information, visit <https://s-wh.org/>.

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