



MEDIA RELEASE

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Brick Store Museum Contact: Tracy Baetz, 207-985-4802, info@brickstoremuseum.org

IMLS Contact: Jeannine Mjoseth, 202-653-4632, jmjoseth@imls.gov

BRICK STORE MUSEUM RECEIVES CONSERVATION BOOKSHELF

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – Treasured objects and artifacts held by The Brick Store Museum will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books, DVDs, and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nation’s museums and libraries. IMLS and its cooperator, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), will have awarded a total of 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf by the end of 2009.

“The Brick Store Museum and our community as a whole stand to benefit from this award,” said Tracy Baetz, Executive Director of the Brick Store Museum. “Receiving the IMLS Bookshelf comes at a time when we are about to begin structural renovations on our museum’s historic buildings that are home to thousands of incomparable artifacts. We are helping to ensure that not only our streetscape but also our collections are poised for an even better future and will be here in perpetuity for all to enjoy.”

“We are very pleased to announce the recipients of the IMLS Bookshelf in the second round of competition. These libraries, museums, and archives are in the forefront of our call to action on behalf of America’s collections,” said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. “According to a recent national survey, our important collections are at great risk, and without them, the American story simply cannot be told to future generations.”

The Brick Store Museum is being awarded this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in history or art museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study by Heritage Preservation documenting the dire state of the nation’s collections. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America’s collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections. For more information on the conservation initiative, please go to www.imls.gov/collections.

117 Main Street ♦ Kennebunk, Maine 04043

207.985.4802 ♦ 207.985.6887 Fax

www.brickstoremuseum.org

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

About the Brick Store Museum

The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk's historic district and for more than seventy years has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region's rich cultural heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Admission to the Museum is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207-985-4802 for further information.

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