

# **Atwater Kent Museum**

## **Plans for Fiscal Year 2019:**

Fiscal Year 2019 will be a transitional year for the Atwater Kent Museum/Philadelphia History Museum (“Museum”) as it begins the process of becoming less dependent on the City for funding support. The Museum will work to develop a new business model that will put the institution on a stronger financial footing and enhance the programming and exhibits that it offers. Together with the Managing Director’s Office, the Board of Trustees and the Atwater Kent family, whose name is on the 1826 historic building given to the City in 1938, emphasis will be placed on developing a strategic alliance with Temple University.

## **Major Objectives for Fiscal Year 2019 are:**

1. Execute a Memo of Understanding with Temple University detailing the key elements of a strategic alliance with the Museum. Capitalizing on the University’s intellectual resources, this alliance will be a multidisciplinary, cross departmental approach to using the Museum’s assets--including its vast collections of historic objects and its prime building location in the historic district--to advance student learning, increase faculty involvement, and promote community involvement and civic engagement.
2. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the Museum’s collection of over 100,000 objects to determine which objects are most essential to tell Philadelphia’s many stories; identify which pieces can be placed at other Philadelphia institutions where they would be more accessible; and identify which pieces might be installed in public spaces around the city to draw attention to rarely seen historic objects.
3. Implement a more aggressive space rental strategy for the Museum’s main floor space and garden.
4. Offer at least two public programs per month to keep the Museum active and lively with topics ranging from book launches with partners at Temple University Press, to lectures and conversations on contemporary topics drawn from relevant current events in and around the city.
5. Develop partnerships that will engage other cultural organizations that do not have fixed venues to present programs and events at the Museum. Discussions and interest has been established with several community-based arts organizations.
6. The Museum will institute new public hours in FY19 to maximize visitation, but align with the budget during this planning year. The new schedule of public visiting hours will be maintained until a new business model is adopted and ready to implement. The Museum will continue to host student groups Monday-Friday as requested.

**Proposed Funding Request:**

In the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund budget, the funding was requested at \$298,163. We are proposing to change that level to \$250,000, which is a decrease of \$51,887 under Fiscal Year 2018 estimated obligation levels. This is primarily due to no longer paying for four (4) staff positions, but providing general operating funding during FY19, a planning year to develop the alliance between the Museum and Temple University.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$250,000 in Class 500 only, a \$200,000 increase over FY18. This funding will support the storage of the collection and also provide general support for operations, collections, and programs during the transition year.

**Staffing Levels**

The department is requesting 0 budgeted positions for FY19, a decrease of 4 positions compared to FY18.

During FY19, the planning year, the Museum's board and Temple University will hire and support an Interim Executive Director and other necessary staff to run the Museum.