

# Worksheet for Dutchess Rev250 Programming Grant

January 2025

Use this worksheet to draft out your answers to the grant application questions.

When you are ready, *copy and paste* your answers into the grant application boxes.

If you wish to receive feedback on your draft application, send a copy of this file to Will Tatum at [wtatum@dutchessny.gov](mailto:wtatum@dutchessny.gov).

The grant portal opens on February 3, 2025, and closes on February 28, 2025.

## Application Boilerplate Section

Historical Society Name: [Pawling Historical Society](#)

Contact Name: [Nancy Reilly](#)

Contact Email: [nhreilly@gmail.com](mailto:nhreilly@gmail.com)

Contact Phone Number: **845 855 5356**

Contact Mailing Address: [126 East Main Street Pawling, NY 12564](#)

Type of Proposal: you will click a circle in the application next to one of the following options:

- **X Individual: my historical society is the only historical society involved**
- Collaborative: multiple historical societies are involved, with my historical society acting as the single fiscal recipient
- Collaborative: multiple historical societies are involved, each one is applying for funding for a different part of the project

*If you are uncertain about which option best fits your project, email Will Tatum at [wtatum@dutchessny.gov](mailto:wtatum@dutchessny.gov)*

If your proposal is collaborative, please list the other historical societies that are your project partners. You will have the opportunity to list non-historical society partners below.

Proof of Insurance: You will upload your certificate of insurance coverage here. If you hold workers compensation insurance, that should be included on your certificate of insurance coverage.

## Nancy?

Workers Compensation Exemption: If you are exempt from workers compensation insurance, you will upload your CE-200 Form here.

N/A

### Application Narrative Section

Project Title: *Exhibition: Washington in Pawling, A Quiet Yet Crucial Chapter*

1A. Click a box next to the project type for which you are applying. See the grant guidelines for the categories.

1B. Describe your proposed project. In your description, speak directly to how your project supports the overall goals of this grant. Please refer to the grant guidelines for specific information required for the different project types listed.

This immersive project brings the history of George Washington's stay in Pawling during the autumn of 1778 to life. By recreating the historical context of Washington's campgrounds, visitors will experience the challenges, decisions, and pivotal moments of the Revolutionary War through the lens of Dutchess County. The exhibit will include interpretive panels, artifact displays, visual depiction of the Fredericksburg campground, and a digital 3D reconstruction of the Kane House and its surroundings, where Washington stayed from September to November 1778.

2A. There will be a list of the AASLH Rev250 Themes. Click the box next to the theme or themes with which your project engages. See the grant guidelines for the list.

AASLH Theme Addressed: The Power of Place

This exhibit delves into the significance of Pawling during Washington's 1778 stay. The narrative explores critical events of the period, including:

- The aftermath of the failed Franco-American attack on Newport.

- The establishment of the Culper Spy Ring under Washington's direction.
- British supplies and movements and Washington's strategic response with the creation the Culper Ring spy network.
- Washington turned his focus to a crucial mission: maintaining morale and discipline among his troops.

2B. Explain the ways in which your project engages with the themes you have identified above.

### **The Power of Place in American History: Kane House Museum’s New Exhibition**

The Kane House Museum’s new exhibition, *George Washington in Pawling: A Quiet Yet Crucial Chapter*, powerfully engages with the theme of “**The Power of Place in American History**” by immersing visitors in the very landscape where Washington and his army once stood.

#### **Bringing History to Life Through Place**

The exhibition transforms the Kane House and its surroundings into a portal to the past, allowing visitors to experience the setting as Washington did in 1778. Through a **digital 3D reconstruction**, the exhibit restores the historic environment, making the physical space of Pawling an active participant in the storytelling. Visitors will see the encampment as Washington saw it, gaining a visceral understanding of the Revolutionary War’s challenges beyond the battlefield.

#### **The Strategic Role of Pawling**

By highlighting Pawling’s location as Washington’s headquarters, the exhibit underscores the **geographic and strategic significance** of this site in the war effort. The Fredericksburg encampment—positioned between British-occupied New York City and the Continental Army’s northern forces—was more than just a resting point. It was a place of planning, diplomacy, and intelligence gathering, shaping key Revolutionary War decisions.

#### **Artifacts and Visual Storytelling**

The exhibit’s **artifacts and interpretive panels** ground Washington’s time in Pawling in tangible reality. Seeing objects from the era within the very landscape where they were once used strengthens the connection between history and place. The **visual depiction of the campgrounds** further enhances this understanding, demonstrating how geography shaped the army’s daily life, struggles, and preparations for future battles.

#### **The Power of Place as an Ongoing Experience**

By integrating modern technology, such as **digital reconstructions and interactive displays**, the exhibit ensures that the power of place is not just observed but experienced. Visitors will engage with the Kane House and its surroundings in a way that deepens their connection to history, demonstrating how physical spaces hold stories that continue to shape American identity.

Through this immersive project, the Kane House Museum reinforces the idea that **place is not just a backdrop to history—it is an active force in shaping it.**

3A. Who is the intended audience for this project? Please be specific, avoiding overly generalized categories such as "the public at large" or "the attendees."

Target Audience:

- Primary: History enthusiasts, families, educators, and tourists visiting Dutchess County.
- Secondary: Local residents, students, and Revolutionary War scholars.

3B. What are the educational goals for your intended audience? What information do you wish them to take away after engaging with your project?

### **Educational Goals for the Kane House Museum Exhibit**

The exhibit, *George Washington in Pawling: A Quiet Yet Crucial Chapter*, is designed to engage visitors of all ages by providing an interactive and immersive learning experience. The educational goals include:

#### **1. Understanding the Importance of Place in History**

- Visitors will learn how Pawling's strategic location influenced Washington's decisions during the Revolutionary War.
- The exhibit will demonstrate how even a remote headquarters played a vital role in military planning, diplomacy, and intelligence.
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#### **2. Exploring Washington's Leadership and Strategic Thinking**

- Visitors will gain insight into Washington's leadership beyond the battlefield—how he maintained discipline, morale, and alliances.
- Through interactive elements, visitors can explore Washington's decision-making process and how he navigated challenges such as troop management, intelligence gathering, and diplomatic relations.
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#### **3. The Role of Intelligence and Espionage in the War**

- Visitors will engage with coded messages, uncover the methods of the Culper Spy Ring, and understand the significance of intelligence work in securing American independence.
- The exhibit will highlight how ordinary men and women contributed to the war effort through espionage.
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#### **4. The Fragility and Strength of the Franco-American Alliance**

- Visitors will learn about the correspondence between Washington and Admiral d'Estaing and how careful diplomacy helped sustain French support for the war.
- The exhibit will emphasize how global alliances played a critical role in securing victory.
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## 5. Life in the Continental Army at the Fredericksburg Encampment

- Visitors will gain an appreciation for the daily life of soldiers—how they endured hardships, trained, and celebrated victories, such as the anniversary of Saratoga.
- Through artifact displays and visual storytelling, visitors will understand how Washington kept his troops united and prepared for future battles.
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### Key Takeaways for Visitors

After engaging with the exhibit, visitors will leave with:

- A deeper appreciation for the role of **Pawling and Dutchess County** in the Revolutionary War.
- An understanding of **Washington as both a military leader and strategist**, beyond just his battlefield victories.
- Knowledge of **the power of intelligence and diplomacy** in shaping the war's outcome.
- A sense of connection to the **ordinary people who played extraordinary roles** in the fight for independence.

By blending historical interpretation with hands-on interactivity, this exhibit ensures that visitors don't just learn about history—they experience it.

4. How will you measure the success of your project? What methods will you employ to evaluate the impact of your project upon your audience?

- A 20% increase in museum attendance during the exhibit period (compared to previous years).
- Enhanced engagement metrics, including visitor surveys indicating increased understanding of Pawling's Revolutionary history.
- Positive media coverage and community feedback on the immersive experience.

5A. How will you document engagement with your project? For events, you should have a plan to record attendee zip code data and how the attendees heard about the event.

To ensure a lasting record of this project:

- The exhibit will be preserved in both physical formats (photographs and printed materials) and digital formats (PDF/A files and a 3D virtual tour).
- Digital video recordings of exhibit walkthroughs and visitor interactions will document the experience for future generations.

5B. How will you preserve a record of your project for future generations?

In addition to creating access on the PawlingHistory.org website, copies of all documentations will be given to the DCHS to share with other organizations on implementation and results of the exhibition

6A. What sorts of programming has your organization successfully offered to the public over the past three years? How does your proposed project relate to these previous achievements?

Over the past three years, the Pawling Historical Society has successfully implemented dynamic, visitor-focused programming that blends historical authenticity with modern engagement strategies.

Most recently, we enhanced our Washington exhibition space with **state-of-the-art interpretive tools**, including video displays and QR codes, which led to increased visitor interaction and overwhelmingly positive feedback. This success demonstrated the power of technology in deepening public engagement with local history.

Our proposed *Washington in Pawling* exhibition builds on this achievement, offering a **fully immersive experience** that positions Washington’s time in Pawling as a cornerstone of Dutchess County’s Rev250 programming.

In addition, we undertook a **comprehensive redesign** of PawlingHistory.org, creating a cohesive brand identity and streamlining navigation to enhance accessibility. A key feature of this initiative was the introduction of **VR tours** of the Kane House and Oblong Meeting House, allowing virtual visitors to explore these historic spaces remotely—an innovation that has expanded our reach beyond in-person attendance.

This commitment to **leveraging technology to enrich historical storytelling** directly informs the design of our new exhibition. By incorporating **interactive elements, digital reconstructions, and hands-on learning opportunities**, *Washington in Pawling* represents the next evolution of our mission: making history more engaging, more accessible, and more relevant to today’s audiences.

This experience in new ways to engage visitors have been incorporated into the design of the “Washington in Pawling” exhibition.

6B. How will your project expand your organization's engagement with the public?

The *Washington in Pawling* exhibition will significantly expand the Pawling Historical Society’s public engagement by transforming how visitors interact with local history. Through cutting-edge technology, immersive storytelling, and multi-platform accessibility, this project will reach a broader, more diverse audience and deepen their connection to Pawling’s role in the American Revolution.

### **1. Interactive and Immersive Experiences**

- The exhibit’s hands-on activities, secret-coded messages, and artifact displays will captivate visitors of all ages, making history tangible and engaging.
- A VR tour of Washington’s headquarters will offer an unprecedented opportunity to explore the Kane House as it was in 1778, bringing history to life in a way that static exhibits cannot.

### **2. Digital and On-Site Integration**

- Visitors can scan QR codes throughout the exhibit for bonus content, expert insights, and real-time updates, allowing for a deeper and more personalized experience.
- A refreshed PawlingHistory.org will serve as a hub for digital engagement, extending the exhibit's reach beyond in-person visits with virtual tours and online programming.

### 3. New Educational and Community Programs

- The exhibit will provide expanded learning opportunities, including guided tours, school partnerships, and special events tailored to families, educators, and history enthusiasts.
- Public lectures, panel discussions, and hands-on workshops will foster deeper community involvement, turning the exhibit into an ongoing resource for historical education.

### 4. Strengthening Dutchess County's Rev250 Initiative

- By positioning Washington's time in Pawling as a key narrative within the county's Rev250 programming, the exhibit will attract regional and national attention, drawing new visitors to the area.
- It will serve as a springboard for future programming, ensuring Pawling remains an essential destination for Revolutionary War history.

By combining historical authenticity with modern engagement strategies, this project will elevate the Pawling Historical Society's role as a leading voice in local and national Revolutionary War history, ensuring that Washington's time in Pawling is not just remembered—but experienced.

7. Please list any non-historical society community partners involved with this project and explain how they are supporting the project. If you are securing financial or in-kind sponsorships from outside organizations, please list those here.

None

8. While a formal match is not required, Dutchess County recognizes that historical societies bring many resources to their projects. Please list below the anticipated number of volunteer hours and any other resources that your organization plans to devote to this project.

We commit to contributing 120 volunteer hours for research, design, and implementation. This includes time dedicated to curatorial work, exhibit assembly, and promotional outreach. Currently much of the preliminary work (design, construction drawings, research, copy, scripting, digital assets, planning, budget, etc) is completed.

9. How do you plan to promote public engagement with your project deliverables? Please list all below and reach out to Colleen Dorney (colleen@dutchesstourism.com) if you need suggestions or feedback on a promotional plan.

The project will be promoted through:

- Rack cards promoting the new exhibition
- Facebook ads and posts targeting local and regional audiences.
- Press releases to local newspapers and online news outlets.
- Inclusion in the Dutchess Tourism Calendar and community event listings.
- Flyers and posters distributed to schools, libraries, and local businesses.
- All materials will credit Dutchess County Government and feature the REV 250 Seal.

10. Please provide your plan of work below. This plan should include each step necessary to successfully complete your project and approximate dates for completion of each step.

Link to Video of proposed exhibition:

[http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/b/7567400-665123883191281475/exhibition\\_video\\_for\\_upload\\_210.mp4](http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/b/7567400-665123883191281475/exhibition_video_for_upload_210.mp4)

Link to plan of exhibition:

[http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/exhibition\\_tour\\_plan.pdf](http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/exhibition_tour_plan.pdf)

Link to exhibition copy:

[http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/copy\\_for\\_signage.pdf](http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/copy_for_signage.pdf)

Link to construction drafting:

[http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/pawling\\_washington\\_exhibit\\_construction.pdf](http://www.digitalhistoryresource.com/uploads/7/5/6/7/7567400/pawling_washington_exhibit_construction.pdf)

11. Budget Form: You will upload a copy of your budget form, which is a spreadsheet, here. A copy of the budget form will be available in the grant folder on Google before the grant portal opens.

[Separate Excel spreadsheet](#)