

A Museum in Boston City Hall

For over the past 50 years or so there have been many attempts to establish a museum about the history of Boston.

This project begins with the premise that an ideal site for a Boston Museum already exists, is readily available, and is in plain view. With some modifications it can provide the same amount of space as the recently proposed Boston Museum to be built at Haymarket-- at less than half the cost.

The proposed location has been vacant and seldom used since the building opened in 1969. It is the open space on the fourth floor and provides views and connections to the city on all four sides. Best of all it can be accessed directly from City Hall Plaza without setting foot inside City Hall, giving it the opportunity to establish its own identity without affecting the existing public functions within City Hall. The only problem is that it has no outside walls and is open to the elements.

Members of the board of the Boston Museum effort strongly support the City Hall option and have offered to raise the necessary funds (\$50-\$75 M) should this gain the City's approval. The project offers significant opportunities to the City as well in long term operational and maintenance costs.

To achieve this requires three things:

1. Enclose the fourth floor.
2. Extend the existing floor plates to the outer columns and build a mezzanine, within the existing fourth floor.
3. Build a new lobby and elevator on the plaza.

The end product of this effort will be a series of conceptual plans and images that explore the opportunities offered by this extraordinary building. All work must be able to be accomplished within the established budget. All new construction will respond to the existing architecture, complementing and building on it. Concrete and brick were the materials of its time. We expect that the proposed new construction will use contemporary materials such glass and steel, as well as state of the art sustainable systems and technologies to help transform City Hall into a Legacy building for our time.

This effort will be led by:

Michael B. Williams AIA, architect/owner Building Opportunities

Licensed architect with extensive experience in planning public buildings. He served for 23 years as Director of Programming for the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management.

Henry MacLean AIA, architect/owner Timeless Architecture

Licensed architect, practicing, teaching and actively promoting Green Design with educational and civic institutions in the northeast since 1987. His work centers on solutions in architecture that integrate the healing of ecology with the spirit of place

Consultants: cost estimator, mechanical engineers, experts in museum design, experts in sustainable and green design,