

Grant Title: 103-19 Housing as History: The Story of Public and Affordable Housing in Boston

Grant #: 103-19

PO: JHW

Amount Requested: \$3,500.00

Sponsoring Organization:

**Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215**

Contact Information:

**Mr. Gavin Kleespies
1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215**



Application Form

1) Project Information

Project Title*

103-19 Housing as History: The Story of Public and Affordable Housing in Boston

Amount Requested*

\$3,500.00

Grant Period Start Date*

08/01/2018

Grant Period End Date*

12/20/2019

Project Summary*

The Massachusetts Historical Society requests \$3,500 to produce four panel discussions and a series of taped interviews that will explore the complex history of public and affordable housing in Boston. These programs will bring together scholars, tenants and administrators to examine Boston's housing story and connect the public with lesser known histories of grassroots neighborhood renewal, community stewardship, and cooperation between residents, government and private entities. With input from our project scholar, we have identified six housing developments that have varied and rich histories and will be the subject of the first three programs. The final program will synthesize what we have learned and bring the discussion to the present state of housing in greater Boston.

Boston has been home to a series of innovative approaches to public and affordable housing, even while dealing with a range of challenges such as segregation, white flight, urban renewal and gentrification. Perhaps the lowest point in Boston's housing history was in 1979 when the Boston Housing Authority's 62 public housing sites were placed in receivership after the agency was sued by tenants who described inhumane conditions and racial discrimination. Beyond being a painful moment in Boston's history, it is also the story that tends to define housing inadequacies in the city and has been cited as a reason why certain models, particularly public, can't succeed. We are interested in revisiting this history and with it, the stories of community empowerment and successful government intervention that are often left out of the narrative. Each of our programs will open with a recorded oral history interview with residents, who will also be invited to be a part of each program. We will also record each program and make the video available through our website, YouTube, and partner organizations, so the content of these programs can be available to a larger audience.

Discipline(s)***History: Local****Public Administration*****Urban Studies****How will the project be organized?***

The Massachusetts Historical Society will work with Lawrence Vale, our project scholar, as well as an external advisory group that includes representatives from The Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard Graduate School of Design, MIT, Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative, the National Public Housing Museum, Fenway CDC and Everyday Boston, among others, to develop these programs. We will host four public discussions that will center around a panel of guests who can speak to the unique character and history of six specific housing sites we have determined: Columbia Point and Commonwealth housing projects, Villa Victoria and Fenway CDC, Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative and Orchard Park housing project. The first three panels will pair sites that have historical or organizational intersections, while the fourth panel will explore the outlook for Boston housing and impart takeaways from the city's past successes and missteps.

Our first task will be to identify and contact prospective panelists who are currently engaged with these specific housing developments, either as residents, board members, administrators or scholars. Many in our advisory group already have established relationships with site administrators and resident board members and we will work closely with them to engage these participants. We will reach out to residents and ask them to participate as panelists and will also conduct a series of oral history interviews to ensure that the programs start with voices from the neighborhood.

In addition to populating these panels we will work with our neighbors at the Boston Public Library to identify branch libraries or community centers that may be appropriate sites for these discussions. We would likely hold the final program at our Boylston Street address to ensure this programming is identified as a Massachusetts Historical Society project, but would work to extend our reach into neighborhoods that include some of the sites we plan to discuss.

How will the discussion(s) be structured?*

These four discussions will be in panel form and will invite audience questions and input following conversation among panel guests. We aim to have each panel feature a diverse set of voices, including tenants or resident board members, housing project administrators, as well as scholars and past or present Boston Housing Authority officials. Each discussion will trace the history of the two featured housing developments, establishing intersections or divergences between the two models, and creating ample space for stories of lived experiences in these communities.

The first three panels will begin with the moderator setting the stage for discussion and introducing the topics, followed by the pre-taped resident interview, which will ground the audience with a lived experience narrative. Professor Vale will be providing historical context for panels one and three, while Professor Mario Luis Small will be the historical lead on panel two. The final panel will provide much needed synthesis of the historical themes raised throughout the series and will bring together those working at the intersection of urban planning and community

activism to address the future of Boston's affordable and public housing landscape. Ahead of each panel session, we will hold a planning meeting for each panel group to work out the precise content of each discussion.

Recognizing that these set of conversations will not be easy, we will be flexible with the event timeline, particularly the portion where audiences will be invited into the discussion. While we have traditionally kept public programs to a maximum time of an hour and fifteen minutes, we will keep these events more open-ended, anticipating that individuals in the audience might wish to contribute their own experiences and outlook and need adequate time for expression.

Describe the expected audience.*

These events will be open to the public and we will make extra effort to engage the residents of the public and subsidized housing developments we will discuss. While most MHS programming is held on site at our Boylston Street address, we are considering other locations for these discussions as a way to make this programming more accessible and appealing to those outside the Fenway area. We have connected with the Chief of Adult Library Services from the BPL and are considering branch library locations as possible sites for these discussions, as well as other rental space in local community centers.

The project is in keeping with panel series and programs that we have held in past that explore the history and social dimensions of urban development, design and community resiliency and activism in Boston. We would hope to reengage audiences that have attended past programs such as our "Transforming Boston" and "This Land is Your Land" series through targeted email campaigns and mailings.

While we generally charge non-members a \$10 entry fee for programs, this series would be free for anyone hoping to attend.

Should this project be given priority under the "Engaging New Audiences" initiative?

Humanities Issues*

By examining the lesser known housing history that is so critical to Boston's social fabric, we invited audiences to explore questions such as: What does a democratic society owe its most vulnerable residents? Historically, how have marginalized groups made a case for agency over their neighborhoods in urban places where space is seen as a commodity, not a right? How do we translate values like human dignity and respect into the built environment? To what extent can and should government and private agencies acknowledge the individual and collective needs of residents that they are tasked to serve? What are the legacies of racial discrimination and

generations of unequal power relations? Lastly, the question that will undergird the series as a whole, and will be explicitly addressed in the final program is: What lessons can be extracted from this history in order to work towards a more just, equitable and sustainable housing environment for future generations of Bostonians?

Should this project be given priority under the "Negotiating the Social Contract" initiative?

Yes. Along with all other manifestations of the social safety net, public housing has long been at the crux of the social contract question in urban environments. There is constant negotiation between activists, tenants, tax payers, urban planners, legislators, and local and federal agencies that determine to what extent we are collectively responsible for housing the most vulnerable residents.

We will ask audiences to consider several questions, including but not limited to the following: Historically, who has been deemed deserving of housing assistance by city and federal government? How have Boston residents and tenant groups lobbied for agency over their housing? How has the municipal government stewarded, or failed to support, policies that protect those most vulnerable to homelessness? At its most essential, what does the future of fair housing look like in Boston and who exactly should it be for?

Describe your outreach and publicity plans.*

Our first promotional materials for the program series will go out in August as part of our fall events calendar, which includes both an online and print calendar, the latter of which is mailed out to about 8,000 constituents. We also post events to a series of external calendars and maintain a very active Facebook and Twitter account, both of which are used to promote programs. Our print and online calendar, along with Facebook, tend to be our most successful promotional tools, but we also send e-blast messages about specific programs which tend to be very effective in reaching individuals who may not otherwise spend time seeking out our roster of events. If grant funding is awarded, we would include a mention of the grant and the MH logo in all of these materials that have not been printed prior to the grant award announcement.

Beyond our standard promotional materials, we want to reach new audiences and let them know about the series as a whole. If grant funding is received, we will print postcards and fliers and distribute these through tenant councils and post fliers at physical bulletin boards at the sites we are featuring and similar locations throughout the area. We will also work with our partners to invite their contacts. We will create a 'landing page' on our website that describes, in more detail, the premise of the program series and information about the specific housing sites that we will be discussing throughout our programs. These forms of promotion will help package the series as a continuous project and also serve as a single point of information where potential audiences can access logistical information, like date, time and location, and, in the case of the website landing page, provide some background into the themes and topics to be discussed.

Print calendars will be received by constituents in late August-early September. Website materials will be live in early to mid-August. Postcard mailers will be sent out in early September.

2) Nonprofit Sponsoring Organization Information

Organization's DUNS #*

██████████

Does your organization receive \$750,000 or more each year in federal funding?*

█

3) Personnel

Project Director's First and Last Name*

Gavin Kleespies

Project Director's Position/Title*

Director of Programs, Exhibitions and Community Partnerships

Project Director's Address*

Massachusetts Historical Society

1154 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02215

Project Director's Email*

████████████████████

Project Director's Daytime Phone Number(s)*

██████████

Name & Email Address of the Person Submitting this Application

Sarah Bertulli

████████████████████

Project Treasurer's First and Last Name*

Will Tsoules

Project Treasurer's Position/Title*

Chief Financial Officer

Project Treasurer's Address*

Massachusetts Historical Society

1154 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02215

Project Treasurer's Email*

[REDACTED]

Project Treasurer's Daytime Phone Number(s)*

[REDACTED]

Project Scholar's First and Last Name*

Lawrence Vale

Project Scholar's Position/Title*

Ford Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Project Scholar's Address*

School of Architecture and Planning

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Room 10-497M

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139

Project Scholar's Email*

[REDACTED]

Project Scholar's Daytime Phone Number(s)*

[REDACTED]

4) Uploads

Events Listing (private and public)*

events listing.doc

Project Scholar's CV/Resume*

Vale bio and resume.pdf

Project Scholar's Statement*

dg_statement-Vale draft 6-27-19.doc

Budget*

dg_budget.doc

Additional Upload

Signatures Document*

Signatures document.pdf

Application Files

Applicant File Uploads

- events listing.doc
- Vale bio and resume.pdf
- dg_statement-Vale draft 6-27-19.doc
- dg_budget.doc
- Signatures document.pdf

MASS HUMANITIES GRANTS EVENTS LISTING


Use this form for both public and private grant events. Please complete ALL of the areas below. You may duplicate this page/table as necessary.

If funded, your public events will be included on our website and in our monthly emails, so please update Mass Humanities with any changes to your event(s) as soon as possible—online at masshumanities.org/events/submit-an-event/ or by emailing Melissa Wheaton at mwheaton@masshumanities.org.

Events should not be marked “confirmed” unless **all** information is confirmed.

Event/Session/Program Title	Housing as History: The Story of Public and Affordable Housing in Boston
Description	A public program series that explores lesser known histories of Boston public and affordable housing through public discussion and interviews.
Names of Moderators/Scholars (if applicable)	Professor Lawrence Vale, Professor Mario Luis Small
When (day, date, year, start time and end time)	October 2 nd at 6pm October 16 th at 6pm November 13 th at 6pm November 20 th at 6pm
Where (include exact location, including name of venue, address, city, zip)	Massachusetts Historical Society 1154 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02215
Contact Phone (include area code)	617-646-0515
Contact Email	[REDACTED]
Web Address	www.masshist.org/calendar
Cost (if applicable)	Free
Event Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> confirmed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public event <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tentative (firm by 7.19.2019) <input type="checkbox"/> private event

Lawrence J. Vale
Ford Professor of Urban Design and Planning
Associate Dean, School of Architecture and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Room 10-485, 77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
USA



Lawrence Vale is Associate Dean of the MIT School of Architecture and Planning, and Ford Professor of Urban Design and Planning in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, which he headed from 2002-2009. He was president of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History from 2011-2013. Vale holds degrees from Amherst College, M.I.T., and the University of Oxford. A Rhodes Scholar and Guggenheim fellow, Vale is the author or editor of ten books examining urban design, housing, and planning, including *Purging the Poorest* (2015 Best Book in Urban Affairs, Urban Affairs Association; 2014 Best Book on United States Planning History, International Planning History Society); *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (1994 Spiro Kostof Book Award, Society of Architectural Historians); *From the Puritans to the Projects* (2001 Best Book in Urban Affairs, Urban Affairs Association); *Reclaiming Public Housing* (2005 Paul Davidoff Book Award, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning); and *Planning Ideas That Matter* (2014 Best Edited Book, International Planning History Society). Other work includes co-edited books about disaster recovery (*The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster*), housing (*Public Housing Myths*) and urban design (*Imaging the City*). At MIT, Vale has won the Institute's highest awards for teaching and for graduate student advising as well as departmental awards for advising and service to students. His newest book is a fourth volume about public housing--*After the Projects: Public Housing Redevelopment and the Governance of the Poorest Americans*, published by Oxford University Press in 2019.

Lawrence J. Vale

Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 10-485, Cambridge, MA 02139

EMPLOYMENT

- Associate Dean, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, 2019-present
- Ford Professor of Urban Design and Planning, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT, 2009-present; previously: Head of Department, 2002-2009. Assistant Professor and Associate Professor, MIT, 1990-2002.
- Director, Resilient Cities Housing Initiative, 2013-present.

EDUCATION

Amherst College, Amherst, MA;

B.A. in American Studies, *summa cum laude*, May 1981.

New College, Oxford University, England;

Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations, June 1985.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA;

Master of Science in Architecture Studies, June 1988.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Selected Books: *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (Yale University Press, 1992; 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2008); Winner: Spiro Kostof Book Award, SAH.

From the Puritans to the Projects: Public Housing and Public Neighbors (Harvard University Press, 2000); Winner: Best Book in Urban Affairs, UAA.

Reclaiming Public Housing: A Half Century of Struggle in Three Public Neighborhoods (Harvard University Press, 2002). Winner: Paul Davidoff Book Award, ACSP.

The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster (Oxford University Press, 2005). Co-editor with Thomas J. Campanella; Planetizen "Top 10 Book"

Planning Ideas That Matter: Livability, Territoriality, Governance and Reflective Practice (MIT Press, 2012), Co-editor with Bishwaypriya Sanyal and Christina D. Rosan. Winner: Best Edited Book Award, International Planning History Society (IPHS)

Purging the Poorest: Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-Cleared Communities (University of Chicago Press, 2013); Winner, Best Book on United States Planning History, International Planning History Society, and Best Book in Urban Affairs, UAA.

Public Housing Myths: Perception, Reality and Social Policy (Cornell, 2015) Co-editor with N.D. Bloom and F. Umbach; Winner, Best Edited Book Award, IPHS

After the Projects: Public Housing Redevelopment and the Governance of the Poorest Americans (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Selected Articles: "All Mixed Up: Making Sense of Mixed-Income Housing Developments," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 2017. With Shomon Shamsuddin.

"The Politics of Resilient Cities: Whose Resilience and Whose City?" *Building Research and Information* (2014).

"From Public Housing to Public-Private Housing: 75 Years of American Social Experimentation," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 2012. With Yonah Freemark

"Empathological Places: Residents' Ambivalence Towards Remaining in Public Housing," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 16 (3) (March 1997).

Selected Fellowships and Honors:

President, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, 2011-2013
MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning Students' Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life, 2008; Award for Excellence in Advising, 2013; 2016; MIT Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, for Excellence in Teaching, 1999-2008; MIT Frank Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Advising, 2017

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for work on American public housing, 1995-96.

Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford, 1982-1985.

DISCUSSION GRANT PROJECT SCHOLAR'S STATEMENT

To the Project Scholar: Please provide a brief statement (*of no more than about 500 words*) explaining the humanities questions and/or issues that audiences will explore in the proposed discussion project.

Please also give a short description of strategies for leading and moderating a discussion, whether a small-group discussion or a panel discussion with a large audience. How will you help guide and push members of the audience in considering the above humanities questions and/or issues.

If additional humaniites scholars will be moderating discussions for this project, you may include information about how you may work together or unite the discussion sessions under a common theme.

I am eager to help the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) find good ways to engage the larger Massachusetts public in the vital humanistic issues raised by the complex history of public and subsidized housing in Boston. To many people, “affordable housing” is a social science issue or a technical matter of economics and finance, yet the most enduring questions deal with moral dimensions of racial and economic justice--decisions about who is welcome where. Early promoters of public housing, in Massachusetts as elsewhere, regarded it as a kind of reward for upwardly-mobile barely-poor households. Rather than a place to consolidate a city’s poorest residents, it was instead seen as a way to purge the poorest denizens from neighborhoods judged to be slums, and to replace them with a more morally deserving kind of citizen. By the 1960s, after white working-class families stopped applying because other public policies granted such households financially attractive options elsewhere, public housing devolved into an extension of the welfare state, a kind of ‘housing of last resort’ that it was never intended to be. And, then, with the advent of the HOPE VI housing redevelopment program in the 1990s, many city leaders saw an opportunity to try to forcibly return public housing back to its original reward model as a haven for the “best” of the poor—those with stable work and stable families.

Throughout this history, many in Boston’s communities and in government, have worked to protect the needs of the city’s most economically vulnerable residents, and these are stories that need to be told and discussed. The deeply fraught American experience with public housing provides windows into power relations, racial and gender discrimination, and community organizing. It reveals the possibilities—and limitations—of architecture and urban planning. Public housing, as well as other subsidized housing targeted to lower-income households, invites critical reflection about loaded policy terms like “entitlements” and “self-sufficiency.” The historical development of such housing asks us to reconsider the boundaries between public and private and to ponder the tensions between rooted communities and the hubris of outsiders who think they always know what is best for others. And, at a more visceral level ,it is about the difference between respect and disrespect.

These are not easy issues for MHS to discuss, and the series will have a much greater chance for success since the Society seeks to partner with neighborhood-based branch libraries. Moderating a discussion well depends on providing some framing questions that are, and feel, inclusive. This starts by choosing panelists with diverse positionalities, linking scholars to established practitioners and community residents who have “lived” the history, not just written about it. This seems crucial to getting a diversity of audience members to feel more comfortable in playing active roles in the discussion. I am particularly pleased that MHS proposes to commission some interviews with community members that will be aired at the beginning of the sessions; this should ensure that discussion of sensitive issues will be grounded first in personal experience, and then given the fuller historical contextualization that such stories so richly deserve.

DISCUSSION GRANT BUDGET REQUEST FORM

Organizations must demonstrate at least a one-to-one in-kind and/or cash cost-share. The cash cost-share must equal or exceed 10 percent of the MH funds requested, and the total cost-share (cash *and* in-kind) must equal or exceed the MH funds requested.

Please estimate all of your cash and in-kind efforts. Some common in-kind contributions are the use of facilities, supplies donated to the project, and volunteer time. Paid staff time dedicated to the project but not covered by the grant should be recorded in the cash cost-share column; all volunteer time should be recorded in the in-kind cost-share column. In Massachusetts, volunteer time is valued at approximately \$30/hour.

Category	Explanation (How did you arrive at each number?)	MH Funds Requested	Cost-Share		Source of Cost-Share	Line Total
			Cash	In-kind		
A. Personnel 1. Project Scholar	\$400 as honorarium for the Project Scholar.	\$400	\$	\$		\$400
2. Other Personnel (Project Director, Project Treasurer, other scholars, panelists, etc.)	\$100 dollar stipend for each panel guest, assuming each panel will consist of three speakers and a moderator. \$100 stipend for those who take part as interviewees assuming a total of eight interviews conducted. An estimated \$1,700 will be spent on MHS staffing for the program series as a whole, estimating five staff members per program, and a total timeline of 2.5 hours per program.	\$1200	\$2,900	\$	Internal MHS programming budget	\$4,100
B. Travel		\$	\$	\$		\$
C. Supplies (project & publicity)	\$1,000 to support the audio and video production of interviews, based on a \$20 per hour rate. \$900 for the cost of printing and mailing 1,000 postcards to advertise the series. \$500 as a donation to partnering organization Everyday Boston, who will help us conduct oral interviews.	\$1,900	\$500	\$	Internal MHS programming budget	\$2,400
D. Rental (space & equipment)	A budget of \$600 will be on reserve to pay for the cost of any rental program space.	\$	\$600	\$	Internal MHS programming budget	\$600

E. Other (please specify)	We will provide light snacks for program attendees at all four programs.	\$	\$1,200	\$	Internal MHS programming budget	\$1,200
TOTALS		\$3,500	\$5,200	\$		
TOTAL COST-SHARE			\$5,200			
TOTAL PROJECT COST (MH funds + cash cost-share + in-kind cost-share)		\$8,700				

DISCUSSION GRANT APPLICATION CONTRACT FORM

Carefully read, complete, and submit this form in digital format (Fax-to-File or scanned PDF) along with your online grant application. Your application cannot be considered if this form is missing or incomplete.

By signing this form, I certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

Project Title: Housing As History: The story of Public + Affordable Housing in Boston.

Amount Requested: \$ 3,500

Project Director

Print Name Gavin Kleespies Professional Title Director of Programs, Exhibition and Community Partnerships
Signature [Signature] Date 7/8/19

Project Treasurer (may not be the Project Director)

Print Name William Tsoules Professional Title CFO/VP
Signature [Signature] Date 7/2/19