



**VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AWARDED STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT FROM
DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE & PRESERVATION SERVICES FOR NEW YORK**

VALLEY STREAM, New York October 15, 2018 — In the first half of 2018, the Valley Stream Historical Society (Society) received a Strategic Planning grant from Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY). A statewide program that supports archival repositories that safeguard New York's historical records, DHPSNY provides a range of free services to eligible cultural institutions throughout the state, including historical societies. Joseph Coen, who lives in Valley Stream and is the Society's archive consultant, initiated the grant process. The archivist for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, Coen successfully guided the Society through a very competitive application process.

"The Board is energized by our evolving Strategic Plan (Plan). We are forming committees to address membership, fundraising, exhibitions, and archiving—to name a few. We realize that we have our work cut out for us, but we are ready for the challenge," stated Guy Ferrara, president.

As a part of the DHPSNY strategic planning curriculum, the Society is working with an outside facilitator, DHPSNY Program Manager, Anastasia Matijkiw. The Society, under Matijkiw's guidance, has participated in webinars; an online survey (identifying the Society's strengths, weakness, and goals); an all-day workshop, and finally, the crafting of a draft Plan. The final Plan will contain four main strategic issues and goals: board governance; communications and outreach; programming and exhibition; and collections stewardship. Submission of the final Plan will be made before February 2019 and implementation will begin immediately.

"Our services, particularly our Strategic Planning assistance, are geared towards helping organizations of their size think strategically about their future and help connect them to the resources they need. The Society has the potential to achieve a great deal in the community and the Strategic Plan will guide them in the decision-making process when it comes to resources, governance, programming, and collections."

Ed Fare, Mayor of Valley Stream and Chairman of the Society: "When our charter members and other long-term trustees passed away, we felt the loss. Those folks and countless others laid the groundwork of this great institution. Implementing a long-term Plan and building on what is already a solid foundation will enable us to continue to grow and improve our product—which is the history of Valley Stream. By using existing talent, tapping into technology, and capitalizing on the enthusiasm that both past and present residents have for their hometown—it's a win-win situation."

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Valley Stream Historical Society

In 1973, the Valley Stream Historical Society, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization was formed. In 2000, the New York State Board of Regents granted the Society its Absolute Charter. Mission Statement: "To bring together people who are interested in the history of Valley Stream and to collect and preserve historical records for the purpose of educating and fostering interest in our community." Additional information on the Society can be accessed at www.vsvny.org/historical

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)

DHPSNY is a statewide program that provides a range of free services to eligible cultural institutions throughout the state. DHPSNY is a collaboration between two long-running New York programs dedicated to service and support for archival and library research collections throughout the State: the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program. Through DHPSNY, New York organizations holding historical records have access to essential training and services, including archival needs assessments, preservation and conservation surveys, guidance with strategic planning, and to a variety of educational programs and workshops. Additional information on the organization can be accessed at www.dhpsny.org