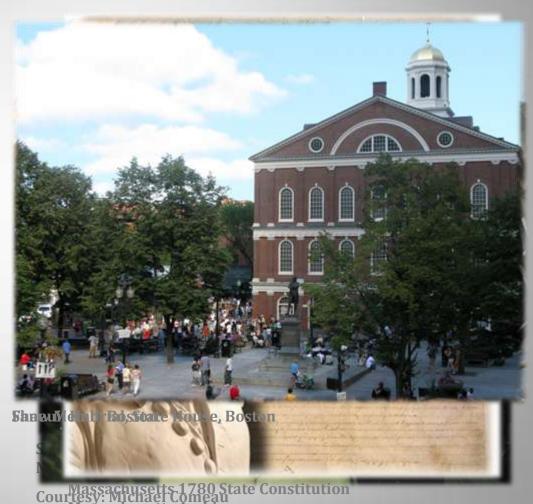
# Protecting Our Cultural Heritage

## What is Cultural Heritage?

### Cultural Heritage is:

- Our Identity
- Our Memories
- Our History
- Our Symbols
- Our Economy



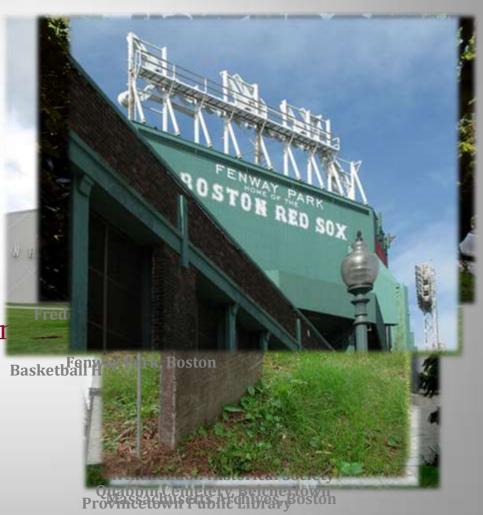
# What are Cultural Heritage Resources?

- Records
- Manuscripts
- Special Collections
- Photographs
- Audio/Visual Material
- Art & Artifacts
- Sculpture & Statuary
- Historic Sites & Buildings
- Parks & Landscapes



# Who has custody of Cultural Heritage Resources?

- Public Buildings
- Libraries
- Archives
- Museums
- Historical Societies
- Historic Sites & Building
- Cemeteries
- Places of Worship



# Why do Cultural Heritage *Institutions*warrant attention during an emergency?

These institutions can be critical to the recovery efforts of the community.

# Why do Cultural Heritage *Collections*warrant special attention during an emergency?

The collections can be valuable.

vulnerable.

rare.

unique and irreplaceable.

essential.

## What threatens Cultural Heritage Collections?

#### Natural Threats

- Floods
- Fires
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Blizzards
- Ice Storms
- Lightning



Flooding, Lawrence 5/19/2006 FEMA/Jocelyn Augustino



Tornado damage, 1953 Assumption College, Worcester Courtesy: Massachusetts Historical Society



Hurricane Diana, 9/12/1984 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin./Department of Commerce



Blizzard, Allston, 1/23/2005

## What threatens Cultural Heritage Collections?

#### Manmade Threats

- Damaged pipes
- Roof leaks
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Arson
- Terrorism



New Marlborough Public Library after arson Courtesy: New Marlborough Town Library



NYC, September 11, 2001 FEMA/Andrea Booher



Roof leak Massachusetts Archives

## What challenges might Emergency Responders encounter?

- People
- Visitors who are reluctant to vacate the premises
- Staff who are reluctant to leave collections and/or structure
- Unfamiliar building layouts and contents
- Vaults and other security systems
- Vulnerable collections
- Hazardous materials in collections

# How should Cultural Institutions prepare for emergencies?

- Prepare an institutional emergency response plan
- Work with local Emergency Management Director (EMD)
- Train staff and Emergency Responders in proper response techniques and a shared vocabulary
- Instruct fire, police, and EMDs as to locations of most important collections
- Conduct regular fire drills and tabletop exercises
- Learn how to protect and recover collections
- Establish recovery priorities for collections and facilities
- Stockpile recovery supplies
- Establish contacts with recovery suppliers and contractors

### We need to work together.

#### The cultural community may be able to provide:

- a familiar meeting location for the community
- information resources and internet access
- shelter space
- experience managing crowds of people
- recovery expertise and advice regarding collections
- sites for:
  - Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)
  - Point of Distribution (POD) commodities
  - Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC)

## We need to work together.

# The emergency management community may be able to help by:

- participating actively in developing a relationship between the two groups before a disaster occurs
- providing assistance with access to our institutions during a disaster
- cooperating with institutional disaster recovery response teams
- understanding the importance of restoring power to an institution (e.g. providing services to community, climate control issues, etc.)
- acknowledging our policy of 0% loss to collections

# If we lose our Cultural Heritage Resources...

...we lose the tangible expression of:

- our Identity
- our Memories
- our History



#### Prepared by:

Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness in Massachusetts (COSTEP MA)

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