

From: [Gwen Carr](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Matthew Boulay](#); [Stephanie Patterson](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Letter of Support Bush House Elevator Upgrade
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:22:56 AM

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the City of Salem allocating \$45,000 toward the historic Bush House Museum elevator upgrade.

As Director of the Bush House Museum, I am deeply proud of the progress we have made in recent years to care for this historic site while expanding who feels welcome within it. This includes the restoration and activation of the Servants' Quarters, broadening interpretation to better reflect the stories of individuals and communities long overlooked in traditional historical narratives, and ensuring that all visitors—regardless of mobility—can experience the full House. Reliable elevator access is essential to that work.

The Salem Art Association (SAA) has spearheaded fundraising efforts to advance this critical project. For several years, the Bush House Museum elevator has not operated safely, limiting access for staff, volunteers, and visitors. Addressing this issue is necessary to ensure safe and equitable access to the House, particularly for individuals who rely on the elevator to reach the second floor.

Throughout this process, we have worked closely with City staff and greatly appreciate their expertise, professionalism, and ongoing efforts to steward Salem's historic resources. Sharing in the cost of this repair represents an important investment in preserving a valued public asset while prioritizing safety, accessibility, and responsible stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Gwen Carr
Director, Bush House Museum
Salem Art

Gwen Carr
Director
Bush House Museum

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