

Public Notice: Archeological Plan for Transportation and Information Hub at Faneuil Hall

In cooperation with the City of Boston, the National Park Service (NPS) proposes to develop a transportation and information hub in Faneuil Hall. Dating from 1742, Faneuil Hall is a National Historic Landmark, owned by the City of Boston and included within Boston National Historical Park. The NPS is authorized by 16 USC Sec. 410z to enter into cooperative agreements to preserve, interpret, and maintain the building in partnership with its owner.

The project includes renovation and adaptive use of the existing floor space on the Market (street) level and Basement level to provide information on facilities and orientation/directions, including transportation options, for sites on the Freedom Trail and Black Heritage Trail in Boston and to other NPS units throughout Massachusetts. The facility will include a NPS visitor desk, interpretive exhibits, vendor spaces, public restrooms, a bookstore and an educational program space.

The rehabilitation of Faneuil Hall adheres to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68), to ensure that the work performed will not diminish the distinguishing qualities and character of the historic structure. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800), there will be no adverse effects to either historic structures or cultural landscapes.

Due to the potential for adverse effects to archeological resources during excavations for a second means of egress from the basement level, the NPS entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC), and the City of Boston Archeologist. The MOA stipulates that the NPS shall have a qualified archeological research team develop an archeological data recovery plan for the recovery of significant information from excavations done during construction. The archeological field excavations performed according to the archeological data recovery plan will be conducted prior to construction.

The archeological data recovery plan document has been developed and includes a multi-tiered research design comprised of several distinct task sets: 1) background research, 2) controlled field excavations, 3) post-fieldwork laboratory processing and analysis of recovered artifacts, 4) performance of appropriate specialized artifact studies, and 5) report preparation.

The area of potential effects consists of an approximately 15-x-15-foot area adjacent to the north side of Faneuil Hall and the excavation will be as deep as 15 ft. The archeological research team anticipates that approximately the upper five feet will consist of 19th and 20th century fills, plus disturbance from utilities. Below that depth they are hoping to encounter the fill dumped into the Town Dock beginning in 1728. Based on excavations of the basement 20 years ago, they are expecting to recover a wide range of artifacts, from ceramics and glass to leather scrap, shoes, wood, window leads, clothing items, etc.

All work will be conducted according to NPS guidelines, including NPS-28 (*Cultural Resources Management Guideline*); the instructions and intents set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended; the Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural properties (36

CFR 800); the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Guidelines*; the NPS scope of services for this project; and the MOA for the Transportation and Information Hub Project.

The archeological research team will obtain all permits necessary for these investigations. The archeological research team assembled for this project meets the Professional Qualifications Standards for Archeology (36 CFR Part 61) and 950 CMR 70.10. The team is headed by archeologists from URS Corporation, two of whom were involved in previous archeological studies at Faneuil Hall in 1990 and 1991. In addition, the team incorporates specialists from the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMB), the Université Laval in Québec City, and Cultural Preservation and Restoration, Inc.

Conservation to any recovered artifacts will take place following the plan, with no delay that might cause irreparable damage to the artifacts. Conservation will be undertaken at the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at UMass Boston. All work will conform to the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines of Practice, Documentation and Treatment.