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### **New Haven Museum Receives 2014 Bruce Fraser Award for Wooster Square Exhibition**

New Haven, Conn. (November 12, 2014)—The New Haven Museum has received the 2014 Fraser Award from the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) for its most popular and acclaimed major exhibition to date, “Beyond the New Township: Wooster Square.”

The Fraser Award is named in honor of the late Bruce Fraser, scholar, activist, and director of the Connecticut Humanities Council (now Connecticut Humanities) from 1982 to 2010. The award honors Fraser’s work in supporting and promoting the study, teaching, and preservation of Connecticut history, and sharing that history with residents of the State of Connecticut.

Each year the Fraser Award is given in recognition of “the best work on a significant aspect of Connecticut’s public history published or presented in a given year.” In presenting the award to New Haven Museum Executive Director Margaret Anne Tockarszewsky, ASCH Awards Chair Peter Hinks lauded “Beyond the New Township: Wooster Square,” for being “energetic, diverse, detailed, and entertaining,” and noted the exhibition’s most distinguishing characteristic was its collaborative style. He added, “The exhibition embodied the collaboration that the best public history is all about: the local institution with its space, preserved materials, and engaged staff summoning the broad community to interact with them integrally to weave a vivid chronicle that recounts and touches that community itself.”

“We are honored by the acknowledgement by ASCH for the work done by the New Haven Museum,” says Tockarszewsky. “It is especially gratifying to receive the Fraser Award for an exhibition that was so enthusiastically received by the public.”

“Beyond the New Township: Wooster Square” comprised an in-depth view of the Wooster Square neighborhood's 18<sup>th</sup>-century beginnings, the evolution of industry and the arrival of immigrants, the effect of urban renewal, and the impact of historic preservation. The exhibition was made possible with lead support from Connecticut Humanities, and was co-curated by Elizabeth Pratt Fox, a museum and historic-site consultant, and author and historian Wm. Frank Mitchell, Ph.D. It opened on June 21, 2013 and was on view through May 10, 2014.

In June, the show also garnered a 2013 Award of Merit for Best Exhibit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations, and this fall received a Publications Competition Award from the New England Museum Association for the exhibit's Family Guide, which placed second in the category of Educational Publications, Materials & Kits.

### **About the Association for the Study of Connecticut History**

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History encourages the study and awareness of Connecticut history through published research, historical exhibitions, its journal - Connecticut History, and its meetings and conferences. It annually recognizes the best work on Connecticut history through its three Awards--the Homer D. Babbidge, Betty M. Linsley, and Bruce Fraser.

### **About the New Haven Museum**

The New Haven Museum, founded in 1862 as the New Haven Colony Historical Society, is located in downtown New Haven at 114 Whitney Avenue. The Museum is currently celebrating 150 years of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history and heritage of Greater New Haven. Through its collections, exhibitions, programs and outreach, the Museum brings 375 years of New Haven history to life. For more information visit [www.newhavenmuseum.org](http://www.newhavenmuseum.org) or [Facebook.com/NewHavenMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NewHavenMuseum) or call 203-562-4183.

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