

**DATE:** August 14, 2025

**MEMO TO:** Elizabeth Hough, President  
Preservation Foundation Board

**FROM:** Alyssa Firkus  
Director of Education

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a grant of \$1,500 from the Bess Bower Dunn Museum Fund to host a program with local author and illustrator Matthew Cordell

**FINANCIAL DATA:** As of March 31, 2025, the balance of the Bess Bower Dunn Museum Fund was \$87,040.04. There are no outstanding grants from this fund.

If awarded, the \$1,500 will be disbursed as a single payment in 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** As the 501(c)3 charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves, the Preservation Foundation's mission is to extend and accelerate the Lake County Forest Preserves goals through private philanthropy to restore and preserve Lake County's natural and cultural resources in perpetuity.

Initial funding for the Bess Bower Dunn Fund came from the transfer of assets from the Friends of the Lake County Discover Museum, and revenues to this fund continue to grow due to solicitation efforts by both the Museum and Foundation staff. As stewards of the fund, the Preservation Foundation created a process for staff to submit a grant request to support the priorities of the Dunn Museum and the Forest Preserves, such as piloting a new initiative, extending or accelerating existing work, or securing matching funds.

In accordance with this process, a request for a one-year grant in the amount of \$1,500 has been submitted for review and approval at the August 14 Board of Directors Meeting.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Executive Director of the Preservation Foundation, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, and Forest Preserves Executive Director

**GRANT REQUEST:**

<b>Department</b>	Education
<b>Project Name</b>	Illustrator for Childhood Classics
<b>Project Lead (if not Director)</b>	Nicole Stocker
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	\$1,500.00
<b>Grant Period</b>	One Year
<b>Grant Purpose</b>	Extend or accelerate an existing project
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>In October, the traveling exhibit <i>Childhood Classics: 100 Years of Original Illustrations</i> will open at the Dunn Museum.</p> <p>As part of the programming to engage the public and enhance the visitor experience, History Education would like to bring in local author and illustrator Matthew Cordell. Cordell is a Caldecott Award Winner, and the author/illustrator of <i>Hello, Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers</i>.</p> <p>During the event, Cordell will discuss his work as an author and illustrator, read one of his books, and facilitate a draw-along session.</p> <p>During the demonstration, he draws step-by-step a character or characters from the book he has just read, and kids are invited to draw along (as well as any adult interested!).</p> <p>The requested amount covers the artist's fee.</p>
<b>Project Impact</b>	<p>Special programs attract new visitors to the Dunn Museum and encourage attendees who have already seen the exhibit to return.</p> <p>The program will also help raise awareness of <i>Alex Ross: Heroes &amp; Villains</i> among an audience interested in art and illustrations.</p>
<b>Additional Funding</b>	n/a
<b>Impact if not funded</b>	History Education will not be able to host the program.

**PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_
- Voice Vote Majority Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_