



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: Working Together to Preserve Local History

Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton

Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration

Signature: 

Program Overview

Sometimes the pace of change around us is so rapid that the past recedes with little notice. Newcomers may come to fast-growing localities to live there because of expanding job opportunities, quality of life, or opportunities for their children. They may not know the history of the area. It's one good reason to be on the lookout for opportunities to preserve history when possible. In 2016 a Henrico County Public Utilities Department employee discovered an inoperable 1895 "Corey" fire hydrant. Henrico County Public Schools students helped make this small part of history accessible to all Henrico citizens.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

In 2016 a piece of Henrico County history was discovered by a Henrico County Public Utilities employee. He learned that an 1895 "Corey" fire hydrant located in the county's Lakeside area was going to be scrapped. The hydrant had been inoperable for eight years. A utility technician for Henrico County volunteered to repair and restore the hydrant after overhearing his supervisor's remark that it would be thrown away and replaced. This was an opportunity to preserve a small part of fast-changing Henrico County's infrastructure history.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This project was a countywide collaboration. It involved the Henrico County Public Utilities Department, Henrico County Public Schools and the Henrico County Public Library. The installation of the Corey fire hydrant was a way for students from Henrico County Public Schools to work with Henrico County to preserve a special piece of the county's history. The students were able to save the county a great deal of money, while creating a strong vested interest among the students. They were extremely proud to be able to give back to the county in which they will live and work.

How Program Was Carried Out

The fire hydrant was located in the Lakeside area of Henrico County, built in the 1890s as one of Richmond's first suburbs. A Henrico County employee volunteered to repair the hydrant to working order and fully restore it as it was in 1895.

The 118-year-old hydrant had not worked in eight years and the employee had never restored a fire hydrant, but he liked a challenge, and had restored other old things. It took more than a year of trial and error and research to restore the old hydrant. His pristine, completed work on the hydrant is a great example of hard work and ingenuity.

This opportunity to restore the hydrant created opportunities beyond saving a piece of Henrico County history. Students in Henrico County Public Schools' ACE Center at Hermitage played a major role in the way people will experience the final product. Students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) precision machining program at the school designed and built a protective display case to help preserve the newly restored hydrant at Henrico County Public Library's Libbie Mill Library. To build the case, three students used frame and polycarbonate which they designed, fabricated, machined and assembled. The project took about 24 student "man-hours" to complete.

The project returned a piece of history to the public so that many can see it as it once was. It also gives students the opportunity to take pride in knowing that they had helped on this project to save and protect this piece of Henrico history for years to come. And it created an opportunity for a county employee to give something back by volunteering his time and money to a project he enjoyed doing for Henrico citizens.

Financing and Staffing

There was no cost to this project; all work and materials were donated to restore this wonderful example of Henrico County history. The students donated their time to construct the case, and Libbie Mill Library donated the materials required to build it.

Program Results

When the employee volunteered to restore the 1895 Corey fire hydrant, he had never restored a hydrant before. He knew he would have to do some research before he got started. After his research, he encountered a few hiccups trying to get it in working order. After about a year of work, however, he had it repaired, painted and ready for its debut. It is now fully restored, and it looks as it did in 1895, when it first went into operation. During the 118 years it was in operation, Lakeside residents' houses were saved because of this hydrant. Now restored, it has a new home. Henrico County's Libbie Mill Library has given it a place of prominence in the foyer at the entrance to the sparkling new library. A plaque informs library visitors about the history of the Corey hydrant, and about the role of students in the ACE Center at Hermitage.

Because students played this role in designing, building and assembling a protective display case to showcase the now-119-year-old hydrant, it can be enjoyed by library visitors for many years to come.

Brief Summary

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possible. In 2016 a Henrico County Public Utilities Department employee discovered an inoperable 1895 “Corey” fire hydrant. Henrico County Public Schools students helped make this small part of history accessible to all Henrico citizens by designing, building and assembling a protective display case to showcase the now-119-year-old hydrant at the Libbie Mill Library

Working Together to Preserve Local History Supplemental Material

