

# Montpelier Rising



## The Legacy of General Henry Knox

### A Capital Campaign Case Statement for the General Henry Knox Museum

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#### Executive Summary

The General Henry Knox Museum stands at the crossroads of American history, interpretation, and community identity. As a faithful replica of the original Montpelier estate built by Major General Henry Knox—Revolutionary War hero, trusted advisor to George Washington, and the first U.S. Secretary of War—the Museum interprets a legacy foundational to the nation and deeply rooted in Thomaston, Maine.

This capital campaign seeks transformational investment to strengthen the Museum building, fulfillment of the organization’s mission, and secure the Museum’s future for generations to come. Through strategic improvements to the site, collections care, and public programming, the Museum will expand its educational impact, strengthen community engagement, and ensure the long-term stewardship of this irreplaceable local, regional, and national treasure.

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#### The Opportunity

Museums and cultural sites across the nation face increasing pressure from aging infrastructure, climate impacts, and changing audience expectations. The General Henry Knox Museum is no exception. Critical needs now require comprehensive, forward-looking investment rather than incremental repair.

This capital campaign represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to allow the Museum to fully fulfill its mission by:

- Address critical building repairs and deferred maintenance throughout the Museum building
- Strengthen the physical integrity and safety of the Knox Mansion and surrounding grounds

- Elevate interpretation and educational programming
  - Position the Museum as a vibrant cultural anchor for the region
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## Why General Henry Knox Matters

Henry Knox's story is central to the American founding. From the daring transport of artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, to shaping the early U.S. military as Secretary of War, Knox exemplified leadership, ingenuity, and commitment to the public good.

The Museum tells this story through a historically accurate reconstruction of Montpelier, where visitors can experience the human dimension of history through place-based interpretation. Sustaining this site ensures that future generations can connect meaningfully with the values, struggles, and aspirations that shaped the United States.

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## Community Impact

The General Henry Knox Museum is more than a museum building; it is a community asset.

Through this campaign, the Museum will:

- Serve local schools with enhanced curriculum-aligned educational programs
- Support heritage tourism and the local economy
- Offer inclusive public programs, lectures, and events
- Provide a shared space for civic pride and cultural connection

Investment in the Museum is an investment in community vitality, education, and regional identity.

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## Campaign Priorities

### 1. Building Repair

- Structural stabilization, repair, and return of exterior features to their original appearance

### 2. Interpretation & Education

- New and updated exhibitions
- Expanded school and lifelong-learning programs

### 3. Long-Term Stewardship

- Light-filtering windows to protect the collection inside
- Collections storage and conservation enhancements
- Reserve funds to ensure ongoing care

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## The Campaign Goal

The General Henry Knox Museum seeks to raise **\$2.8 million** to fully realize this vision. This investment will fund the priorities outlined above and provide the resources necessary to move from reactive repair to proactive care and protection.

A detailed campaign budget and timeline are available upon request.

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## Invitation to Lead

Philanthropic leadership is essential to the success of this campaign. Lead donors will:

- Play a defining role in preserving a nationally significant nationally significant cultural resource
- Be recognized as partners in shaping the Museum's future
- Leave a lasting legacy aligned with education, history, and civic responsibility

Every gift—large or small—moves us closer to a future where the story of Henry Knox continues to inspire.

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## Looking Ahead

With your support, the General Henry Knox Museum will remain a place where history lives—not as a relic of the past, but as a living resource that informs, educates, and inspires.

Together, we can preserve this remarkable site and ensure that the legacy of General Henry Knox endures for generations to come.

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*For more information about the capital campaign or to discuss leadership giving opportunities, please contact Necole Janczura at [Necole.Janczura@thefirst.com](mailto:Necole.Janczura@thefirst.com) / 207-691-5219 or Barry Hodge at [comref591@gmail.com](mailto:comref591@gmail.com) / 207-852-6550.*



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