



**April 4, 2018**

**TO: Michelle Sadlier (Olympia Heritage Commission); John Freedman (Olympia Tumwater Foundation); Gang Ma (Olympia Area Chinese Association); Nancy Cordell (Olympia Genealogical Society); Ann Olson (Olympia Chapter #4, Daughters of the Pioneers); Sam Reed; Ken House; David Nicandri**

**FROM: Shirley Battan, President, Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum**

**RE: Olympia Archive Project – Roger Easton Archive and Research Center**

**Hello, Olympia History Community.**

**I write to you on behalf of the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum to let you know about an exciting new project being undertaken by our organization and to ask you, either as individuals active in the history community, or on behalf of your respective organizations, if you would be willing to provide letters of support for the project.**

**Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum is in the process of applying for a state Heritage Capital Grant for the 2019-2021 biennium for the purpose of acquiring funds to build a 2350 square foot archive facility on the grounds of the Bigelow House located near downtown Olympia. The building will house archival storage as well as processing, meeting, library, office and research space. Planned to be accessible to the public, the building will accommodate the now dispersed collections of the Roger Easton estate, the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum, and other materials not currently collected or accessible because of the lack of a community facility. Planned to meet all historic preservation, archival best practices—including climate control and fire suppression—and design standards, the building will fulfill an important**

need in Olympia which does not have a general local historical collections archive or research space.

The building will be named in honor of Roger Easton and, in addition to state grant and other funds, will be made possible through his bequest.

The state grant application requests letters of support from heritage organizations, local government agencies and professionals. We are very hopeful that each of you and/or your respective organization will be willing to provide such a letter with the understanding that a local archive facility as described above would be of great benefit to all of us in the local history community, as well as our community at large.

We are asking that signed letters be supplied by May 1<sup>st</sup> because the grant application is due May 18<sup>th</sup>. They should be provided to Shanna Stevenson at either [michaelstevenson@msn.com](mailto:michaelstevenson@msn.com) or 3515 Kensington Court SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important project! We look forward to hearing further from you.

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