





**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Mark Schaming 

**SUBJECT:** Update on Programs and New Acquisitions at the State Archives

**DATE:** September 26, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

The New York State Archives was established in law 48 years ago. The program to support the management and preservation of New York's state and local government records and non-government records has evolved significantly since then. Staff will review the current status of these programs, highlight recent acquisitions, and review the impacts of the local government records and documentary heritage programs as they celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

For information.

#### **Background Information**

In the spring of 1978 when the State Archives first opened its research room in the Cultural Education Center, the collection consisted of approximately 4,000 cubic feet of material. By 1982 the collection grew to 30,000 cubic feet. Today, the State Archives holds nearly 150,000 cubic feet of records, which includes over 80,000 maps, nearly 1 million glass plate negatives, four terabytes of electronic data, and thousands of hours of audio/visual material.

In 1976 the State Archives assumed responsibility for the oversight of local government records, providing guidance, technical assistance and legal authority for the disposal of records in nearly 4,500 units of local government statewide.

The State Archives assumed responsibility for records management for State agencies in 1987, including operation of the State Records Center which currently holds nearly 350,000 boxes of temporary records for State agencies. The State Archives has legal responsibility for authorizing the disposal or permanent retention of the records of executive branch agencies.

In 1988 the Local Government Records Law established a program of grants and technical advisory services to support local governments across the State. The State Archives was given responsibility for administering this program, which has provided nearly \$250 million in grants to local governments since the program's inception. In addition, a program of grants and technical services for non-government historical records, the Documentary Heritage Program, was also established in 1988, providing nearly \$1.3 million in grants and direct technical assistance to those repositories since the program's beginning.