About CAP

For every museum, the preservation of the collection is a major priority. The government offers Conservation Assessment for Preservation (CAP) Program survey grants that will assist in this endeavor. The CAP grant’s unique components are: the application is a short, simple, fill-in-the-blank format; and, more important, the government funds 100 percent of the grant—a much needed assistance for museums with limited budgets. The grant not only funds a collections assessment but also a review of the building by a vetted preservation architect. Every museum that I have ever worked with in the preparation of the grant has received the award.

The CAP survey addresses the basic needs of the collection, including storage, lighting, security, HVAC climate control, and other related conservation issues. These grants provide recommendations and priorities for long-range collection care and serve as a fundraising tool for future collection projects. The architectural assessor focuses on the interior and exterior of the building addressing issues affecting the museum’s environment. With the CAP survey completed, institutions can apply for condition reviews and then actual treatment work. If you’ve had a CAP grant you are still eligible for a ReCAP regardless of when you completed the previous survey.

I have undertaken 81 CAP/ReCAP surveys over the last 30 years. These are listed in the CAP Surveys by State link. Again, every museum that I have worked with in the preparation of the grant has received the award. If your organization would like to work with Conservation Ventures on the benefits of a CAP please contact me at barryrb7@yahoo.com. I can explain the timing of the grant and other essentials. There is no fee for my assistance. Since the submission period begins November 1st, now is the time to prepare for the application.