

2026 Longyear Museum Capital Projects

Museum Roof Hip Screw Replacement (\$18,000)

Longyear Museum's slate roof was installed in 1999 when the museum was constructed. After 25 years, the screws that hold the metal covers on the roof hips are no longer secure. There is concern that a strong wind could cause the metal covers to come loose, leaving gaps between the hipped sections where rain could enter. This in turn could cause the wood sheathing under the slate tiles to rot, eventually causing the roof to fail. We have contracted with a roofing company to replace the original screws with longer screws that will secure the metal covers and protect the roof. Half of the roof was addressed in 2025. The projects needs to be finished in 2026.

FloLogic automatic shutoff valve & leak detection system (\$7,500)

The FloLogic system is an automatic water monitoring and leak control technology designed to minimize or eliminate losses due to plumbing leaks. It detects irregular water flow and automatically shuts off the water to prevent water damage to the building.

Replace Chilled Water Coil (\$22,000)

This chilled water coil is an essential part of the air handler that provides air conditioning to the museum's main exhibit gallery. The air handler maintains appropriate humidity levels to protect the artifacts and documents displayed in the gallery. The chilled water coil is currently leaking and needs replacing. The coil is a custom-made part.

Museum Fences

There are two fences that surround the Museum property. Both need attention in 2026.

Replacing the wood privacy fence (\$80,000)

This wooden fence is 6' high and 300' long and borders the east property line behind the Museum. The fence is 25 years old and needs to be completely replaced. The fence is collapsing as the wood posts and paneling are rotted and cannot be salvaged. We are planning to replace the fence using steel posts and a vinyl, wood-like paneling. This will be a low maintenance, long-lasting solution.

Repaint the black decorative fence (\$10,000)

This iron fence is 4' high and 600' long. It runs along the north and west property lines and can be seen from Boylston Street and Dunster Road. The fence was installed in 1999. It is in good condition, although its finish is fading and becoming chalky. It needs to be repainted. This will be the first time we've painted the fence since it was installed.

New Portrait Gallery Exhibit (\$25,000)

Longyear Museum's Portrait Gallery features changing exhibits on pioneer Christian Scientists. The current exhibit was installed in 2016 and is scheduled to be replaced in early 2027. The theme for the new exhibit is Mary Baker Eddy as mentor and friend and will look at how Mrs. Eddy encouraged her students through her correspondence. Research, writing, and design will be done in 2026 with installation scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

2026 Mary Baker Eddy Historic House Capital Projects

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (400 Beacon Street)

This was Mrs. Eddy's final residence. While living here she founded made final edits to Science and Health, added By-Laws to the Church Manual, and founded The Christian Science Monitor.

FloLogic automatic shutoff valve & leak detection system – main house, carriage house, gate house (\$20,000)

The FloLogic system is an automatic water monitoring and leak control technology designed to minimize or eliminate losses due to plumbing leaks. It detects irregular water flow and automatically shuts off the water to prevent water damage to the building.

Lynn, Massachusetts

Mrs. Eddy laid the foundation of the Christian Science movement while she was living here from 1875 – 1882. In 2021, the Lynn house became a National Historic Landmark, the highest recognition for a historic site in the United States.

Repair rot and paint exterior (\$50,000)

The house was last painted in 2012. Thin and peeling paint has led to some rot on clapboards and trim, which must be repaired before the house is painted. This house reflects Victorian tastes and boasts a five-color paint scheme.

Improve security system (\$7,500)

Two new security cameras covering the outside of the house and general updates to the security system are needed.

Parking lot redesign (\$150,000)

Our large, unsecured parking lot can become filled with abandoned vehicles and unwanted activities. The parking lot is much larger than is needed for visitors to the historic house, and the blacktop is in very poor condition. Our goal is to reduce the amount of paving by adding more green space to the area. This project will involve engineering, landscape design, repaving, and securing the perimeter with more fencing and an added gate at the entrance.

Concord, New Hampshire

Mrs. Eddy lived here from 1889 to 1892. While here she published the landmark 50th edition of Science and Health, as well as Retrospection and Introspection.

Repairs to balcony and pillars, front porch (\$15,000)

This project was started approximately 10 years ago when we poured new footings for the columns and repaired the bottom half of the pillars. Repairing the balcony and restoring the top half of the pillars will complete this project.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Noah Ostler, Development Officer, nostler@longyear.org; 616.278.9000, ext. 231.