

Reading Area Firefighters Museum to be restored with grant

'The building itself is an architectural gem'

Amanda VanAllen Oct 14, 2017



There are more than 100 years of history in the [Reading Area Firefighters Museum](#).

"The building itself is an architectural gem," said David Silcox, the museum's secretary. "It was built in 1876. The third floor was added in 1895 by the Liberty Fire Company."

The museum is tucked away in the city's Callowhill Historic District. With so many years of history inside the walls, preservation is key.

"The renovations are going to not only help restore the building to its original complexion, but it's going to present a better atmosphere for all those people who are touring the building," said Silcox.

Starting this weekend, the museum will be closed for renovations. Crews are going to be renovating the entire first floor of the museum and a three-story staircase and will upgrade some of the displays that are a little older.

"We look forward to doing all that now thanks to this grant," he said.

All of the money to renovate the museum came from the [Berks County Community Foundation](#). In total, more than \$23,000.

"The museum was thrilled with the grant. They've been wanting to do this work for some time," said Jason Brudereck of the Berks County Community Foundation.

Brudereck said he hopes the grant will help the museum draw more visitors.

"A lot of people don't know about it, but it is worth going to and checking out," he said.

The museum is expected to reopen in January.