



Media Release

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Hi-res images available

For immediate release....

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Shaker Village Awarded Prestigious Grant from NEA

Museum to mount outdoor sculpture show in 2015

PITTSFIELD, MA -- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chair Joan Shigekawa announced recently that Hancock Shaker Village will receive an NEA **Art Works** grant. The \$30,000 grant will support *Modern Wings and Shaker Roots*, a large-scale sculpture exhibition scheduled for installation in 2015, during the museum's 55th-anniversary season

"These NEA-supported projects have a positive impact on local economies," Shigekawa said, "and provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the arts. They help our communities become more vibrant, and support our nation's artists as they contribute to our cultural landscape."

"We were thrilled to receive this prestigious grant," says Linda Steigleder, Hancock Shaker Village President and CEO, "and we are excited to mark this anniversary by working with living artists on unique site-specific sculpture and installations."

“The grant speaks to our relevance as a cultural resource, museum, and National Historic Landmark,” says Steigleder. “Artists are drawn to Hancock Shaker Village, which is an authentic, intact site, and to the Shaker legacy of innovation, craftsmanship, and streamlined design.”

Outdoor show, public education

Four artists and one guest curator will partner with the Village on *Modern Wing and Shaker Roots*, according to HSV Curator Lesley Herzberg, and most of the show will be realized and installed outdoors. “We are looking to these artists to be inspired by the museum’s landscape,” Herzberg says. “Their work will engage our audiences with new ways to think about the Shakers, their creativity and their history.”

The sculptures will incorporate recycled, found and other natural materials, so artists will be chosen on these criteria, along with their ability to address the Shaker aesthetic, says Herzberg. Two artists will install their work during the month of May 2015, and the other two will mount their installations in June 2015. The exhibition will remain in place through the close of the season in early November 2015.

The NEA grant also allows Hancock Shaker Village to bring underserved children to the museum for art-making experiences around the theme of design and recycling. These education programs will be facilitated both by the artists and visiting educators. “The grant allows us to examine the intersection of contemporary art and history, and between artist and admirer,” says Steigleder. “We believe enthusiastically that art and history are things we *do*, not just things we *learn*.”

The NEA received 1,515 eligible applications for Art Works grants requesting more than \$76 million. Of them, 886 are recommended for grants totaling \$25.8 million. For a complete list of projects, visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

About Hancock Shaker Village

From 1784 until 1959, Hancock Shaker Village, known as The City of Peace, was home to hundreds of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing, a close-knit community commonly referred to as Shakers because of the whirling, quaking and “shaking” they exhibited during their religious services.

Since 1960, the Village has been open to the public as a living-history museum and preservation project, with the Shaker legacy at its core. While only a few Shakers are still living (and none live at Hancock), they are best-known today for their simple and elegant furniture, ingenious inventions, and idealistic community focus.

Located on 750 acres in the beautiful Berkshires of Massachusetts, Hancock Shaker Village has more than 20,000 authentic artifacts, 20 historic buildings in a preserved rural village setting with costumed interpreters, a rotating schedule of exhibits, a working farm with heritage-breed livestock, as well as extensive gardens of heirloom vegetables, flowers and herbs. The Village offers a host of individual and group tours, classes and workshops, a mile-long accessible hiking trail, and picnic areas.

The Village Harvest Café is open daily from 11 am to 4 pm. The Hancock Shaker Village Store (also online), is open daily during visitor hours. The Store features unique gifts and locally made products.

Hancock Shaker Village is open from 10 am to 4 pm daily from April 12 through June 30. From July 1 to Nov 2, hours are 10 am to 5 pm daily. Adult admission is \$18; youth admission (ages 13 to 18) is \$8, and children age 12 and under are always free. Visit our website for more information: www.hancockshakervillage.org.