

Hancock Shaker Village 2019 Windgate Fellowship

Hancock Shaker Village is thrilled to partner with the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design to offer a 2019 Windgate Fellowship in the Collections Department. Reporting to the Curator, the Windgate Fellow will work alongside staff, interns, and volunteers at a vibrant outdoor museum and living farm in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Founded in 1960, Hancock Shaker Village seeks to enliven and preserve the story Shakers, a spiritual utopian community who lived at the site from 1790 until 1960. Through exhibitions, public programs, collections stewardship, agricultural operations, and permanent site-specific exhibits, Hancock promotes the appreciation of the aesthetics, beliefs, achievements, and controversies that continue to define the living legacy of the Shaker experience in America.

The 22,000 objects in the collection of Hancock Shaker Village comprise a veritable stronghold of American craft and design history that spans the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. Highlights include 20 historic Shaker designed and constructed **buildings**; iconic examples of Shaker **furniture**; **tools** and **equipment** associated with communal and commercial enterprises; **household objects** such as ceramics, glassware, woodenware, tinware, ironware, and basketry; **Shaker gift drawings** – distinctive works of art; **textiles** including costumes, household textiles, and specialty products; **graphic art** from Shaker businesses; and **archival materials** such as manuscripts, documentation, oral histories, and other ephemera.

Hancock's diverse collection provides the foundation for our rotating exhibition program. We advance new research and expand existing historic narratives through exhibitions that reinterpret historic collections. Further, we invite contemporary artists, craftspersons, and designers to use the whole of Hancock – our holdings, landscape, and legacy – as a site of inspiration for their work. Through immersive residencies, site-specific installations, and multi-media projects, we invite creative practitioners to bring the past forward, highlighting the continued resonance of Shaker design and making as a poignant counterpoint to the ways life is experienced today.

Fellowship Description:

In 2020, Hancock Shaker Village celebrates its 60th anniversary, and there are two major curatorial endeavors in motion to be unveiled in tandem with the 2020 open season (April – October):

- First, the museum will present a major survey of Shaker design and craft, installed throughout the Hancock campus that will highlight the best of the permanent collection. Organized into thematic sections, this exhibition will pair traditional Shaker design with works by contemporary artist/designer/makers whose works engage Shaker ideals. This exhibition is viewed as a celebration of the history and present of regional (New England-New York state) craft and design, a legacy inherently connected to the history, aesthetics, and ideals of the Shakers.
- Second, Hancock Shaker Village will continue an ongoing total collections survey – cataloging, documenting, rehousing, and relocation – with the intent of moving the collection into a newly-built open storage facility in 2021.

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The Windgate Fellow will assist with both of these projects in addition to other Curatorial Department tasks. Depending on the Fellow's strengths and interests, responsibilities may include:

- Assisting in projects related to collections stewardship, including object cataloguing, exhibit maintenance, library research, metadata recording and processing, digitization, and generally assisting the curator in projects related to the museum's collections-storage expansion. The Windgate Fellow will learn how to use the museum's collection database, PastPerfect, and be instructed in best practices for object handling and care.
- Assist with research related to the forthcoming 60th anniversary exhibition. In particular, to create a checklist and present a proposal of contemporary maker-designer-artists to consider including in this exhibition. The Fellow would also be asked to follow-up with studio visits accompanied by the Curator.
- Assist with the layout and design of the installation of the 60th anniversary exhibition.
- To contribute to the development of an exhibition catalog for the 60th anniversary exhibition through research, writing, and/or design.
- The Fellow will engage with Hancock Shaker Village interpreters – volunteers who continue to practice Shaker methods of craftsmanship to create chairs, oval boxes, baskets, woven cloth, and other fiber-based crafts. With input from the Director of Education, the Fellow would be asked to assess this program and offer suggestions to make it more engaging for contemporary audiences.
- The Fellow will learn to give specialized tours of the collection to special interest groups, collectors, students, and scholars.

Fellowship Parameters: The Windgate Fellowship consists of 400 hours to be completed between May 28 – August 23, 2019.

Stipend: an hourly wage of \$12.50. *Please Note:* The Windgate Fellow must provide their own housing and transportation.

Qualifications: The Windgate Fellowship is open to qualified undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in or recently graduated from academic institutions within the United States and its territories. The Fellow must have an enthusiasm for material culture, communal studies, and the museum field. A foundation in American craft and design, history, sociology or another subject related to the Village is preferred. The Fellow must have an interest in writing and research, a demonstrated ability to take direction and work independently, success working in a dynamic environment, the ability to work with fragile materials and lift at least 30-lbs, and a willingness to get their hands a little dirty.

Application Procedure: Applications must include a letter of interest, resume or CV, a short writing sample (2000 words max) and/or link to a portfolio of work, and a list of three professional or academic references. Address applications by email to:
Sarah Margolis-Pineo, Curator, smargolis-pineo@hancockshakervillage.org

Application Due Date: Monday, April 1, 2019

