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## **THREE TRUSTEES JOIN HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(HANCOCK, MA, February 11, 2021)—Hancock Shaker Village announces the appointment of three trustees to its Board of Directors: respected Shaker historian and former Hancock Shaker Village curator Christian Douglas Goodwillie, Director and Curator of Special Collections and Archives of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York; entrepreneur and community advocate Katherine Hand, owner/operator of Berkshire Cider Project in North Adams, Massachusetts; and choreographer Reggie Wilson, founder of Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group in Brooklyn, New York.

Goodwillie, Hand, and Wilson join 17 additional members of the board, chaired by Diane Eshleman.

“On behalf of the trustees and staff at Hancock Shaker Village, I want to express my excitement about our three new board members,” Eshleman said. “We are thrilled to welcome Christian back, as he was the curator here at the Village from 2001 to 2009, and brings deep historical, institutional and Shaker knowledge. Katherine’s experience with not-for-profits, combined with her entrepreneurial spark and longstanding connection to the Berkshires will bring crisp perspective and inventiveness to the Village, and Reggie with his passionate creativity and performing arts background will help us to enrich future programming.”

“We’re evolving, and a dynamic, well-rounded, distinct board is key in helping us preserve the Shaker legacy. To do that, we need to conserve the history and protect the artifacts, as well as make it relevant to today’s community conversations, allowing for preservation and connection for generations to come,” said Hancock Shaker Village Director Jennifer Trainer Thompson. “I am delighted to welcome Christian, Katherine, and Reggie to the board, and even more excited to work with them as we continue to tell the story of the Shakers.”

**Christian Douglas Goodwillie** is currently the Director and Curator of Special Collections and Archives and lecturer in the History Department at Hamilton College. He is a renowned Early American historian with an emphasis on the Shakers and other intentional communities. He is a Past President of the Communal Studies Association and has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Faith Andrews Fellowship Award from the Winterthur Museum (in 2007, 2009, and 2012), the Research Fellowship Award from the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (2017), and the Outstanding Paper Award from the Shaker Forum in Enfield, NH (2010). An accomplished author, his eleven books include works on the Shakers such as *Hancock Shaker Village: A Guidebook and History* and *Gather Up the Fragments*:



*The Andrews Shaker Collection*. He has authored more than twenty articles on a variety of topics for scholarly journals and popular magazines. He has curated many exhibitions on early American life and Shakers, including several at Hancock Shaker Village. Christian has an MS in Historic Preservation from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA in History from Indiana University, including a certificate in Medieval Studies and extensive studies at The Early Music Institute.

**Katherine Hand** is founder and co-owner (along with her husband, Matt Brogan) of Berkshire Cider Project – a new craft hard cidery based in North Adams. Berkshire Cider Project makes fine, dry, sparkling hard cider from local apples, including a special small batch made from the apples from Hancock Shaker Village's historic orchard. Kat also works part-time as part of the corporate sustainability team at HP Inc with a focus on Environmental Social Governance (ESG) strategy, communications, and investor relations. Prior to receiving her MBA at the Kellogg School of Management, Kat worked for several years grantmaking and fundraising for not-for-profits with a focus on education, economic development, and environmental causes. Kat has been coming to the Berkshires since she was a child and Hancock Shaker Village for just as long. She and her husband currently split their time between Washington, DC, and the Berkshires.

**Reggie Wilson** is the founder and leader of the Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, dedicated to researching, developing and presenting new work that investigates the intersections of culture and movement practices. In 2019, Wilson developed a new work POWER, based on the history of Black Shakers that grew out of residencies at Jacob's Pillow and Hancock Shaker Village. The work premiered at the Pillow and ICA Boston, and was to have premiered at Brooklyn Academy of Music in spring 2020. The company, which started in 1989, derives its name from experiences of enslaved Africans in the Americas who reinvented their spiritual traditions as a soulful art form that was dismissed as merely "fist and heel worshipping." Wilson's work draws from the cultures of Africans in the Americas and combines them with postmodern elements and his own personal movement style to create what he calls "post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances." He has served as visiting faculty at several universities including Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan, and is the recipient of many awards.

## **ABOUT HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE**

Hancock Shaker Village, a living history museum on 750 acres in the heart of the Berkshires, is committed to preserving the Shaker legacy. A National Historic Landmark, the property includes twenty historic Shaker buildings dating to 1783, and the oldest working farm in the Berkshires with heritage breeds and heirloom gardens. The museum is home to more than 22,000 artifacts including furniture, textiles, hymnals, and everyday goods, making it one of the premier Shaker collections in the world. Hancock Shaker Village exists to provide a historic context to the Shaker story, to preserve the site and all it contains for future generations, and to bring this narrative to life in compelling ways. The museum is located at 1843 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield, MA and on the web at [www.hancockshakervillage.com](http://www.hancockshakervillage.com)





Christian Douglas Goodwillie





Katherine Hand





Reggie Wilson