

# Hancock Shaker

V I L L A G E

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## IMPACT REPORT 2025

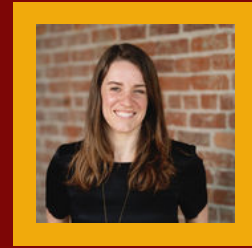


ART  
FARM  
FOOD  
IDEAS  
CRAFT  
HISTORY  
*SINCE 1790*

[hancockshakervillage.org](http://hancockshakervillage.org)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# ONWARD WITH MOMENTUM



2025 was a year of momentum and meaning at Hancock Shaker Village. Together – with visitors, members, donors, and our community – we deepened our commitment to preserving the Shaker legacy, while expanding the ways people learn, connect, and thrive on our grounds. We welcomed guests from around the world to our campus, expanded the depth and breadth of our offerings, and completed two critical preservation projects that safeguard the Village’s architectural and artistic heritage for future generations. Importantly, we broke ground on a critical step in our strategic growth and initiated construction of a new Visitor Center and Center for Shaker Studies. As the first major construction project in over 25 years, this new entrance to the Village will usher increased connections to the history, objects, and values we steward.

Our work this year focused on three guiding values: stewardship, learning, and community. Stewardship advanced through: the restoration of the Sisters’ Dairy and Ministry Wash House roof replacement; learning through the connections we made with our rich team of partners, collaborators, peers, and champions; and a priority focus on community was woven into every program – from Baby Animals to harvest celebrations – inviting people of all ages to experience the Shaker ideals of simplicity, innovation, and shared purpose.

We are grateful to the donors, members, volunteers, and staff whose dedication made 2025 exceptional. Your support ensures that Hancock Shaker Village remains a living place of history and a catalyst for contemporary dialogue around craft, agriculture, sustainability, design, and values.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will build upon this foundation with the opening of our new Visitor Center & Center for Shaker Studies – complete with three new galleries, research space, collection storage, and spaces for shared community engagement while continuing to honor the past and inspiring the future. We cannot wait to share the season ahead, and thank you for joining us in the season just past.

*Caroline Holland*

Caroline Holland, Director & CEO

# WHO WE ARE

Situated across 750 acres in the heart of the Berkshires, Hancock Shaker Village brings the Shaker story to life and celebrates their unique design, values, and approach to community. Settling in Hancock in 1790, the Shakers built a values-led utopian society, from which many American cultural heritage hallmarks were born. Their values, design ethos, and approach to innovation have been celebrated the world over, putting both the Village and the Berkshires on the map as a hub for the study of their craft, ideas, and disciplined way of life.

Operating as a living history museum since the 1960s, we now steward this unique Village of 20 historic buildings, a collection of nearly 30,000 Shaker objects, and the fascinating stories of the Shakers. Through unique tours, programs, workshops, special events, demonstrations, farm experiences, and other engagements, we welcome nearly 50,000 annual visitors to experience a walk through a novel chapter of American history.

## WE PRESERVE THE PAST TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE.



## MISSION STATEMENT

As stewards of the Shaker legacy, land, buildings, objects, and stories, Hancock Shaker Village brings history to life and works to ensure its relevance for future generations.

# BY THE NUMBERS

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65

Hosted field trips from schools across the Berkshire region

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28

New Shaker objects donated to the Hancock Shaker Village collection

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841

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm shares distributed community-wide

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6

Visiting chefs collaborated on 11 authentic farm-to-table HSV food events

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26

New donors contributed to our endowment and building fund via the Shaker Legacy Campaign

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1000+

Students experienced in-classroom chick raising through our signature Hatch Project

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3

Special film screenings of *The Testament of Ann Lee*, featuring scenes filmed on-location at Hancock Shaker Village

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6942

New cedar shingles installed on the roof of our Sisters' Dairy Shop (*approximately!*)

# PROJECT OF NOTE

## NEW VISITOR CENTER & CENTER FOR SHAKER STUDIES

Building upon years of strategic planning, design work, and fundraising, Hancock Shaker Village began construction on our newly imagined Visitor Center & Center for Shaker Studies in the summer of 2025. In partnership with designers from architect firm TSKPxIKD and the construction team from Allegrone Construction Co., we have initiated a comprehensive renovation to dramatically enhance and improve our ability to present the Shaker story through creative orientation, expanded program offerings, and close encounters with the museum's extensive Shaker collection in these new spaces.

With the dual goal of improving the visitor experience and protecting our world-class collection, we will soon benefit from three new exhibit galleries, climate-controlled collection storage, open storage for some premiere objects, a library, new lobby, vault, and multi-purpose programming spaces. The scope of the project also includes significant accessibility and visitor amenity improvements and will create an extraordinary opportunity to expand and improve upon our existing engagement opportunities. With construction on schedule, grand opening celebrations are slated for the summer of 2026!



Visit [hancockshakervillage.org](https://hancockshakervillage.org) to learn more about this ambitious new project and stay up to date on special grand opening celebrations.

# SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

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## Baby Animals Festival

Celebrating over twenty years of our iconic Baby Animals Festival, we welcomed nearly 15,000 visitors to Hancock Shaker Village over the three week program period in 2025. This signature festival, based in the Round Stone Barn, introduces visitors to the farm with immersive experiences exploring the life cycle of our livestock and a range of educational opportunities to learn more about our legacy Shaker farm - the oldest working farm in Berkshire County.



## Internship Program

The Village's 2025 summer internship program placed five college students across five departments for a ten-week intensive career preparatory experience. Living on-site in an historic Shaker building, interns worked full-time supporting curatorial, education, development, events communications, and farm programs to make meaningful contributions to a successful season.

In addition to our internship program, our team also offered extensive opportunities for young students to gain hands-on experiential learning through key collaborations with area high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, early education centers, and homeschool communities for accessible, free or low-cost field trip opportunities.

## Summer on the Farm

With an additional week added to the calendar, our sold-out Summer on the Farm program afforded more youth than ever the opportunity to experience hands-on farm life through four curated one-week adventures across our campus. Serving youth aged 6-14 years old, Summer on the Farm welcomed a record number of kids to experience life at the farm helping to care for our animals, explore our gardens, craft with fibers, wood, and metal, and learn more about the Shakers through buildings, objects, food, and culinary practices.



## Sisters' Dairy Weave Shop & Wash House Historic Restoration Projects

With stewardship lying at the core of our mission, we were able to accomplish two critical historic restoration projects on two buildings of our campus. Leveraging the generosity of the funds raised at our Summer Gala fundraising event, we were able to fully replace the roofs on both the Sisters' Dairy and Weave Shop, and the Wash House. Each roof was outfitted with historically appropriate cedar wood shingles and other various details like copper flashing and chimney repairs. These projects are critical to the care and long-term resiliency of our historic structures and helps to preserve the Shaker-made buildings for years to come.

## Authentic Farm-To-Table Dinner

Inspired by our heirloom gardens and the bountiful harvest season, guest chef, Kevin Kelly, treated a sold-out crowd to a farm-fresh meal, enjoyed communally in the gardens al fresco under the shadow of our iconic Round Stone Barn. Along with a talk from local author, Kevin West, about his latest garden cook book, our guests were treated to a literal taste of our garden with Shaker-inspired recipes shared under the stars. This meal capped off a successful season of Shaker Suppers, garden cocktail parties, beer and cider-paired dinners, and a host of other food events celebrating the rich history of Shaker culinary traditions.



## *The Testament of Ann Lee*

With acclaimed Director, Mona Fastvold, Hancock Shaker Village shared in the celebrated 2025 release of the full-feature film, *The Testament of Ann Lee*." With scenes shot on-location at Hancock Shaker Village across eight historic buildings and countless outdoor frames, this award-winning film depicts the life of the Shakers' founding spiritual leader, Ann Lee, played by Golden Globe nominee, Amanda Seyfried. We were thrilled to work with the cast and crew of this feature film to produce the work and share it with our community across several screenings, appearances, stories, and activations. Visitors to the Village in 2026 will have the opportunity to experience a behind-the-scenes tour of a few locations where key scenes were shot during several production visits to Hancock Shaker Village in 2024.

## CURATORIAL EXHIBITS

2025

Hosting eight unique exhibits across the Hancock Shaker Village campus in 2025, we deepened our engagement with visitors through a multi-sensory experience leveraging unique presentations, pairing our collection of Shaker objects with the work of inspired contemporary artists, crafters, academics, and creators. Also thanks to our additional 2025 exhibitors: Deborah Carter, Joanie Ciolfi, Kathy Greenwood, Dylan Kubis, Shany Porras, and Katie Rubright for the inspired examinations of our Shaker history.

### ***All Around the Room*, by Maria Molteni**

Interdisciplinary artist and Shaker researcher Maria Molteni's immersive installation brought to life a recorded trance experience of a young Shaker visionist, Ann Mariah Goff, into a playful, ephemeral form. Combining the concept of "borrowed light" in Shaker architecture with an 1837 transcription that describes dream-like visits to the City of Paradise, Molteni composed a range of mixed media materials to evoke an imagining of the encounter.



### ***Chaste*, by Steve Careau**

In his exhibit, *Chaste*, installed directly in the historic Tannery woodworking space, Careau creates sculptures that appear tool-like and device-like through their physical attributes, yet seem paradoxically to serve no obvious function. Given their idealized qualities, they offer the viewer a perspective into the realm of utility, thought, and idea.

### ***Imagining Shaker Sisters*, by Laura Christensen**

This exhibit combined Christensen's new works of art with historic Shaker artifacts. Using historic photographs to create sculptures, textiles, and weavings, her work explored the industries, images, and lives of early Shaker women. The poetic imagery and metaphor in Christensen's responsive art invites a visceral imagination of the past.



# ON THE HORIZON



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE NEW VISITOR CENTER & CENTER FOR SHAKER STUDIES, OPENING SUMMER OF 2026



## **A MESSAGE FROM BOB PLOTZ | CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

This past year has been one of meaningful progress and renewed commitment to our mission. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our staff, and the work of our Board, we have expanded the reach and impact of our work.

In 2025, we deepened our relationships with other Shaker villages and Berkshire institutions, strengthened the financial foundation of our organization and, most of all, broke ground on our reimagined new Visitors Center and Center for Shaker Studies, which will open this summer. These achievements are a testament to the community that stands behind our efforts and believes in the importance of what we do.

Non-profit organizations succeed because people care enough to invest their time, resources, and expertise. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported our work. Your commitment makes our mission possible.

We also recognize the extraordinary dedication of our staff and volunteers, whose passion and professionalism bring our mission to life every day. As we look ahead, we remain focused on building on this momentum—expanding our programs, deepening our impact, and ensuring that our organization remains strong for years to come.

***Thank you for being part of this important work.***



**SUPPORT HANCOCK  
SHAKER VILLAGE**

# HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025

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