



2019 Summer Internships, Mercer Museum & Fonhill Castle Operated by Bucks County Historical Society – Doylestown, PA

The Summer Internship Program, or Experiential Learning Academy, at the Mercer Museum & Fonhill Castle, allows a dynamic group of students with varied interests, strengths, and goals to immerse themselves in an outstanding educational and professional environment. Interns learn and work directly with professionals in a team-based, collaborative environment which offers experiential learning, mentoring benefits, and leadership building skills.

The internship begins on or about June 3, 2019 and lasts between ten and twelve weeks, until at least August 9, 2019, with an estimated minimum of 275-300 hours over that period.

Compensation: \$3,000 stipend

Cover letter, résumé and two references should be e-mailed to info@mercermuseum.org by Friday, April 5, 2019, with the subject line "2019 Summer Internship" and one of the preferred areas of interest below:

Interns will concentrate their work in one of the following areas:

- Education & Community Services
- Collections: Historic Preservation
- Fonhill Woodlands Research Project

Applicants should possess the following required qualifications:

- Degree or expected degree in American history and culture, education, humanities, museum studies, museum education, or a related field
- Demonstrated interest in museums, exhibits, programs, production, education, and history
- Strong writing, research, organizational, interpersonal, communication and computer skills
- Ability to work both independently and in groups
- Enjoy working with the public
- Sense of humor and positive attitude



Education & Community Services

The position of Education & Community Services Intern specializes in facilitating innovative, informal learning opportunities for museum guests of all ages at Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. The intern will participate in the production and execution of educational activities and/or materials to promote formal and informal learning for the Department of Community Services. This involves working with a wide array of guests (museum members and program participants of all ages) in varied capacities. In addition, the intern will work closely with other museum staff and assist with public and special programs and the overall daily operations of the department as needed.

- Education & Community Services: Each intern will be trained to facilitate hands-on educational programs, activities, demonstrations, and family-oriented events for guests, including summer camps, children's programs, and activities. He/she will also facilitate summer community or special programs with colleagues in the department as needed.
- During the course of the internship, interns may also explore an individual focus area, which will be assigned by their supervisor based on organizational need and the skills and the availability and interests of the individual.



Collections: Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Intern will focus his/her work on Fonthill Castle, the former home of collector, archaeologist and tile-maker Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930). The internship will address specific projects designed to improve the long-term integrity and preservation of this historic concrete structure, and its interior tile embellishments.

- This summer's main project will be to implement a series of tile stabilization and restoration strategies, developed previously by architectural conservators. Stabilization will include injection of a conservation-grade adhesive behind loose tiles with compromised bonds. Restoration will involve re-installation of tiles that have become entirely detached from their original sites, utilizing a two-part epoxy, and may include repairs to some fragmented tiles prior to re-installation. All of the work is to be systematically documented.



- An ancillary function of the internship will be to compile and organize prior studies and reports on preservation conditions at Fonthill, so as to create a comprehensive and accessible archive of these studies. Intern will be supervised by the Vice-President of Collections, but will also work closely with the museum’s Collections Manager. Opportunities to participate in other elements of museum operations, including programming and special events, will be included in the internship.



Aside from the general qualifications noted above, the intern should possess relevant manual skills and abilities, be able to climb stairs and ladders, and be familiar with basic restoration practices and methodologies. Instruction in specific techniques required for this project will be provided.

Fonthill Woodlands Project

Fonthill Castle, and the land on which it sits, is a wonderful community treasure. Built between 1908-1912, Fonthill was the home of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930). Archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramist, scholar and antiquarian, Mercer built Fonthill Castle both as his home and showplace for his famed Moravian tiles that were produced during the American Arts & Crafts Movement

This national historic landmark is a premier destination where people can explore art, history, and nature. The castle sits about 70 acres of woodlands in the heart of Bucks County, and extraordinary gift left by Henry Mercer for all to enjoy, explore, and nurture.

To honor Mercer’s naturalist vision for the health and integrity of the Fonthill Woodlands, we are embarking on a multi-year project that will support and enhance the property’s historical, ecological, recreational, and cultural benefits.

Key summer intern tasks that will inform future endeavors on Fonthill’s grounds and better serve the community include:

- Research primary sources pertaining to Fonthill Woodlands site and historic landscaping using organization records and collections
- Compile summary with documentation of historic detailed plans, maps and finder’s guide for future reference
- Other research duties as assigned

