2020 Summer Internships at Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle
Doylestown, Bucks County, PA
Operated by Bucks County Historical Society

The Summer Internship Program at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, or Experiential Learning Academy sponsored by BLBB Charitable, 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 museum professionals in a team-based, collaborative environment that offers experiential learning, mentoring benefits, and leadership building skills.

Background:

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County’s premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world’s most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle’s interior features Mercer’s renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.
Timeline: The internship takes place from Monday, June 1, 2020 until Friday, August 14, 2020, and is a full-time position at 40 hours per week.

Compensation: $3,000 stipend (housing option available—please mention housing interest in cover letter)

Application Requirements:

- Letter of interest / cover letter
- Résumé
- 2-3 professional references

Please email the above application requirements in one PDF to info@mercermuseum.org, with the subject line “2020 Summer Internship + Your Last Name”.

Please list your internship area of interest, in order of preference, in your email and cover letter:

- Education & Community Services
- Archives
- Exhibits

Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2020 at 5pm

All applicants should possess the following required qualifications:

- Degree or expected degree in history, material culture, education, humanities, museum studies, museum education, anthropology or a related field. Graduate studies students strongly preferred.
- 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
- Affinity for working with the public and helping with other duties as assigned
- Sense of humor and positive attitude

**Education & Community Services Intern**

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
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 be given the opportunity to explore an individual focus area assigned by their supervisor based on organizational need and the skills and interests of the individual.

**Archives Intern:**

The Bucks County Historical Society seeks a graduate-level intern to assist in processing its oversized archival collections, including maps, photographs, and certificates related to Bucks County and beyond. The project will involve a variety of archival processing tasks, including arrangement, foldering, numbering, and cataloging the objects into the organization’s database, CuadraSTAR.

In addition, the intern will work with the Assistant Collections Manager in a collections reorganization project which will help create more storage space in the library’s vaults. The ideal candidate is a student interested in pursuing an archives or library career. In addition to processing and cataloging, work may involve climbing ladders, lifting 50 lb. objects, housekeeping, and other physically demanding tasks. Other duties will include shifts as a gallery guide in the museum’s changing exhibit gallery, assisting with special events, and special lectures and enrichment activities.
Exhibits Intern:

The Bucks County Historical Society is seeking a graduate-level intern to assist in research and design development for two future exhibitions which will be presented in the Mercer Museum’s 3500 sq. ft. exhibition gallery. The intern will assist the Curator of Exhibits in developing exhibit concepts to prototype, as well as planning methods and instruments for conducting front-end and formative evaluation.

The intern will also spend some of his/her time assisting visitors in the museum’s temporary exhibition gallery, and will learn about other specialties within the museum field such as education and program planning. The ideal candidate is a student interested in pursuing a museum exhibition design or related career, and will have the ability to conceptualize and render design solutions for exhibits.