



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, March 13, 2020

Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle Coronavirus Response

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. – As we, at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, monitor the daily developments of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle continue to follow best practices according to official guidelines and announce the following measures in order to safeguard our guests, volunteers and staff:

Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle Daily Admission

In an effort to limit the pathways for community transmission, **the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle will close to the public on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 5pm and will remain closed to the public until Sunday, April 5, 2020.** This includes the library at the Mercer Museum.

Bucks County *200 Years of Bucks County Art* Opening Party

The exhibit preview event scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020 is canceled.

Community Programs

We have made the difficult decision to **cancel all public programming across our two sites at least through Sunday, April 5, 2020.** This includes:

- Fonthill Castle Evening Tours on March 13 and 14

- Fonthill Castle Tower Tours on March 15
- Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society Presentation about Alice Paul on March 16
- Mercer Museum Spring Crafternoon on March 21
- Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society Bus Trip on March 25
- Meet the Curator Exhibit Tour at Mercer Museum on March 31
- Treasures from the Library Vault program at Mercer Museum on April 2

National History Day at Delaware Valley University (Bucks Mont Regional Contest)

We still intend to pursue a virtual Bucks Mont Regional Contest for National History Day, and are in touch with teachers at Bucks and Montgomery County schools.

The situation is fluid and we will endeavor to do all possible to plan and execute a virtual contest given the changing circumstances and school closures in both counties. Updates will be communicated to teachers and students in the days to come.

All communication and questions can be sent to historyday@mercermuseum.org.

Need to Contact Us?

Please email info@mercermuseum.org if you have a specific question regarding any of the above and we will put you in touch with the correct staff member. Thank you for your cooperation as we take important steps to ensure the safety of our guests and staff members.

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About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

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.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown, PA and is open year-round. For up-to-date schedule and admission information, please visit mercermuseum.org or call 215-345-0210.

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.

Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA and is open for guided one-hour tours. Reservations are not taken in advance, and tours are booked at our Welcome Center each day, on a first-come, first-served basis.

About the American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

For additional information, please contact:

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