

Mellon/ACLS
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM 

Job Title:	Manager of Curatorial Innovation
Organization:	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Location:	Washington, DC
Stipend:	\$67,500 with health insurance for the fellow, professional development funds, and relocation allowance
Start Date:	September 4, 2018

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. Our mission is to protect significant places representing our diverse cultural experience by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support. The overarching strategic goal of the National Trust is to heighten its national impact and increase the scale of our preservation efforts. With a portfolio of historic sites around the country, a key element in this work is to re-imagine historic sites for the 21st century, helping sites across the country obtain high levels of cultural relevance, financial sustainability and preservation practice. Learn more at www.savingplaces.org.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Manager of Curatorial Innovation will seek out new stories, connections and themes within the National Trust's collection of more than 60,000 items located at 21 museum properties throughout the United States. This collection includes fine arts and decorative arts from the 18th-20th centuries, as well as textiles, archival materials, and ordinary household objects that help to tell the stories of a diverse range of places from Colonial estates to Presidential homes and retreats to Modernist icons.

As the National Trust works to re-imagine the future possibilities of its historic sites, the collection has tremendous potential to contribute to this reimagining. The National Trust has recently transitioned to a new collections management software that allows the collection to be managed and explored as one large cohesive collection with online public access to the collection for the first time. The newly created position of Manager of Curatorial Innovation will have full digital access to this collection and will be charged with developing new scholarship on both individual items in the collections as well as on the social, political, and cultural themes that cut across the collection. Working as a key member of the National Trust's Historic Sites Department staff at Trust headquarters, the manager will develop and implement digital resources to feed the new online portal for the collection and other platforms, as well as develop public programming at selected sites that will engage the public with this collection in unprecedented ways.

Under the guidance of the John and Neville Bryan Associate Director of Museum Collections and in collaboration with the Director of Interpretation and Education, the Manager of Curatorial Innovation will bring fresh perspectives to the curation of the collection with an eye to cross-disciplinary analysis and non-traditional interpretation. Depending on interest and organizational need, focus on particular sub-collections will be possible. Examples of these collections could include, but may not be limited to, garden objects and outdoor sculpture, fine and decorative arts, clothing and textiles, and furniture.

This position is *only* available through the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

The Manager of Curatorial Innovation will help the National Trust become a national leader in promoting greater public engagement with historic house museum and historic site collections by successfully re-imagining the way its collection is conceived from a series of collections at individual historic sites to a new model of a cohesive, nationally significant National Trust Collection. By leading these important interpretive and branding efforts, the fellow will be exposed to many elements of historic site operations, with a specific focus on curation, collections management, interpretation, and communication roles. By the end of the fellowship, the Manager of Curatorial Innovation will be well equipped to succeed in leadership roles in these areas.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Conduct research into the National Trust collection using internal resources at National Trust headquarters and historic sites, as well as external resources and repositories;
- Curate new interpretive stories for the collections that cross site boundaries as well as academic disciplines;
- Develop ways to deliver these stories to the general public and/or specific target audiences using the web and social media, via exhibits or programs at the sites, or through other creative methods;
- Research, develop, plan and write enhanced descriptions for individual objects in the collections database;
- Enhance database entries with improved bibliographies and supplemental curatorial research materials;
- Develop and manage the workflow of collections staff at the historic sites who will assist with the project; and
- Draw on the collection to help the Trust effectively engage with a larger, broader and more culturally diverse audience.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Excellent research, writing and analytical skills. Experience with material culture research and/or other museum experience a plus;
- Demonstrated success in and enthusiasm for communicating with and engaging culturally diverse public audiences and partners. Bilingual language skills a plus;
- Demonstrated ability to think creatively and find innovative ways to tell stories;
- Experience successfully managing internal stakeholders and relationships;
- Proven ability to collaborate with a variety of colleagues and partners to implement processes and achieve results;
- Ability to adapt and be flexible in a dynamic work environment;
- Enthusiasm and excitement about historic sites and museums preferred; and
- Familiarity with digital communications tools and relational databases a plus.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program:
www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 14, 2018, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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