



2022 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 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.

An integral part of the internship is the weekly Enrichment Program, where interns spend time with museum colleagues from across departments and learn more about museum careers, experiences and responsibilities.

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 of 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.





Internship Timeline: The internship takes place from Monday, June 6, 2022 until Friday, August 12, 2022, and is a full-time position at 40 hours per week.

The Bucks County Historical Society follows all state and local safety guidelines for COVID-19, and recognizes that the overall situation remains fluid and is subject to change.

Intern Compensation: \$3,000, disbursed in three installments throughout the summer (June, July and August 2022)

Application Requirements:

Please select your internship area(s) of interest, in order of preference, and list your preference order in your email and cover letter. The three possible areas of interest are:

1. Education & Community Services
2. Archives
3. Exhibits

All intern applications must be saved as a single PDF and should contain the following:

- A letter of interest / cover letter
- A résumé
- A list of 2-3 professional references

The single PDF should be emailed to info@mercermuseum.org, with the subject line “2022 Summer Internship + [Your Last Name]”.

Deadline: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5pm

Applicants should possess the following required qualifications (as well as any other qualifications mentioned in the individual intern categories below):

- Graduate studies students strongly preferred
- Undergraduate degree or expected degree in history, material culture, education, humanities, museum studies, museum education, anthropology or a related field.
- Demonstrated interest in museums, exhibits, programs, production, education, and/or history
- Strong writing, research, organizational, interpersonal, communication and computer skills
- Ability to work both independently and in groups
- Affinity for working with the public
- Helpful, positive attitude for other duties as assigned
- Sense of humor greatly appreciated!

Education & Community Services Interns

The position of Education & Community Services Intern specializes in facilitating innovative, informal learning opportunities at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle.

The 2022 Mercer Wizarding Academy Summer Camp is the highlight of this internship, and interns take leadership roles in managing groups of campers in “classes” such as *Potions*,

Defense Against the Dark Arts, *Care of Magical Creatures*, *Herbology*, *Quidditch*, and more. This unique museum summer camp experience connects history, science, literature, and magic in a one-of-a-kind castle setting at the Mercer Museum for ages 7-12. This internship is ideal for students contemplating a career in teaching, museum education and/or youth development.



Education & Community Services interns will also participate in the production and execution of educational activities and/or materials for additional community programs in the Department of Community Services, such as Old Fashioned Fourth of July at Fonthill Castle. This involves working with a wide array of guests (museum members and program participants of all ages) in varied capacities. Interns have the opportunity to assist with public and special programs and the overall daily guest operations of the department as needed.

During the course of the internship, interns will be assigned a short individual project based on organizational needs and the skills and interests of the individual.

Archives Intern – Gene Asro Photographic Collection:

The 2022 Archives Intern will assist with the re-housing of a collection of some 25,000 large format photographic negatives. These images were taken by Levittown, Bucks County photographer Gene Asro between the years 1962 and 1994. Asro's photos portray political and social gatherings, entertainment venues, clubs and organizations, sporting events, roadside architecture, and many other scenes of everyday life in Levittown during its early and developmental years. The collection also reveals the evolution of the landscape in Lower Bucks and nearby areas in New Jersey and Northeast Philadelphia during this period of rapid change.

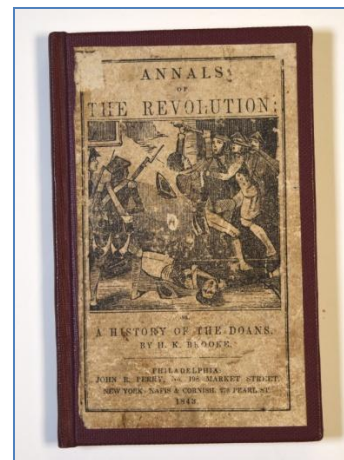


Supervised by the Bucks County Historical Society's Library & Archives Manager, the intern will complete the final stages of re-housing and labeling the collection of prints Asro created. Once the re-housing is complete the intern will update the collection's finding aid and put the final version into our database *ArchivEra* for public access. The intern will also work to digitize some of the noteworthy negatives and prints that exist within the collection and make those publicly accessible.

The project will require that the intern learns the Library's collections database, and adheres to contemporary archival best practices. The ideal candidate is a student pursuing an advanced degree in library and archival management, or related field. In addition to processing and re-housing, work may also involve climbing ladders, lifting 50 lb. boxes or other objects, cleaning shelves, and other physically demanding tasks.

Exhibits Intern – Doan Outlaw Project

The 2022 Exhibits Intern will join a curatorial project team developing an exhibition exploring the history and mythology behind Bucks County's Revolutionary War-era "Doan Outlaws." This gang, eventually comprising some 30 individuals, operated across the greater Delaware Valley region until their eventual capture, imprisonment, execution or banishment. Against a backdrop of warfare and deep division between those who identified as "Patriots" and "Tories," members of the gang stole horses, robbed government coffers, harassed local elites, aided in the escape of British prisoners, and engaged in espionage in support of the Loyalist cause. Telling this story in a planned 2023 exhibition will require imagination, and a flair for drama and creative design.



The Exhibits Intern will work closely with the Mercer Museum's Curator of Exhibits in developing a series of graphical and media elements to augment the exhibition's historical and material culture content. These may include video shorts, audio segments, or maps and other infographics. The intern will also conduct some front-end or formative evaluation work with museum visitors. The ideal candidate is a student pursuing an advanced degree in exhibition, graphic and/or media design; or a similar degree in museum studies (especially with a concentration in exhibit development). The intern must also possess experience and skill in the use of computer-aided design programs.