



## CONCORD MUSEUM

*The Museum's foremost educational goal  
is to connect people with Concord's past through object-based learning.*

### **Education at the Concord Museum**

#### **Exhibitions about Concord and the cultural history of the Nation**

A primary form of communication for the Museum, exhibitions create for all visitors a sense of excitement about Concord's history and its place in the development of New England and the Nation.

- Long-term exhibitions like *Why Concord?* stimulate visitors' questions and assumptions, link local to national events, and portray the diverse personalities that shaped these events, including the lesser known people behind the scenes.
- Changing exhibitions like *Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage* bring national attention to new scholarship in the fields of American history and decorative arts.

#### **School Programs bring Concord's history to life through experiential learning**

Each school program uses an interdisciplinary approach to support the work of the classroom teacher and engages students in the learning process through hands-on activities, role-playing and first-person interpretation.

- At the Museum students explore the world of Henry Thoreau, cook over an open hearth, analyze artifacts and documents as primary sources, solve dilemmas as 18<sup>th</sup> century citizens and work with tin in the roles of apprentice whitesmiths.
- Special exhibitions provide the opportunity to develop new curricula, online teacher resources, and educational collaborations.
- Outreach Programs bring the Museum directly to students in the familiarity of their classroom.
- The Museum partners with other local institutions and schools to participate in grant-funded teacher workshops which provide a forum for sharing ideas, techniques and scholarship that enrich both the teaching and museum professional.

#### **Outreach to inner-city youth**

As part of the Museum's effort to educate a wide audience, the education department is reaching out to low-income communities to offer on and off-site programming.

- A partnership with the YMCA of Greater Boston lead to work with the *Summer Learning Project*. The Museum supported summer learning at an academic camp that aims to close the achievement gap for low-income students.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay member "matches" are now welcomed to the Concord Museum free-of-charge year round.
- Participation in the Associated Grant Makers *Summer Fund* camp programs brings the museum's educational programming to inner-city camps through outreach and on-site programming.

#### **Tour Concord inside and out**

Tours meet the needs and interests of groups ranging from Senior Centers to the American Decorative Arts Society and from American Literature college students to three-year-olds experiencing a museum for the first time.

- Groups of all ages learn the true story of Paul Revere's famous 1775 lantern and can meet a living history figure to engage in conversation about Colonial and Revolutionary life.
- Student groups studying Emerson and Thoreau gain the unique experience of learning about historical figures directly from primary source objects.
- Customized tours meet the needs of groups studying unique topics, students with disabilities, and visitors with limited English.

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### **Public Programs foster a lifelong love of history, literature, community culture and decorative arts**

A broad and diverse calendar of public programs maximizes the Museum's ability to reach a greater local, regional and national audience and to establish the Museum as a center for learning and cultural enjoyment.

- Lectures, Gallery Talks, Informal Discussions, Author Readings/Book Signings
- Community-Based Programs, Open Houses
- Living History Performances
- Family-Focused Programs
- Early Childhood Experiences, Hands-on Experiential Learning
- Craft Workshops
- Outreach

### **The Cummings Davis Society for Museum Members with interest in American decorative arts**

Named after the Museum's founding collector, the Cummings Davis Society offers unique opportunities to explore in depth the finer aspects of American decorative arts.

- A rewarding way to support and preserve the Museum's collections.
- Visits to private collections and unique opportunities to tour important American museums and galleries.
- Gallery and behind-the-scenes explorations with Museum Curator David Wood.

### **Publications expand the reach of the Museum**

Museum publications sustain the interest of visitors, members and supporters and expand intellectual access to the Museum collections for a broad audience.

- Award-winning book *An Observant Eye: The Thoreau Collection at the Concord Museum*
- Award-winning Museum catalogue, newsletter and *Exploring Concord* video
- Articles in popular and scholarly publications including *The Magazine Antiques*, *Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar of New England Folk Life*, and *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*
- Photographs of the collection in textbooks, children's books, and scholarly publications as well as in programs such as the Discovery Channel's *Great Books*, the History Channel's *History Lost and Found* and PBS/WGBH productions including *Antiques Roadshow*.

### **www.concordmuseum.org - an informational and educational resource**

The Museum's website brings the Concord Museum to a world-wide audience, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

- The searchable online database of the Museum's Thoreau collection – the largest collection of Henry David Thoreau objects in the world is accessible for teachers and scholars through the Museum website or directly at [www.concordcollection.org](http://www.concordcollection.org).

### **Internships**

Structured Museum internships provide museum education experiences for high school, college and graduate students interested in the fields of museum education, public history, museum studies, American History, and literature.

- The education department hosts graduate students from a variety of institutions, but regularly accepts interns from Tufts University as part of their Museum Education and Museum Studies degree. Interns work on museum curricula, special exhibitions, family resources, and teacher resources.
- Through the stewardship project in the *Rivers and Revolutions* program at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, the Museum offers stewardship placements for high school students. These placements give high school students first-hand experience at the Museum working on important projects and initiatives related to their academic courses.

### **Staff Development and Volunteer Training**

All staff are encouraged and supported in their efforts to pursue educational advancement and further training. Training for Museum volunteers comes in many forms.