



#### **Media Contact**

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## ***Concord Museum Awarded \$5,000,000 Grant***

(CONCORD, MA – May 29, 2024) The Concord Museum is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$5,000,000 grant from an anonymous donor. This generous gift will provide critical support to the Museum as it continues to preserve and share Concord’s remarkable story for generations to come. The grant will enable the Museum to:

- Establish an Endowed Curatorship that honors Curator David Wood’s four-decade tenure at the Museum;
- Create a permanent endowment fund to preserve the Museum’s nationally significant collection of extraordinary objects;
- Upgrade the Museum’s IT infrastructure, including a new Customer Relationship Management System that will enhance visitors’ experiences, as well as a new Collections Management System that will further the Museum’s goal of making the collections accessible to all.

This transformative grant will propel the Museum forward in its mission to connect people to Concord’s rich history through thought-provoking exhibitions, vital education initiatives, and world-class public programs. The largest portion of the gift, which will fund the establishment of the Endowed Curatorship, will particularly bolster the Museum’s ability to tell Concord’s unique story into the future. “For decades, David has been a leading voice in this community, guiding the way we tell Concord’s incredible story,” says Lisa Krassner, Edward W. Kane Executive Director of the Museum. “We are overjoyed to be able to establish this position in his name.”

Additionally, the collection preservation endowment fund will be the first ever in the Museum’s history, significantly improving the institution’s ability to provide long-term care for the collections. As an organization committed to object-based learning, the Museum will use this new fund to not only steward and preserve its valuable historical holdings for the future, but will also leverage the preservation fund to facilitate greater access to the collections for all audiences, including educators and students, scholars and researchers, and visitors.

The gift arrives at a momentous time as Concord prepares to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution. “Through our 250<sup>th</sup> special exhibitions and public programming, the Museum will highlight the diverse, everyday experiences of the Revolution, providing a fresh and inclusive account of this history,” says Krassner. “Receiving this incredible support at this particular moment will only serve to strengthen our ability to undertake this important work.”

#### **About the Concord Museum**

Founded in 1886, the Museum houses one of the most treasured collections of American material culture and decorative arts in the country, consisting of over 45,000 objects. Highlights include the



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original lantern used as a signal on the night of Paul Revere's famous midnight ride, the writing desk of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the largest collection of objects related to Henry David Thoreau anywhere in the world. The Museum showcases the many layers of Concord's history, including Concord's pivotal role in the beginning of the American Revolution, the writings of celebrated Transcendentalists, the rich history and survivance of local indigenous communities, a strong legacy of antislavery activism, and innovations in education and agriculture. Through immersive permanent and special exhibitions, dynamic public programs, and vital education initiatives, the Museum brings Concord's remarkable past to life for all.