

James Madison's Montpelier

Public Historian in Residence

As part of its new ten-year Constitution Initiative, James Madison's Montpelier, the historic plantation of President James Madison in Orange, Virginia, seeks applicants for a Public Historian in Residence.

James Madison believed that an informed and engaged populace was essential for a democratic republic. As stewards of his lifelong home, we have been inspiring visitors since 1987 with the story of Madison's preparatory work for the Constitutional Convention that resulted in the outline of our national charter, his authorship of the Bill of Rights, his four terms in the U.S. Congress, and his service as Secretary of State and President. Yet, as a lifelong slaveholder, Madison also betrayed the ideals to which he devoted his life. Beyond providing basic education on the Constitution, Montpelier seeks to engage public audiences in difficult conversations on its failings, its changes over time, and its contemporary relevance.

The Public Historian in Residence program is an annual fellowship that invites an emerging scholar in the fields of history, public history, political science, or law to collaborate with the Museum Programs team, providing expertise and scholarly perspectives on upcoming public programs and exhibitions that appeal to diverse, multi-generational and broad audiences. The aim is to infuse Montpelier with new, innovative, creative, and intellectual perspectives that supplement current expertise and offerings.

James Madison's Montpelier is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce. We strongly encourage members of traditionally underrepresented communities to apply.

Required Qualifications

- The Public Historian is expected to be in residence for a full academic year (August through May).
- Minimum Masters Degree (PhD preferred) with subject matter expertise in history, public history, political science, or law preferred.
- Ability, experience and willingness to work closely, respectfully, and effectively with members of the public as well as staff, board members, and Descendants of those enslaved at Montpelier
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Remuneration

- This is a salaried position. Pay will be \$5,000 per month for a 10-month appointment (August 2021 - May 2022; precise start and end dates negotiable). Payment will be made on a biweekly basis.

- The Public Historian in Residence is an employee of The Montpelier Foundation with access to Montpelier's full benefits package, including health insurance.

Application Procedure

- To apply for the Public Historian in Residence position, submit a statement of no more than 1,000 words addressing your intellectual/academic interests, how work at James Madison's Montpelier can help you further your professional goals, and your qualifications for this position.
- Submit a Curriculum Vitae, including educational and professional history, awards, and bibliography of published work.
- Submit two academic letters of recommendation.