



Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

Public History Fellowship Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

The oldest community-based museum in the country, the Sheldon Museum has welcomed visitors and researchers since 1884. Local businessman and tireless collector Henry Sheldon filled the Museum with Vermont furniture, paintings, textiles, documents, household objects, and artifacts that provide a glimpse into Addison County's and Vermont's past. The Museum is housed in an historic 1829 Federal house and in addition to the permanent collection, includes a Research Center with an exceptional archival collection, exhibit galleries, lovely garden and barn, and Museum Store in the heart of the vibrant college town of Middlebury, Vermont. Residing in a thriving area between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our region frequently appears on lists of the best places to live and work.

<https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/>

Description

The Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History (HSM) seeks a Public History Fellow for a unique opportunity supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to conduct research and develop methods of interpretation that share under told and undiscovered stories of Vermont's Queer history and immigration and migration history in the state. Using the Museum's extensive archival materials and object collection, the Museum aims to leverage the power of narrative to create exhibitions that attest to the nuances of our human experience, spark conversations and bring people together. The Sheldon's new exhibits seek to embrace a range of experiences and perspectives, beyond the narrow scope of the idealized "Vermont" to tell a story that is civic minded, diverse, inclusive, and relevant. This Fellowship provides the opportunity to help transform our understanding of Vermont's past, while exploring meaningful and relevant ways to connect with today's Museum visitors.

Employment type: This is a full-time salaried position with a 3-year term. This position requires on-site time with occasional remote work.

Salary: \$60,000/year with a 3% contribution to a simple IRA, paid vacation, holidays and sick leave.

Primary Duties:

- Co-lead archival and object research in collaboration with Archivist and Collections Manager/Curator focused on Vermont's Queer history and immigration/migration history.
- Develop meaningful and relevant programs to connect the public to a more complete story of Vermont and Addison County's history.
- Serve as a key team member in the redesign of 2 permanent Museum exhibits using the Museum's object and archival collection.

- Collaborate with Executive Director on grant applications that support the Museum's commitment to researching and interpreting untold stories.
- Represent HSM at professional and community venues to enhance the understanding of its mission and collections.

Requirements

The ideal candidate will possess the following strengths and experience:

- Must hold a PhD in the humanities. Fields include, but are not limited to American studies, history of art, gender studies, history, and anthropology.
- Minimum of 2-5 years' experience handling collections in a museum or historical society.
- Demonstrated experience and commitment to critical museum inquiry and an interdisciplinary approach to understanding erasure and exclusion in museum practice
- Experience using PastPerfect or other collections database and digital imaging systems.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; interpersonal skills; flexible, reliable, and detail oriented.

Interested candidates please send a letter of interest, resume, writing sample and three references by May 5, 2025 to cmoseley@henrysheldonmuseum.org. All materials will be confidential and references will not be contacted without advance permission. No phone calls please. We are committed to cultivating an inclusive work and learning environment and look forward to future team members who share that same value.

The Henry Sheldon Museum is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

- Experience assisting with the production of exhibitions.
- Ability to manage simultaneous priorities and meet deadlines.
- Self-motivated with the ability to work independently.
- Must have a commitment to inclusion and diversity and a passion for advancing equity.

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge of disaster preparedness and response.
- Exhibition installation, mounting, and/or hanging objects, management of loans, customs regulations and copyright clearance process.
- Theories and practical experience in current photography and digitization practices, including scanning, photography, digital preservation and editing equipment and software.

The Henry Sheldon Museum is an equal opportunity employer, is committed to programs of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and the principles of affirmative action.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates please send a letter of interest, resume, and three references to jobs@henrysheldonmuseum.org or mail hard copy to: Henry Sheldon Museum, Collections Manager Search Committee, One Park Street, Middlebury, VT 05753. All materials will be confidential and references will not be contacted without advance permission. No phone calls please.