

IDEAL Summer Internship 2026

CCHC is pleased to offer a paid IDEAL Summer internship in 2026 that is generously underwritten by The Decorative Arts Trust. The internship is designed to provide professional experience to a graduate student who is an emerging museum professional focusing on historical artifacts.

Tasks to be completed:

The internship will encompass a variety of curatorial and collections management tasks that are typical of a mid-sized history museum. These may include:

- Assisting with the installation of CCHC's America 250 exhibit
- Original cataloging for patent models, fraternal organizations, and other topics
- Research about schools of needlework or genealogy associated with inscribed quilts
- Digital exhibit development
- Creating social media content

Skills required:

It is essential for the Intern to work well with a variety of people and to do so within the framework of the CCHC Collections Management Policy and other professional and ethical guidelines. CCHC adheres to the policies of the American Alliance of Museums with regard to respect for people and objects. The successful candidate will have strong written and verbal communication skills, an ability to read cursive, and a familiarity with digital tools and platforms. A graduate student who is nearing completion of a degree in material culture, museum studies, or history is preferred.

Skills developed/products produced:

The Intern will learn about public history by gaining experience in: 1) research with primary materials; 2) exhibit installation; 3) artifact handling; 4) database input (PastPerfect); and 5) digital exhibit development (ArcGIS). The Intern will participate in at least four regional field trips to other types of history organizations, provide bi-weekly updates, and give a final presentation. Reports about internship projects and field trips are required and will be forwarded to The Decorative Arts Trust.

Timing (specific to this Internship):

This internship will take place in the Summer of 2026 over a period of up to 9 weeks for a maximum of 270 hours (30 hours/week). The anticipated timeframe is June through early August. The stipend is \$15/hour and does not include benefits or holidays. However, an additional \$950 will be provided to cover field trip and cost of living expenses upon submission of reports.

Application (specific to this Internship):

The application includes: 1) a letter explaining the level of knowledge or experience with material culture, public history, or other relevant experiences that the Intern can bring to this effort and also what the Intern expects to gain from the experience; 2) a resume; and 3) the names and contact information of three references (at least one should be academic). All application materials must be submitted by email to Ellen Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator eendslow@mycchc.org no later than midnight January 30, 2026.

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About Chester County History Center

CCHC has been collecting materials about the history of the region since 1893. Three hundred years of local history are represented in the permanent collections that comprise 80,000 museum objects, a special collections library with 20,000 reference books and 750,000 manuscripts, and more than 100,000 images of all types in the photo archives. The society benefits from the resources of its location in the Brandywine River Valley and its proximity to Philadelphia. More information about CCHC is available at <http://www.chestercohistorical.org>.