

Job Title:	Read House & Gardens Lead Museum Ambassador	Job Category:	Non-exempt
Department/Group:	Read House & Gardens	Job Code/ Req#:	RH-220630-3
Location:	New Castle, DE	Travel Required:	No
Level/Salary Range:	\$16–\$18 per hour	Position Type:	Part-time, 18 hours per week
HR Contact:	Nidia Hoffman	Date Posted:	06/30/2022
Will Train Applicant(s):	Yes	Posting Expires:	When position is filled
External Posting URL:			
Internal Posting URL:			
Applications Accepted By:			
Email: careers@dehistory.org Subject Line: RH&G Lead Ambassador		Please include résumé, cover letter, and 3 professional references.	
Job Description			
<p>ROLE OVERVIEW</p> <p>The Delaware Historical Society is seeking a dynamic and responsible individual to join the Read House & Gardens (RH&G) visitor services team as Lead Museum Ambassador. This individual will work closely with the RH&G Curator of Education to coordinate basic museum operations, collect and analyze visitation data, and craft overall visitor experience. In addition to these tasks, the Lead Museum Ambassador will work alongside a corps of part-time Museum Ambassadors to guide visitors and students through the 14,000-square-foot mansion and to lead youth and adult educational programs, and will help to ensure continuity and dissemination of information among the Museum Ambassadors.</p> <p>Applicants should be comfortable speaking in front of groups of various sizes and should demonstrate a desire to work with and around children, as well as to engage with a diverse audience and multiple historical perspectives and interests. Individuals from various backgrounds looking to share their passion and knowledge of art, history, and culture are encouraged to apply.</p> <p>This position is part-time with a regular schedule of 18 hours per week. This role requires regular weekend and occasional evening hours.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct tours and educational programming at the Read House & Gardens. This includes walk-in tours on weekdays and weekends, adult group tours, school field trips, and assistance during public programs and special events. • Provide excellent customer service and work with the RH&G Curator of Education to ensure a positive, welcoming, and inclusive experience for museum visitors • Assist in collection and reporting of tour, exhibit, and event visitation and survey data • Help train part-time visitor services staff and help to relay information between the Curator of Education and the Museum Ambassadors 			

- Help coordinate communication with visitor audiences via phone, email, and web platforms
- Maintain visitor spaces, equipment, and supplies
- Ensure welfare and safety of visitors and provide security for collections
- Contribute to the development and implementation of educational programs and resources
- Complete special projects as assigned
- Assist with other operational tasks as directed

QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- High school diploma
- Interest in situating the Read House within local, national, and global history
- Willingness to continually expand and refine your understanding of historical concepts
- Comfort speaking in front of groups, answering questions clearly and directly, expressing concepts effectively to museum visitors, and interacting enthusiastically with people of all ages, educational levels, and backgrounds
- Willingness to learn, apply, and refine new teaching methodologies, especially object-based approaches
- Effective interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team
- Comfort with classroom and museum technologies
- Positive attitude, an open mind, and flexibility

PREFERRED SKILLS

- Bachelor’s degree
- Experience in history, art history, architecture, studio art, or a related discipline

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Work Schedule:

18 hours per week, to include three shifts of 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and either Thursday or Friday.

Physical requirements:

- Must be able to navigate stairs in a large historic house; stand or walk for extended periods of time, sometimes on uneven outdoor surfaces; and occasionally move or lift objects of average weight up to 25 lbs.
- Must be able to adapt to high-pace environments.
- Must be able to work in indoor and outdoor environments.
- Must be able to maintain regular, punctual attendance onsite, including regular weekend hours and occasional evening hours.

About the Organization

The Delaware Historical Society (DHS), founded in 1864, preserves, promotes, and shares Delaware’s history in a welcoming environment to educate, inspire, and empower people and communities. DHS is an independent, non-profit, non-government historical society founded in 1864. It stewards nine historic buildings, eight of which are in Wilmington and straddle the 500 block of Market Street. The ninth is the George Read II House &

Gardens in Historic New Castle, situated adjacent to the First State National Historical Park and overlooking the Delaware River.

The Read House & Gardens (RH&G) comprises a 14,000-square-foot mansion built between 1797 and 1804 and formal gardens added in 1847–48. As an outstanding example of Philadelphia federal-style architecture, it was designated a National Historic Landmark—the highest level of significance—in 2017. George Read II was the first U.S. Attorney for Delaware, and his father was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as well as a governor, U.S. senator, and chief justice in Delaware. Under the stewardship of Philip and Lydia Chichester Laird in the 20th century, the house and grounds became a noted example of colonial revival taste and appeared widely in lifestyle and design publications. The Delaware Historical Society assumed ownership of the site upon Lydia Laird’s death in 1975 and undertook a state-of-the-art restoration and furnishing campaign during the 1980s. The RH&G is now in the early stages of a major landscape renovation project to reimagine its 2.5 acres of historic grounds for the current and next generations.

Through experiential programming and collaborative initiatives in the decorative, fine, and performing arts as well as in horticulture, it serves as an inspiration and gathering place for people of many identities. Its public offerings invite onsite and remote audiences to deepen their reflection on the complex layers of history that remain present in contemporary society. The RH&G is situated within local, regional, national, and global historical narratives and continues to engage audiences on all four levels, including through frequent partnerships with artistic collaborators.