

## DHS—MCAAH Research Assistant Description

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**Position Title:** Research Assistant

**Period of Employment:** February 1, 2025 – September 25, 2025

**Hours:** 10-15 per week

**Compensation:** \$20 per hour

**Preferred Majors:** African American Studies, History, Museum Studies, Theology, Religious Studies, Communications, Library and Information Science, Political Science

**Location:** Hybrid. Virtual and in-person pending assignments. Some onsite work may be required in Wilmington, DE, or other research facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region.

**Additional Stipends:** Research travel will be covered as needed.

### Position Summary

Working closely with the Director of the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center, the Research Assistant will conduct primary source research and writing that supports public history projects uplifting African American life and culture in Delaware. In particular, the bulk of the Research Assistant's responsibilities will include assembling annotated bibliographies, drafting narrative summaries, and public descriptions that document and contextualize the history of the African Union Methodist Protestant (A.U.M.P.) Churches founded by Peter Spencer. This work will support the Delaware Historical Society's community partnership with the Mother African Union Church and feed into a forthcoming small exhibition in the Church's facility, a documentary film, and other public-facing platforms.

This unique assistantship will provide students or early career professionals with an educational opportunity that exposes them to methods of applying their archival research and academic training to public settings. The Research Assistant will independently pursue research leads and gather historical data that they will synthesize into summaries that will inform exhibit labels, scripts, and other public information communicating the historical significance of Peter Spencer, the August Quarterly, and the network of Spencer Churches. They will also have the opportunity to attend meetings with community stakeholders and creative partners, which will immerse students in the collaborative processes of public history projects.

## **Responsibilities**

Functions may include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting primary source research on African American religious life in 19th-century Delaware.
- Conducting research on the period of enslavement in Delaware and Black life and cultural practices or legal contexts during this time.
- Preparing annotated bibliographies and historical summaries for important figures, themes, and events in the history of the Peter Spencer Churches.
- Writing short essays, exhibition labels, and other public information for distribution in DHS publications and platforms.

## **Qualifications**

The successful candidate will have the following skills/experience:

- Preferred candidates will be enrolled in a graduate program or an early career professional with a graduate degree.
- Familiarity with archival and collections research and handling procedures.
- Comfortable synthesizing visual analysis and primary source research into writing that contextualizes complex historical events, figures, and themes for public audiences.
- Confidence in working with and in community spaces and engaging in conversation with members of the public.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Even if you do not meet all of the criteria above, we encourage everyone with an interest to apply. We acknowledge that people have a variety of skills and talents that could make them uniquely qualified for a position like this.

## **How to Apply**

Required Materials: Unofficial transcripts in PDF formats, a research essay sample, a résumé, and a cover letter. Send to [MCAAHinfo@dehistory.org](mailto:MCAAHinfo@dehistory.org).