



## CONCORD MUSEUM

*The Concord Museum educates visitors of all ages about the history of Concord and its continuing influence on American political, literary and cultural life. The Museum's nationally significant collection serves as a catalyst for changing exhibitions, extended classroom learning, dynamic programs and publications relevant to an ever-changing world. Founded in 1886, the Museum is a center of cultural enjoyment for the region and a gateway to the town of Concord for visitors from around the world.*

### Museum at a Glance

#### National Significance of the Museum and its Collection

- One of the oldest collections of Americana in the country, the Concord Museum is known for its national treasures.
- The lantern that hung in the church steeple on the night of Paul Revere's famous ride.
- The largest collection of Thoreau's possessions anywhere, including the desk where he penned *Walden* and "Civil Disobedience."
- Emerson's Study, an important gathering place for the greatest American writers of his day.
- Outstanding furniture, clocks, silver, ceramics and needlework, often included as illustrations in leading American history textbooks and other scholarly publications.

#### Exhibitions about Concord and the Cultural History of the Nation

- 35,000 people from greater Boston, as well as all 50 states and 20 countries, visit annually.
- The *Why Concord?* history galleries provide an engaging, object-based overview of Concord's remarkable history.
- The award-winning *Exploring Concord* film highlights the town's historic landscape.
- Recent changing exhibitions included *Clockmaking in Concord*, *Maps of America from Colonial Williamsburg*, *Building Thoreau's Boat*, *The Concord Grape*, *Visiting Thoreau's Walden*, *David Sibley's Birds*, *American Presidential China*, and *When Duty Whispers: Concord and the Civil War*.
- Museum exhibitions and programs have been featured nationally in the *New York Times*, *The Magazine Antiques*, *Time*, and on "This Old House," the History Channel and C-Span II.

#### An Educational Resource for the Region

Public programs, for ages 3 to 103, foster a life-long love of history, literature, community culture and decorative arts.

- Lectures and gallery talks with Pulitzer Prize-winning historians and journalists, Americana specialists, and esteemed curators.
- Family-oriented gallery activities and treasure hunts, living history performances, hands-on historical crafts, children's vacation events, and children's tea.
- Patriots' Day festivities each April, participation in the October *Concord Festival of Authors*, Thanksgiving weekend family activities, and a December children's literature celebration.
- Six yearly *Be Our Guest* open houses attract Greater Boston residents from Westford to Waltham.

School programs enrich the lives of children from elementary through high school—for over 30 years.

- 7,000 schoolchildren from 85 MA communities and 22 states participate annually.
- Curriculum-based programs foster critical thinking skills, problem solving, understanding of history and literature, and an appreciation of real artifacts.
- Summer teacher training workshops are given annually for educators at all levels.

#### Support for the Museum

The Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction awarded to fewer than 5% of all museums nationwide.

- In recognition of the national importance of the Museum, it has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services/ *Museums for America*, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.
- Members and individuals from 79 Greater Boston communities and 19 states provide support.
- A dedicated corps of over 200 volunteers from across the region served the Museum last year.
- Building endowment remains a high, long-term priority.

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