

WINTERTHUR



Winterthur Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEH Grant Will Help Winterthur Address Storage Challenges

Improving Accessibility to Collections a Key Goal

Winterthur, DE, August 14, 2018—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library is pleased to announce that it has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities to create a long-term plan that will make its collection more accessible to the public while improving the quality of its care.

The grant, from the NEH's Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program, helps cultural institutions by supporting measures that prevent deterioration of objects in their collections.

At Winterthur, SCHC grant monies will give staff members two years to determine storage locations and sustainable procedures that increase accessibility to its collections of American decorative arts and fine arts objects, library materials, garden objects, and estate artifacts. The project will also allow Winterthur to produce research and implement workshops on storage solutions that will be useful for a wide variety of institutions, especially small to mid-size institutions with less accessibility to people and funds to carry out research on their own.

“Thanks to Henry Francis du Pont and collectors who have followed him, Winterthur holds preeminent collections of fine and decorative arts as well as library materials,” said Carol B. Cadou, Charles F. Montgomery Director and CEO of Winterthur. “We have been challenged with proper storage for these vast collections since the museum opened in 1951. I’m delighted that, thanks to the NEH, we will arrive at a solution for these truly national collections.”

Since it opened, Winterthur has continued to acquire objects that tell the story of our country’s pre-industrial past. As the collection has grown, Winterthur has converted offices, barns, and living quarters to storage spaces. Objects are currently stored in 107 different locations, making it a challenge for staff, researchers, educators, and the public to access them. Winterthur wants to address the issue with a solution that is economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

Intense study of Winterthur’s collections over decades has resulted in a robust field of material culture and art conservation professionals who care for cultural heritage collections around the

world. Many of Winterthur's resources cannot be found elsewhere, which makes their long-term storage and access a paramount concern.

At the conclusion of the grant period in September 2020, Winterthur will have a comprehensive solution for storage challenges that builds upon already strong practices that prolong the useful life of Winterthur's stored collection and that prioritizes increased access for programming, education, and research.

"The National Endowment for the Humanities plays a vital role supporting cultural and educational programming," said U.S. Senator Chris Coons. "I'm pleased to see Winterthur receive this grant to continue preserving our nation's art and history. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will keep working to support funding for the NEH, and to ensure that grants like this continue to benefit Delaware."

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.

ABOUT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2-11.

Museum hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesday–Sunday. Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call [800.448.3883](tel:800.448.3883), [302.888.4600](tel:302.888.4600), or TTY [302.888.4907](tel:302.888.4907), or visit <http://winterthur.org/>.

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