



MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

Spring Newsletter 2021

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Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver Visits METC



This past March, METC was thrilled to welcome New Jersey's Lt. Governor, Sheila Y. Oliver who joined us to acknowledge our work with the NJ Historic Trust and present us with a \$50,000 check from the Trust. This Historic Site Management

(HSM) Grant was awarded to METC to fund the feasibility study for the creation of a viewable storage collections facility in the museum. The Lt. Governor noted that *"... METC is a valuable educational, recreational and historical asset to the Madison community and State of New Jersey, and we're pleased to provide this grant to help preserve their priceless collections. And this new state-of-the-art visible collections facility will not only help preserve artifacts, but will add a new dimension to the museum that visitors can view and enjoy."*

In addition to the Lt. Governor, several other state and local officials were on hand to recognize METC's work with historic preservation and historic site management. They included Madison Mayor Bob Conley, Madison Council members Astri Baillie and Maureen Byrne, NJ Historic Trust Board Members Janet Foster and Peter Lindsay, NJ Historic Trust Executive Director Dorothy Guzzo and METC Board Chair Martin Barbato, among others.

Earlier this year, Governor Murphy signed a \$11.7 million appropriations bill approving 50 Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund Grant recommendations that were made by the New Jersey Historic Trust in the fall. The 2021 fund is supporting preservation planning, heritage tourism and capital projects to save and promote historic sites throughout the state. There are multiple categories and levels of grants awarded by the fund.

We are most grateful for this support from the Lieutenant Governor and the NJ Historic Trust, which enables us to continue the preservation of our historic building and the creation of a new viewable storage facility that will protect and conserve our collection.

Read more on page 6 about the progress of the feasibility study!

From the Director



Partnerships

Partnerships, collaborations, alliances. Nothing happens in a museum without these unique relationships; whether they occur through colleagues sharing program ideas, discussions with teachers in public schools, major donors providing support for education initiatives, or public-private partnerships to facilitate a large-scale restoration project. At METC every one of these unique relationships is vital to our mission, helping us create dynamic and educational opportunities to share with our members. While some of these connections are very casual-- like engaging with a colleague or former co-worker at a (virtual or in person) conference--others are a bit more formal and can include a donor who is working with us to fund an exhibit or establish a planned giving arrangement. Or perhaps a consultant working on strategic planning with us. And yet other connections require contractual agreements and official authorizations, such as capital grant support from a government agency.

But all these interactions have one thing in common, building relationships that will allow METC to create lifelong learning experiences filled with creativity and innovation. Our mission is focused on education, including school field trips, family programs, exhibits that tell stories, historic preservation, and academic lectures. But we are also mindful that we are part of a larger community and a public space that celebrates our diversity, contributes to the economy, bridges history, civics, and culture and brings together our community members across cultural, racial, political, socio-economic, and other divides.

I encourage you to think about how you can be a partner, supporter, or collaborator at METC and become part of the exciting future we are mapping out to promote civic and history education that will advance our mission and commitment to our community. Learn more about us by visiting our website or feel free to reach out to me personally—I would be very happy to hear from you.

- Deborah Farrar Starker

METC Welcomes New Board Member



METC is excited to welcome Kaili Baucum Sanderson, a non-profit leader, serving educational institutions for nearly two decades, as a member of METC's Board of Trustees.

Kaili currently serves as the Director of Newark Youth Career Pathways. Prior to this, Kaili has had the privilege of working at some of the country's top non-profit organizations on educational challenges in districts across the country. These organizations include PDK, International, American University, The Panasonic Foundation, Teach for America. Kaili was also the Founding Executive Director of Pallus, a non-profit organization, focused on growing the number of minority students in top tier colleges.

Kaili began her education career with Teach for America at P.S. 28 in the South Bronx, where she taught third and fifth grade students. Kaili is a proud Plainfield, New Jersey native; holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy from Rutgers University-Newark, a Master's Degree in Secondary Social Studies from

Teachers College, Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy Studies from Duke University.

Calendar of Events

For more information on these events or to register please visit www.metc.org.

Virtual Program:

"Remember the Ladies": Women, Health & Medicine during the American Revolution

June 23, 2021, 7pm

Free for METC Members/ \$10 Non-members

Join METC and National Park Service volunteer docent Joel Farkas in exploring the role of women during the American Revolution. From attitudes toward women and their position in society, to women's role in 18th century healthcare, this lecture draws on the writings of women to bring to light this frequently overlooked aspect of the conflict.

Summer Concert Series: Jumping the Gun Band

Friday, June 25, 2021, 6-8pm

FREE

Jumping The Gun Band enjoys playing the songs that made Rock "classic". With a mix of Beatles, Stones, Springsteen and Petty along with Carrie Underwood, Darius Rucker and Mathew Sweet, JTG has been playing to their fans for over 10 years.

New Exhibit

Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection

Opens July 6, 2021

This exhibit highlights objects and archival material discovered during METC's recent inventory project. With only 15% of the collection on view, this exhibit will reveal the depth and breadth of METC's permanent collection of historic objects and historical records reflecting the dynamic story of home, shop, and farm trades during the 18th and 19th century.

Summer Concert Series: House of Hamill

Friday, July 9, 2021, 6-8pm

FREE

Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan of House of Hamill are accomplished fiddle players and violinists, with over 25 years of writing and performance experience between them. Together, they write unusual new fiddle tunes and exciting, unpredictable original songs while breathing new life into traditional and contemporary songs.

Family Fun Day: Discovery Day

July 17, 2021, 1-4pm

FREE

Join METC for a Discovery Family Fun day! Take a mini tour of the new exhibit, create crafts in the Education Annex and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities on our lawn!

Summer Concert Series: Los Nueve Del Sabor

Friday, July 23, 2021, 6-8pm

FREE

A Salsa & Latin Jazz Band from Roselle Park, NJ with all the Classic Hits in Salsa, Merengue & Son. Bringing the blend of Montunos, Salsa and popular Latin styles from the Caribbean and South America! LOS NUEVE DEL SABOR is composed of salsa music artists from the NY/NJ area bringing high-energy, Latin music to METC.

Summer Concert Series: Matt Haughey

Friday, August 8, 2021, 6-8pm

FREE

Matt Haughey grew up singing at the piano in his childhood home in Madison, NJ with his two older brothers. He started performing at coffee houses and wrote his first songs while still in high school. When Matt moved to Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, his love for songwriting began to grow. He released his first single, "Make You Happy", in the Fall of 2019. Since then, he has released 4 more songs, three of his songs were featured on "Train Tracks" on Sirius XM The Pulse.

Summer Concert Series: Mama D & the Vexations

Friday, August 20, 2021, 6-8pm

FREE

Mama D & The Vexations is a high-energy cover band based out of Morristown, NJ. Their renditions of hits from the 60s through today keep the crowd moving all night long, always chanting "One More Song!"

Architectural Walking Tour

Saturday, August 21, 2021, 6-8pm

Free for METC Members/ \$15 Non-members

Join METC's staff for an architectural tour exploring the magnificent James Library Building as well as several other iconic buildings built during the same period in Madison's historic district.

Coming Soon! *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection*



In 1969, Edgar and Agnes Land founded METC. When the museum opened its doors in 1970, the centerpiece of its exhibits were the historic artifacts collected by its founders. Since then, METC has added to its collection through donations or purchases.

Comprised of approximately 8,900 objects, historic records, and library holdings, METC's collection represents a comprehensive and dedicated approach to New Jersey's development from an early settlement to industrialization. METC has featured the permanent collection in informative gallery exhibits and educational programs focusing on home, shop, and farm trades in the 18th and 19th centuries. However, with

only 15% of the collection on view much of METC's collection has been tucked away in storage.

On July 6, METC will open a new Main Gallery exhibit titled *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection*. For the first time in decades, objects housed deep in METC's storage facilities will be on display to the public. This exhibit will reveal the depth and breadth of METC's permanent collection with objects uncovered during METC's collections move and comprehensive inventory.

Collection Inventory



Although 2020 was quite the tumultuous year, METC's Curatorial Department was busy with several projects. In early 2020, METC embarked on an exciting new initiative, packing the entire collection housed within the museum's onsite storage room for relocation to offsite facilities. This project is part of a larger multiyear initiative to construct a new climate-controlled viewable storage facility in the museum. However, before relocating the collection back onsite, METC will conduct a comprehensive collection inventory. From this, METC will have a better assessment of the holdings within the permanent collection and identify areas within the collection where we need to halt collecting or continue growing.

While packing the collection and inventorying objects in METC's offsite facilities, Curator of Collections Shelley Cathcart located several objects that were unique and noticed many had never been on view. A large toolchest was relocated to METC's offsite storage, and upon inventorying

the toolchest, Shelley noticed many of the tools, specifically planes, were stamped with the name "A. Hinkley." This piqued her curatorial interests and sparked a quick search in METC's donor files and other digitized historic archival records to locate more information on this individual.

To find out what Shelley discovered on "A. Hinkley," and to see additional objects found during the collections move and comprehensive inventory, visit *Uncovered: Hidden Treasures from METC's Permanent Collection* opening July 6th.



METC Brings Craft Festivals to Schools

During a typical spring, the METC Education staff would visit schools to run all-day Craft Festivals, where all the students would rotate between 5 or 6 stations. While the METC Education staff could not present these Craft Festivals at the schools this year, both Hamilton School in the Bridgewater-Raritan School District and Ridgewood Ave. School in the Glen Ridge School District opted to still run these fun events for their 3rd graders. The METC Education Staff packed up supply kits for each child. All the students, whether in school or at home, were able to do four crafts either with the assistance of pre-recorded video from METC or with live instruction from an METC educator. We were thrilled to be able to provide such a hands-on experience for all of these students, and ensure this fun event went forward, despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic.



Summer Camp is back!



Summer camp is back! The METC Education Staff will be offering 6 one- or two-day camps this summer. Last year, despite the pandemic, we ran several safe, fun, in-person camps and are looking forward to expanding on that success this year. These camps will take place in our spacious Education Annex, while also utilizing METC's exhibits and other aspects of the museum building. We expect some guest appearances from Shelley Cathcart, METC's Curator of Collections & Exhibits, and with topics including Toys and Games, Junior Museum Curators and Dragons, Myths & Fairytales, there is something for everyone! For more information or to register, please visit our website www.metc.org.

METC Collaborates with Education Consultants

As we look toward the future, METC is excited to be working with KM Consulting, a museum consultant company based in NYC, to help assess the METC Education Department and diversify its offerings and expand the reach of its programs. METC will be working with the consultants over the coming months to develop new programming, create new marketing strategies and to produce a Strategic Education Plan. These steps support METC's goals of ensuring that our programs are reaching the broadest and most diverse audience possible, and that METC remains relevant to our growing communities.



Viewable Storage Facility Updates



This Spring, METC completed a feasibility study for the design of a new state of the art viewable storage facility in the historic James Library Building. This study was generously funded by the NJ Historic Trust, NJ Historical Commission and the Madison Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust. METC maintains a longtime partnership with consultant Historic Building Architects LLC who have managed restoration projects with the museum since an initial Preservation Plan was completed in 2012. Historic Building Architects conducted comprehensive analysis for the new space-- detailing the needed facility upgrades, storage for collections, and creative solutions to adapt the existing spaces for greater accessibility in public programming and research. The viewable storage facility was a part of METC's strategic planning for many years but a mold infestation in the existing storage spaces led the museum to move the project along to protect both the museum's historic artifact collection and building. The study has produced an investigative report and construction documents for the museum as we enter into the next phase and make the new facility a reality.

METC Member Benefits

- Free admission throughout the year
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events
- 10% discount in the METC Store
- Discounts on virtual and in person programs and events
- Renew or Join for 2 Consecutive Years and Receive 15% Off

For more information on METC Membership, visit www.metc.org!



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In these challenging times, staying connected is everything. PSEG is committed to providing the energy that powers our homes, our work and our connections to the world.



Thank you for Your Support

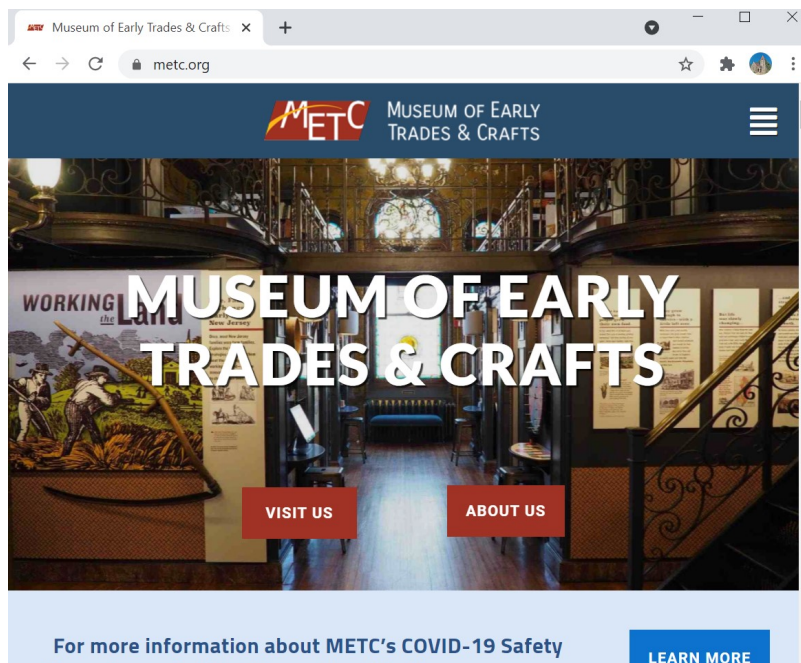
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*From 2-24-21 through 5/12/21

Have You Seen Our New Website?



METC launched it's newly redesigned website in April 2021! After four months of hard work, the new website is easier to navigate, more user friendly, and optimized for mobile devices. It was important to us that visitors could easily find information they needed to see and all we have to offer from programs to exhibits. Go ahead and explore the new site if you haven't already! If you have feedback please email info@metc.org!

Thank you to Smart Biz Web Media for partnering with us on this project.



9 Main Street
Madison, NJ 07940

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
*founded by Edgar & Agnes Land in 1969 with their
original collection of over 8,000 artifacts.*

Our Vision

Sharing the past, imagining the future.

Our Mission

To inspire a connection with New Jersey's history,
culture, trades, and crafts.

Acknowledgements

METC gratefully acknowledges generous funding
from: The Fred W. Bruehne Trust • Borough of
Madison • The Charles L. Read Foundation • Hyde
& Watson Foundation • Madison Rotary • Madison
Downtown Development Commission • Morris
County Historic Preservation Trust • New Jersey
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Recovery Act

*The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts receives an
operating support grant from the New Jersey
Historical Commission,
a division of the Department of State.*



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