



**EMILY
DICKINSON
MUSEUM**



HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY 1, 2023–DECEMBER 31, 2023



OUR MISSION

The Emily Dickinson Museum's mission is to spark the imagination by amplifying Emily Dickinson's revolutionary poetic voice from the place she called home.

Experiment to me
 Is every one I meet
 If it contain a Kernel?
 The Figure of a nut

Presents opon a Tree
 Equally plausibly
 But meat within is requisite
 To Squirrels and to me

FR1081

THIS YEAR THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, with a look back at the grand experiment the last two decades have held. We are so grateful to all the friends, old and new, we've made along the way, each a "Kernel" contributing to the Museum's vision to be the premier center for the study and celebration of the life and work of Emily Dickinson.

Throughout 2023, the Museum engaged with more than 700,000 people through our website and social media channels, and with nearly 30,000 visitors and program participants. We finished cataloging our 8,000-object collection and made it publicly accessible online. A multi-year project to improve the environment at The Evergreens to protect the collections reached a successful conclusion in December and will re-open to visitors in the spring.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Emily Dickinson Museum will launch a new education plan to serve learners of all ages, develop new experiences of Emily Dickinson's poetry and life at the Homestead and The Evergreens, and make greater use of the newly cataloged collection. Reconstruction of The Evergreens' carriage house in 2024 will pave the way for a final phase of restoration at the Homestead where the stories of the Dickinson family's hired help can be told.

In these pages, you will see our own experiments unfolding, amplifying the poet's revolutionary poetic voice with each new step. It's an exciting, vibrant time at the Emily Dickinson Museum. We're grateful to "every one [we] meet" for participating in our work to extend Dickinson's experiment with possibility.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Wald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JANE H. WALD

Jane and Robert Keiter Family Executive Director

EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM

Leadership and Staff

FY22 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Prospect Researcher /
Development Operations Manager

Associate Director of Communications

Tour Center Coordinator

Senior Director of Development
and Communications

Collections Assistant

Development Director

Program Coordinator

Collections Manager

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MUSEUM GUIDES

Emily Bernhard

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Melissa Cybulski

Alan Dickinson

Christopher Fobare

Jill Franks

Judith Hudson

Lou James-Olson

Melba Jensen

Elaine Kachavos

Emma Kautz

Sandy Krein

Rebecca Lockwood

Brenna Macaray

Samuel Melcher

Anna Morrissey

Burleigh Muten

Kathryn Petruccelli

Thackery Prince

Pete Redington

Susan Snively

Scout Turkel

Aidan Alice West

STUDENT WORKERS

Conner Glynn, Amherst '24
Capstone Project

DeLaynie Holton, Amherst '26
Intern

Kei Lim, Amherst '24
Museum Assistant

Elizabeth MacNeil, Smith '23
Intern

Katherine Smith, Amherst '25
Intern



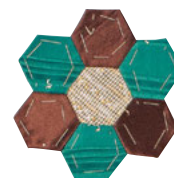
In September, the Emily Dickinson Museum announced the launch of its online collection database.



The Museum's collection had remained largely undocumented and inaccessible until a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2019 funded the cataloging of the entire collection for the very first time. This project has improved collection care and provided public access to the collection. It strengthens the collection captures the details of nineteenth-century life in the Amherst educational and agricultural community and vividly illustrates the daily life and writing habits of one of the world's greatest poets.



SPARK THE IMAGINATION



The Museum continues to reach Dickinson's global audience both in-person and virtually.

GUIDED HOUSE TOUR ATTENDEES:

15,795

PUBLIC PROGRAM REGISTRANTS:

11,610

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

2,275

"The tour guide's knowledge and passion for Emily Dickinson's life and work was immediate. She walked the group through each room, providing fascinating insights into how the space affects Emily's life and poetry – it was not just a fact lesson, but an immersive experience in the world of Emily Dickinson. Understanding the context and inspiration behind Emily's poetry gave us a deeper appreciation of her literary contributions. The guide wove Emily's poetry neatly into the story of her life. It made the trip feel personal and emotional. If you find yourself in Amherst, a visit to the Emily Dickinson Museum is undoubtedly worth your time. It's a tribute to a remarkable poet and a glimpse into the heart and soul of one of America's literary treasures."
-H. Sim, visited August 2023

"I traveled from Australia and was keen to have the best experience possible which the museum and staff definitely provided. Thank you. You should be proud of your efforts, the museum is truly a tribute to Emily Dickinson, her poetry and memory. I was so moved that I wrote a short poem in response."
-Vincent B., visited September 2023



REVOLUTIONARY POETIC VOICE



Tell It Slant FESTIVAL POETRY

With twenty programs available to both in-person and at-home audiences, the week-long Festival attracted registrants from 49 states and 80 countries. Highlights of the week included poetry workshops for 150 students, the 16-hour marathon reading of all 1,789 Dickinson poems, and a conversation with stars of the Apple TV+ show Dickinson. This year's Festival included presentations of the Tell it Slant Award, honoring individuals whose work is imbued with the creative spirit of Emily Dickinson. The 2023 honorees were poet Marilyn Nelson, Apple TV+ Dickinson creator Alena Smith, and the founders of the Emily Dickinson Museum in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

“What Dickinson offers to writers who don’t share her ethnic background is that she shows that everything is there to be grasped and used. That’s Dickinson. She’s so full of excitement about information and science and places on the other side of the world, and names for colors and sounds. She’s just so open to enchantment — she lets the world in.”



MARILYN NELSON at the headliner reading of the 2023 Tell It Slant Poetry Festival (September 31, 2023)

Phosphorescence Contemporary Poetry Series 2023

Celebrating contemporary creativity that echoes Dickinson’s revolutionary poetic voice.

May

Eleni Sikelianos, Gillian Conoley, and Dara Wier

June

Ocean Vuong, Joseph Fritsch, and Yanyi

July

Rebecca Pelky, Lisbeth White, and Carolina Hotchandani

August

Yamini Pathak, Ilan Stavans, and Devanshi Khetarpal

September

Aldo Amparán, Catherine-Esther Cowie, and Ron Welburn

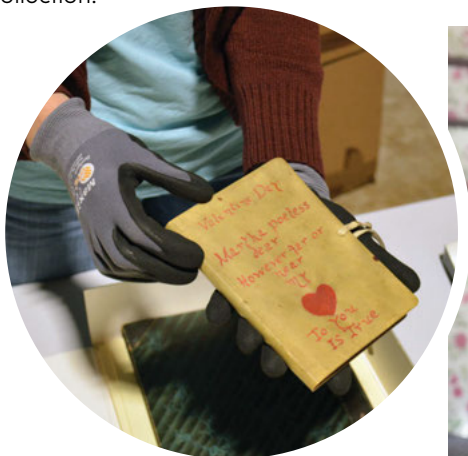
October

Allison Adair, Krysten Hill, and DeMisty Bellinger

The Tell it Slant Poetry Festival is made possible with the generous support of PeoplesBank, Mass Cultural Council, Curran and Keegan Financial, Teagno Construction Inc., Trippers & Askers, Amherst College’s LitFest, and by gifts from Museum donors and Tell It Slant program supporters.

CONSTITUENTS from around the world tuned in online for a three-part series exploring behind the scenes of the collection.

FROM THE PLACE SHE CALLED HOME



Each and every one of the **FIRST-YEAR AMHERST COLLEGE STUDENTS** visited the Emily Dickinson Museum as part of their orientation.



THE EMILY DICKINSON INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY held their annual meeting onsite for the first time in three years, exploring the theme “Clasp Hemispheres, and Homes” (Fr765) in recognition of the Homestead restoration.

The Museum completed a multi-year preservation effort at **THE EVERGREENS**, historic home of the poet's brother Austin and his family built in 1856, aimed at improving environmental conditions for recently documented collections. Supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, the project began with a focus on reducing energy consumption through building envelope repairs, new insulation, and light filtration. It continued with installation of a museum-grade HVAC system to maintain temperature and relative humidity in ranges that promote the preservation of sensitive collections objects.

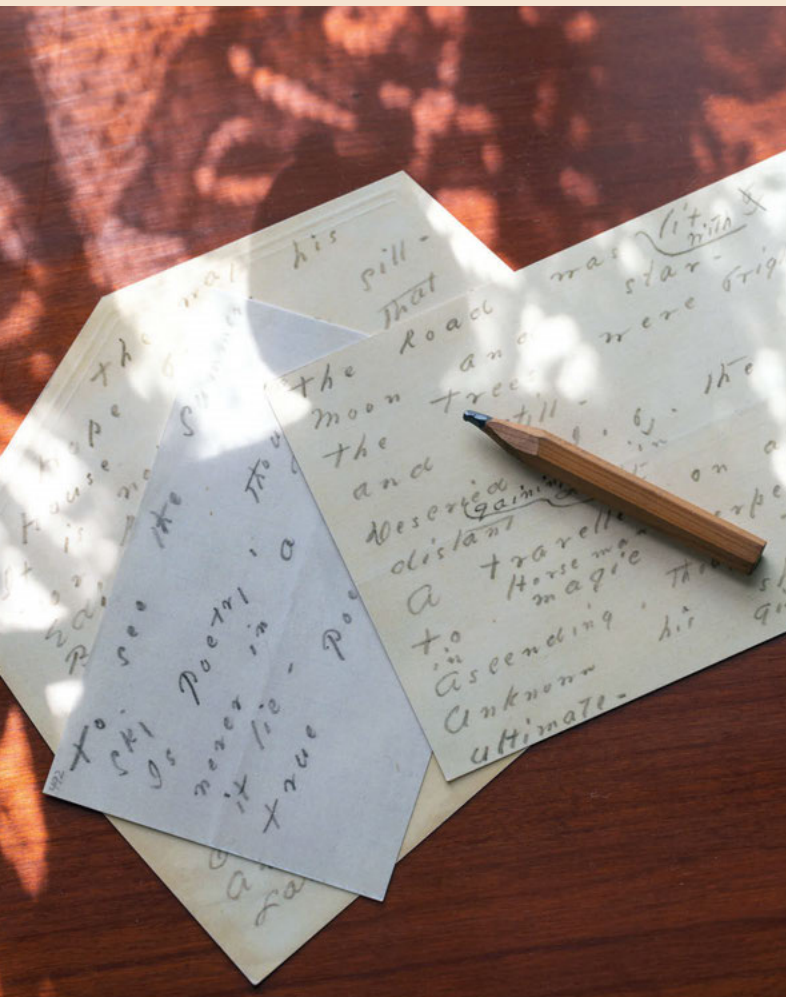


In 2024, the Emily Dickinson Museum will break ground on the reconstruction of the **CARRIAGE HOUSE** that once stood to the east of The Evergreens. The reconstructed Carriage House will initially serve as a site for visitor welcome and orientation, and will allow the Museum to pursue the final phase of Dickinson Homestead restoration. Ultimately, it will give the Museum much-needed program and education space. This project will advance the goal of restoring the Museum's campus to the place Dickinson experienced when she was honing her revolutionary verse.



I TOOK MY POWER IN MY HAND — AND WENT AGAINST THE WORLD — T WAS NOT SO MUCH AS DAVID — HAD — BUT I — WAS **TWICE AS BOLD** —

FR660



The Museum’s long-range plan empowers it to serve as the premier center for study, interpretation, creative expression, and celebration of Emily Dickinson’s life and legacy — in short, to be “twice as bold.” It marks a clear path forward to achieve four important goals.

- **Develop an expanded, fully restored, and accessible campus**
- **Create leading-edge teaching and learning programs and resources**
- **Provide singular visitor experiences both onsite and online**
- **Increase operational capacity for long-term sustainability**

These goals are grounded in the essential principles of the Museum’s mission.

Spark the Imagination

Help us inspire new generations of poets, writers, artists, and thinkers to dive deeply into the life of the mind, the power of creativity, and the world around us as Emily Dickinson did.

KEY PROJECTS:

Create immersive visitor experiences inside the historic houses using cutting-edge storytelling technologies. Provide inquiry-based education experiences that connect learners’ lives to the poet’s, kindling their creativity, self-expression, and empathy.



Amplify Emily Dickinson’s Revolutionary Poetic Voice

Connect the programs and resources of the Emily Dickinson Museum with scholars, students, and enthusiasts both around the corner and across the globe.

KEY PROJECTS:

Expand the Emily Dickinson Museum’s capacity to deliver onsite, hybrid, and virtual programs including live performances, scholarly lectures, poetry readings and more. Research and interpret new aspects of Dickinson’s story that bring her to life for diverse audiences.



From the Place She Called Home

Preserve and care for the material legacy of the Dickinson family—buildings, grounds, gardens, collections—to enliven and enhance the experience offered to the public and create an environment that accurately reflects the poet in her times.

KEY PROJECTS:

Complete critical preservation work at The Evergreens. Rebuild the Evergreens Carriage House as a welcome center and eventually as a dedicated educational space. Develop plans for reconstruction of the Homestead Barn as program, exhibit, and permanent space for visitor services.



Join us. Help us meet our *Twice as Bold* goal of raising \$8 million in new program and special project support by June 2026.

For more information and to make a gift, visit EmilyDickinsonMuseum.org/TwiceAsBold or contact the Museum at Development@EmilyDickinsonMuseum.org.

| | GOAL | RAISED |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| New Program & Core Operating Support | \$4,200,000 | \$1,361,000 |
| Capital & Special Project Support | \$3,800,000 | \$1,842,500 |
| Total | \$8,000,000 | \$3,203,500 |
| Additional Endowment Support | | \$2,500,000 |
| Overall Total | \$8,000,000 | \$5,703,500 |



**EMILY
DICKINSON
MUSEUM**

The Homestead | The Evergreens

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