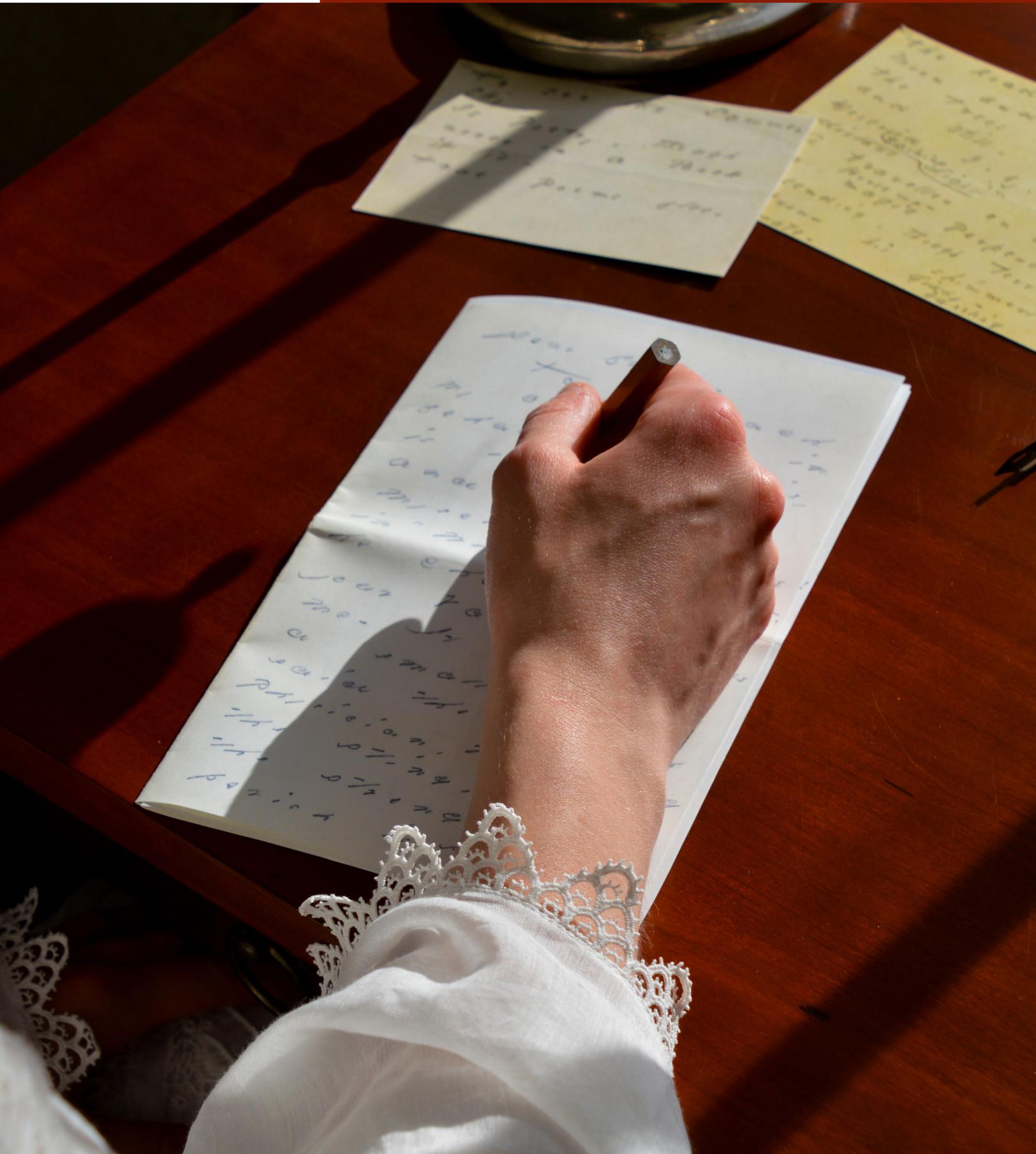




**EMILY  
DICKINSON  
MUSEUM**

The Homestead | The Evergreens

*January 1 – December 31, 2025*



## 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.



Where Thou art — that — is Home —  
Cashmere — or Calvary — the same —  
Degree — or Shame —  
I scarce esteem Location's Name —  
So I may Come —

What Thou dost — is Delight —  
Bondage as Play — be sweet —  
Imprisonment — Content —  
And Sentence — Sacrament —  
Just We two — meet —

Where Thou art not — is Wo —  
Tho' Bands of Spices — row —  
What Thou dost not — Despair —  
Tho' Gabriel - praise me — Sir —

(Fr749)

Dear Friends,

These words of Emily Dickinson echo in the halls and corners of the Homestead and The Evergreens: “Where *Thou* art — that — is *Home*.” In every circumstance of plenty or paucity, of success or struggle, in times of personal joy or suffering, of disbelief or dislocation, home can be a place of support and connection. To paraphrase recent poet laureate Ada Limón, poetry can be a “glorious alternative” to the chaos around us. Poetry invites us individually and collectively to the best, truest, and most authentic ways of being.

In this past year, more than 16,000 visitors have accepted our invitation to visit the Dickinson homes, to pause in the spaces that witnessed the poet’s daily life, and to inhale her words as they took shape in her home. Many thousands more invited us into your homes for virtual and hybrid programs that included monthly discussions of Dickinson’s work led by guest scholars; a monthly *Phosphorescence* poetry series by contemporary poets; the multi-faceted Tell it *Slant* poetry festival; and a curriculum for middle and high school students connecting curious young learners to Dickinson’s endlessly probing questions.

We’ve also paid attention to recovering the landscapes and dwelling spaces that Emily Dickinson knew — and that you can, too. The Museum reconstructed the carriage house, as an energy saving “passive house,” that sat next to The Evergreens for more than a hundred years. And, in the wake of the recent massive preservation effort at The Evergreens, we’ve also made considerable progress on careful conservation of the delicate decorative finishes left in place at the end of the nineteenth century.

These are but a few ways in which the Museum is inspired to spark the imagination for you and others by making the connection between Dickinson’s extraordinary poetic legacy and our “Delight” in “What Thou dost.”

Jane H Wald



Jane H. Wald  
Jane and Robert Keiter Family Executive Director

# WHO WE ARE

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Jane & Robert Keiter Family  
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Tour Center Coordinator

Elias Bradley  
Education Programs Manager

Pippa Comfort  
Prospect Researcher /  
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Hope Garcia  
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Erin Martin  
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Anna Plummer  
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## INTERNS

Selma Acar  
Amherst '27

Isabella Ahmad  
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Sarah Goldschmidt-Hopkinson  
Amherst '28

# Spark the Imagination

## Collections

Collections Manager Megan Ramsey visited the archives at Amherst College, Harvard, Yale, and Brown universities – places that hold significant Dickinson materials – in order to connect their documentary resources with the physical objects in the Museum’s collection.

Understanding existing information that has, over time, been separated from objects in our own collection will help the Museum share a more robust story of Dickinson’s life.

RIGHT: Susan Dickinson circa 1910, Harvard University, Houghton Library  
BELOW: Textiles from Emily Dickinson Museum collection and fragment poem installations from the exhibition *A Something Overtakes the Mind*



One exciting discovery was a photograph of Susan Dickinson, held at Harvard’s Houghton Library, which links garments she wore at a specific moment in her life to the same articles in the Museum’s collection.

In collaboration with artists Ligia Bouton and Matt Donovan, the Museum exhibited *A Something Overtakes the Mind* – a multimedia visual art and poetry installation that juxtaposed collections objects, Dickinson family history, found poetry, and community testimonials to bring the past into conversation with Dickinson’s enduring influence in our contemporary consciousness.



# Revolutionary Poetic Voice

## The Power of Poetry

In the spring of 2025, the Museum launched its new on-site program for middle and high school students. The “Power of Poetry” program is a highly participatory exploration of the Homestead, in which students discover how Dickinson embraced her unique personal vision, defying societal and literary convention, to pen nearly 1,800 revolutionary poems. The 90-minute program includes a tour focused on the poet’s early life and inspirations, a hands-on investigation of facsimile poem manuscripts to understand Dickinson’s writing process, and a creative writing component inviting students to reflect on their own lives through a Dickinson-inspired prompt.



“When we created poems using definitions from Dickinson’s lexicon, I felt very creative and was proud of the poem I created.”

— Eighth grade participant  
in *The Power of Poetry*

“On our tour, we learned all things ‘Emily Dickinson.’ From her childhood, her family, her education, and, of course, her poetry. The house itself was a joy to tour — set up as if she was still living there.”

— Alan, Arizona

13k+

Guided House  
Tour Participants

13k+

Public Program  
Registrants

1.9k+

Education Program  
Participants

75

Artist & Scholar  
Partners

155k+

Social Media  
Followers

850k+

Website Visits

## 13th Annual Tell It *Slant* Poetry Festival

The Tell It *Slant* Poetry Festival is an annual event celebrating the diversity of the contemporary poetry scene and the creativity Dickinson continues to inspire. Featuring twenty events for both on-site and online audiences, the Festival week drew registrants from 46 countries and 50 states. Highlights included workshops on epistolary writing, black-out poetry, and collage poems; an open mic followed by a musical performance of poem settings by Los Lorcás; and a headliner reading featuring award-winning poet Krysten Hill and National Book Award-winner Terrance Hayes.

One high point of the week occurred when Hayes presented a poetry master class to 200 local high school students on the Museum grounds. Leading them deftly through writing prompts inspired by Dickinson and other poets, Hayes invited students to share their work aloud.

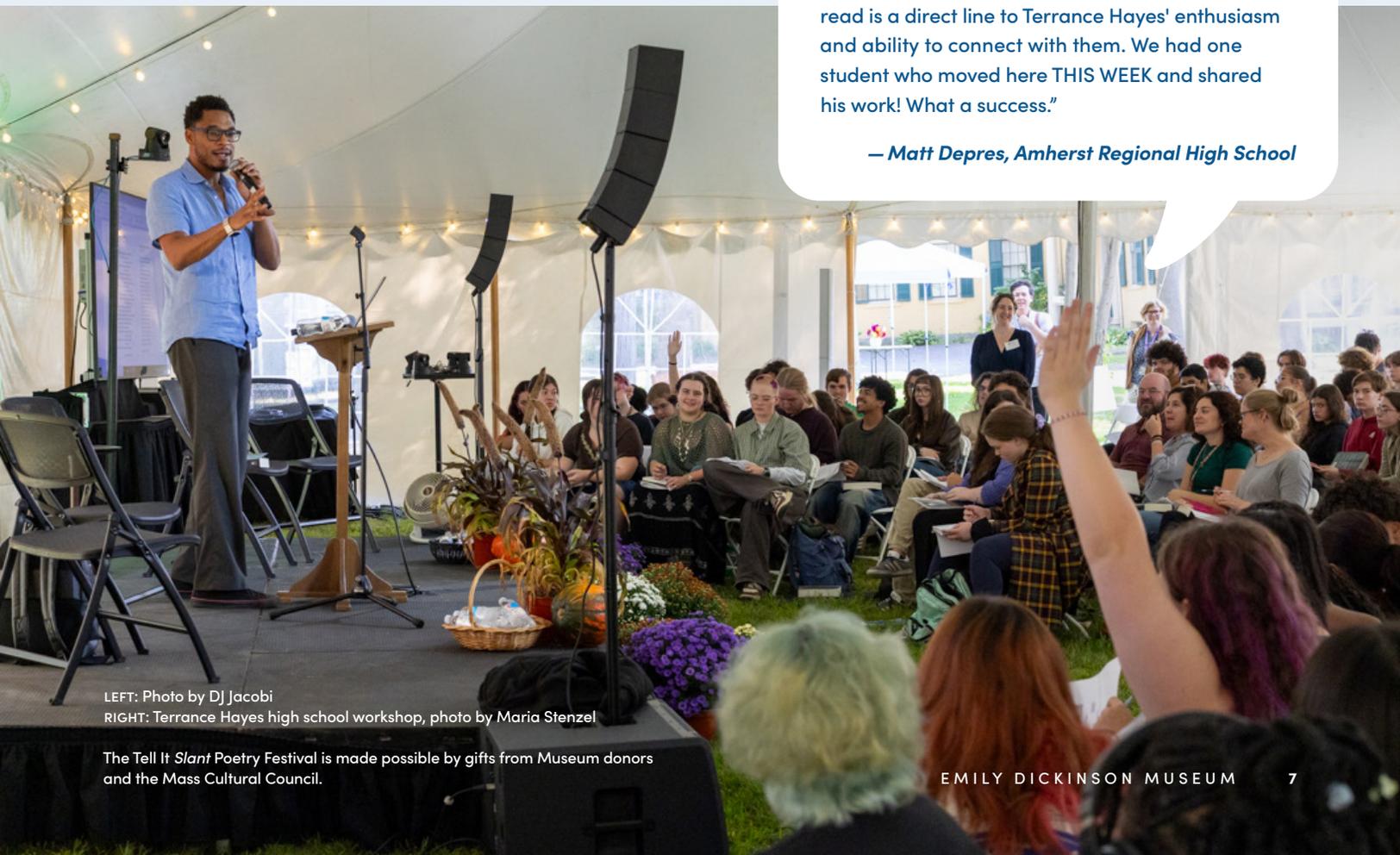
## Phosphorescence Contemporary Poetry Series 2025

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

- APRIL** Carlene Kucharczyk, Avia Tadmor, and Silvia Bonilla
- MAY** Joy Ladin, Niina Pollari, and Joan Larkin
- JUNE** Barbara Mossberg, Bridget Lowe, and Rachelle Toarmino
- JULY** Lesley Wheeler and Nadia Alexis
- AUG** Cathy Linh Che, Monica Ong, and Lee Ann Roripaugh
- SEP** Livia Meneghin, Meg Day, and Rajiv Mohabir

"I again wanted to express our gratitude for the event today... Genuinely moving and inspiring and fun... The sheer number of kids who volunteered to read is a direct line to Terrance Hayes' enthusiasm and ability to connect with them. We had one student who moved here THIS WEEK and shared his work! What a success."

— Matt Depes, Amherst Regional High School



LEFT: Photo by DJ Jacobi  
RIGHT: Terrance Hayes high school workshop, photo by Maria Stenzel

The Tell It *Slant* Poetry Festival is made possible by gifts from Museum donors and the Mass Cultural Council.



# From the Place

# She Called Home

## Evergreens Preservation

In 2025, the Museum continued efforts to conserve and stabilize the original nineteenth-century wallpaper in The Evergreens. Paper conservator Carolyn Frisa, of Works on Paper, cleaned decades of soot, dirt, and grime that had accumulated on the surface of the crimson paper in the front hall. Her work included repasting areas where the original adhesive had failed and filling in gaps where the paper had been missing for years. This conservation work helps to prolong the life of the historic interiors of The Evergreens.

More than sixty different wallpaper patterns can be found between the two houses – still adorning the walls, or as unused rolls, or as surviving fragments between prior and later treatments.



# Carriage House

In April, the Emily Dickinson Museum completed the reconstruction of the carriage house that once stood to the east of The Evergreens, the home of Emily Dickinson's brother Austin and his wife Susan. The exterior appearance of the carriage house is as faithful as possible in its design to evidence accumulated from historic maps, lithographs, and photographs. The interior layout mimics that of the historic carriage house while optimizing modern functions and flow. To that end, the carriage house is the new site for visitor welcome, orientation and the Museum shop. The reconstruction also enables the third and final phase of the Dickinson Homestead restoration by relocating administrative functions from the Homestead to new space at the carriage house.

With the help of edmSTUDIO, and Teagno Construction, Inc., the project achieved passive house certification from PHIUS (Passive House Institute US). It is the first passive house historic reconstruction in the U.S.

The reconstruction project was supported by a major gift from former Board members and Amherst community members John and Elizabeth Armstrong. "We've been drawn over the years to supporting singular projects that open multiple possibilities for the Museum, recognizing its importance to our community."



# Thank You

*I know nothing in the world that  
has as much power as a word.*

*Sometimes I write one, and I look  
at it, until it begins to shine.*

People seek out Emily Dickinson for many different reasons — for insight or inspiration, for solace, and for scholarship. All of us at the Emily Dickinson Museum are dedicated to helping people make the connections they seek — to the place, to the people, and to the nineteenth-century milieu that shaped Dickinson’s genius. Above all, we invite learners of all ages to see Dickinson as a poet for our times, to discover how her words have the power to “shine,” and to reflect on how Dickinson encourages us to wonder at the world around us and our place in it.





## My friends are my estate

Your generous gifts to the **Emily Dickinson Fund** provide vital support for our programs and enrich all of the work we do to “amplify Emily Dickinson’s revolutionary poetic voice from the place she called home.” As we continue to move through a period of reduced federal funding for arts, cultural, and educational organizations, your support is truly essential. We sincerely hope you will continue to make the Emily Dickinson Museum a priority for your charitable giving.

If you are in a position to consider supporting the Museum with a gift above and beyond an annual gift to the Emily Dickinson Fund, we would love to work with you. To learn about making a gift to the Museum through your estate or retirement plan, through a Donor Advised Fund, a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, or to establish an endowed fund that will provide funding for the Museum in perpetuity, please send an email to [development@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:development@emilydickinsonmuseum.org) or call (413) 542-5072. Thank you.

Owned by the Trustees of Amherst College, the Emily Dickinson Museum is overseen by an independent Board of Governors and is responsible for raising its own funds for programs, operations, and capital projects. The Museum operates under the College’s federal tax identification number and IRS 501(c)(3) designation: #04-2103542. Checks can be made out to the *Emily Dickinson Museum*.

## Mass Card to Culture

The Emily Dickinson Museum is a proud partner of the Mass Cultural Council’s “Card to Culture” program, which provides EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer), WIC (Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program), and ConnectorCare cardholders free admission to a variety of arts, humanities, and science organizations across the Commonwealth. In 2025, 251 visitors participated in this program.

## NEH Landmarks of American History & Culture Program

With grant funding of \$190,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Emily Dickinson Museum will host 72 K-12 teachers for on-site one-week workshops in July, 2026. The workshop features Dickinson scholars of note and will examine Dickinson’s poetry in light of the rhetoric of her day, as Americans grappled with a national identity one century on from the American Revolution.

## MCC Cultural Investment Portfolio

The Emily Dickinson Museum received a grant of \$18,300 for operating support from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Cultural Investment Portfolio Program. This grant signifies that the Emily Dickinson Museum provides significant public value through its programs and services.

“My experience here was truly incredible. I honestly don’t even know where to begin... I spent an hour in Emily Dickinson’s room, which was very peaceful. The gardens were beautiful, the staff were very sweet, and the tour was thorough and informative. If I lived near here, I would visit weekly.”

— *Emma Payne, Kentucky*



[EmilyDickinsonMuseum.org](https://emilydickinsonmuseum.org)

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NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

