

History Fellow | Gaston County Museum of Art & History

About GCM

The mission of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History (GCM) is to interpret the art and history of Gaston County and the region through education, preservation, and collection. The Museum strives to inspire diverse audiences to understand their shared heritage and to consider ideas and issues which link the past and present to the future.

About the role

GCM is looking to hire a research fellow to work on an upcoming African American history project funded by a federal grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Historical Association. The research fellow's duties include aligning methodologies with research goals, using a range of tools to acquire information and interpret data, writing up reports and presenting findings to management and other stakeholders. Other responsibilities include conducting fieldwork, working with a diverse range of community members, utilizing public databases, and protecting confidential information gathered from these sources. The ideal candidate should be resourceful, able to deliver presentations, communicate effectively at all levels, and demonstrate excellent time management. Candidate must be passionate about the subject matter and able to meet strict deadlines. The research fellow will report to the Museum Curator and Museum Director for the duration of the project.

The primary goal of this project is to increase research on African American history in Gaston County and incorporate that research into interpretation at the Gaston County Museum. This project will help identify post-Civil War community development as well as expound upon historic figures that were instrumental in the growth of prominent African American communities throughout the county. Findings will also be incorporated into research and survey reports on four key African American historical sites within the county that could be designated as local landmarks by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Responsibilities

- Conduct research through various means, including but limited to, books, journal articles, newspapers, interviews, public databases, etc.
- Record findings by taking written and/or electronic notes with appropriate software.
- Anticipate research issues and promptly resolve them.
- Promptly report any problems to appropriate management.
- Follow a strict code of ethics and protect confidential information.
- Write proposals and deliver presentations to leadership and the public when required.
- Organize and present findings at the 2023 North Carolina Museum Conference that is being held in Gastonia.

Location & commitments

- This is a 12-month contract position.
- Part-time (29 hours per week)

- Hours are typically Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5pm with an hour lunch, however, there is room for flexibility.
- Primary location will be the Gaston County Museum, with occasional field work in Gaston County and surrounding areas.
- Compensation: \$32,000 prior to applicable taxes.
- Payment will be issued on a quarterly basis.

Candidate requirements

- A bachelor's degree in African American studies, public history, research, or similar.
- Master's degree preferable.
- Proven experience with historical research.
- Sound understanding of research methodologies.
- Proficiency in MS Office.
- Attention to detail and exceptional written, verbal, and telephonic communication skills.

Contact us to apply

If you would like to apply for this role, please send resume or CV, along with a cover letter and contact information for three references, to Administrative Assistant, Shannon Whittle at Shannon.Whittle@gastongov.com.