



<b>Job title</b>	<i>Historical Roleplayer (Horticulture)</i>
<b>Reports to</b>	<i>Curator of Historic Landscapes</i>
<b>Status</b>	<i>Seasonal, May 1 – October 31 (hours vary each week), Nonexempt</i>
<b>Compensation</b>	<i>Hourly: \$10/hour</i>

### **Job purpose**

Using Strawbery Banke’s buildings, collections, and landscapes, a Historical Roleplayer helps museum visitors connect their experiences and memories to the past through the portrayal of an individual living during a particular period in Portsmouth history. She/he uses a variety of approaches to communicate historical information, with a focus on providing an outstanding visitor experience.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

- Conduct conversations with visitors of all ages, interests, abilities, and backgrounds to bring about new understandings of history and themselves
- Develop in-depth knowledge of historical periods and individuals interpreted on site
- Care and maintenance of heirloom plants within a historical greenhouse and landscape, including daily watering, planting, weeding, dead heading, and flower harvesting
- Utilize 19<sup>th</sup> century organic gardening techniques and become familiar with identifying plants appropriate to 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian garden design
- Assist in protecting the safety of visitors and the security of museum collections
- Maintain a professional demeanor; cultivate good relations with colleagues; and represent the Museum in a positive light
- Work punctually and independently with daily work plans within a tightly timed schedule
- Participate in annual and ongoing training to build professional knowledge in historical content, interpretive techniques, visitor services, horticulture and educational theory

### **Qualifications**

- Bachelor of Arts degree; coursework in horticulture, history, art history, museum studies, anthropology, or education preferred; - or - Combination of education, training, and experience that demonstrates equivalent proficiency
- Knowledge of and interest in American history, botany, gardening, or other relevant topics.
- Excellent public speaking skills and ability to work enthusiastically with audiences of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds
- Experience in acting, theatre, or improvisation is ideal
- Ability to read, remember, and transmit accurate content according to interpretive goals
- Sound judgment in response to challenging situations
- Ability to accomplish a variety of garden work independently while keeping the landscape and greenhouse sufficiently maintained and organized

### **Working conditions**

Weekend work is required. Work is performed indoors and out, in locations that may be hot, cold, dusty, or drafty. Historical Roleplayers must be able to work in all weather conditions and seasons while dressed in accurate historical garments.

### **Physical requirements**

Physical stamina sufficient to maintain an attentive posture for several hours, to respond quickly to visitors' needs, and to otherwise fulfill the requirements of assigned tasks is needed. Sufficient mobility and comfort in increment weather is required to accomplish garden work, traverse uneven grounds and dirt roads on a timed schedule, to use steps and/or ramps, and in some assignments, to lift, carry, and use objects such as hearth cooking equipment, firewood, weaving apparatus, etc.

### **Direct reports**

None.

### **Application Instructions**

For consideration, please send a cover letter and resume to [horticulture@sbmuseum.org](mailto:horticulture@sbmuseum.org). Please reference the job title in the subject line.

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<b>Approved by:</b>	<i>Jessica Crowley, HR Coordinator</i>
<b>Date approved:</b>	<i>January 15, 2019</i>