
Wharton Esherick Museum
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Wharton Esherick Museum Receives Grant Funding to Plan Campus and Interpretive Expansion

Malvern, PA— The Wharton Esherick Museum has been awarded two grants this month, totaling \$75,000, to fund development of a master campus and interpretive plan. The support came from two sources; the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which awarded a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant of \$25,000 to the Museum, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which awarded the Museum \$50,000 towards the upcoming planning process.

These funds will be used by the Wharton Esherick Museum to develop a master campus plan, which will connect the Wharton Esherick Studio with Sunekrest, the 19th-century farmhouse owned by Esherick that the Museum purchased in 2014, and prepare for the eventual integration of Esherick's 1956 Workshop, which was designed in collaboration with Louis Kahn. Currently, Esherick's Studio is the centerpiece of the Museum and open through guided tours. With the prospect of opening additional buildings to the public, the Museum is also reframing its interpretive philosophy to create new educational and interpretive experiences for visitors.



“Preserving the Studio building and collections is the core of our mission, so that visitors for generations to come will be able to experience the joyful, intimate nature of Esherick’s most iconic work. But his legacy extends far beyond his hilltop studio, influencing and exciting artists, makers, and audiences the world over,” said Wharton Esherick Museum Executive Director Julie Siglin. “This planning process will allow us to explore the true breadth of that mission as we consider new ways to interpret his work and influence, beyond the walls of the Studio.”

The Museum’s goals are to expand their educational and programmatic offerings, increase accessibility, and offer a broader interpretation of Esherick’s life and work.

About the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission:

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is the official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Created in 1945, we are responsible for the collection, conservation, and interpretation of Pennsylvania's historic heritage, which we accomplish through the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Trails of History (historic sites and museums), the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, and the Bureau of Management Services.

The PHMC works in partnership with others to preserve the Commonwealth's natural and cultural heritage as a steward, teacher and advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and the nation.



About the Institute of Museum and Library Services:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



About the Wharton Esherick Museum:

The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, PA is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970) and exhibits over 300 of the artist's work including sculpture, sculptural furniture, woodcut prints and paintings. Wharton Esherick was a leading American sculptor and artist of the early 20th century. Working primarily in wood, he is considered to be among the most influential furniture designers of the 21st century. Esherick's work is represented nationally in the permanent collections of more than 20 major museums and galleries including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

The Museum is open for tours Tuesday – Friday (for groups of 5 or more) from 10 am to 4 pm, Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm and Sundays from 1 pm - 4 pm (no minimum requirement on weekends). Advanced tickets are required, and can be purchased at www.whartonesherickmuseum.org. For more information call 610-644-5822 or email info@whartonesherickmuseum.org.



Photo by Charles Uniatowski