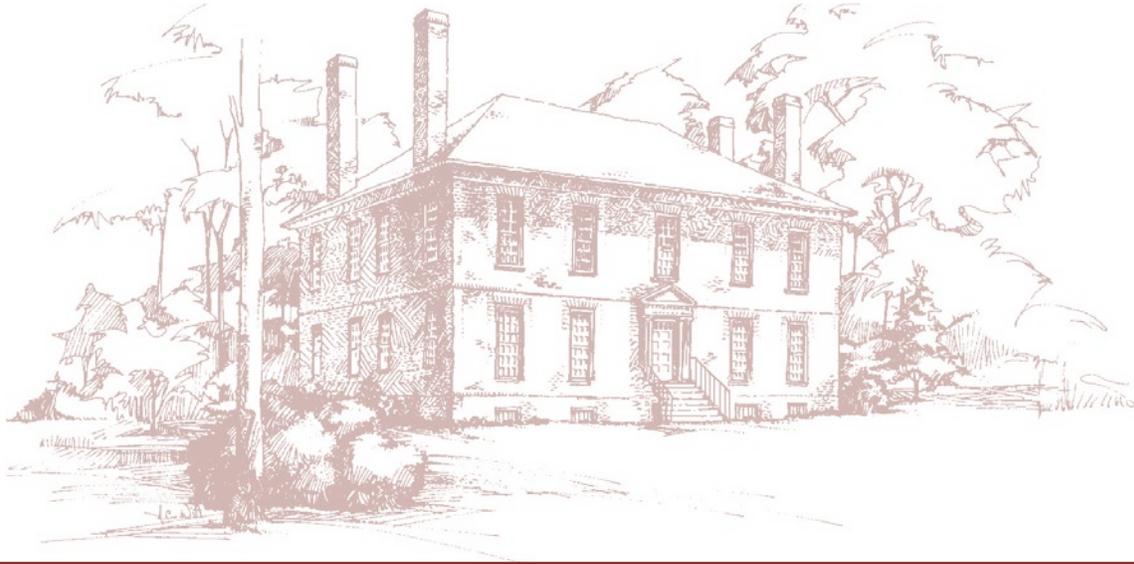


# Wilton News



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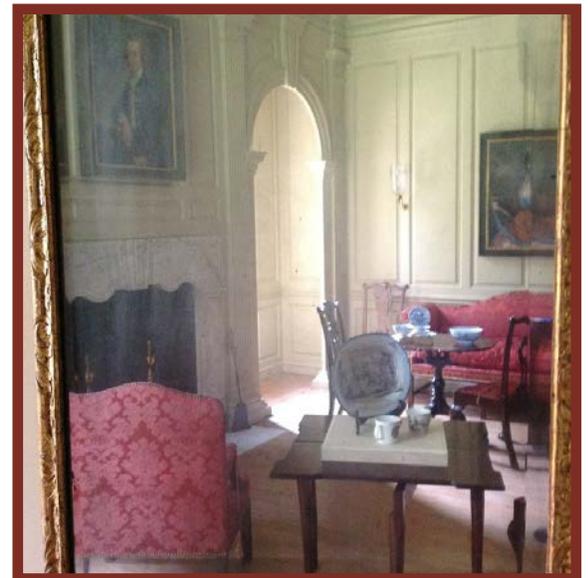
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## STRATEGIC STEWARDSHIP

A Wilton House Museum Strategic Plan is being crafted by members of the museum staff and board. A multi-year strategic plan will direct the museum's growth in ways that are sustainable and relevant while integrating resources and operations to achieve our mission. This planning effort builds on the achievements of the NSCDA-VA's Strategic Plan, the findings documented in Dr. Susan Buck's Historic Paint Analysis, and Mark Wenger's Historic Structures Report, as well as the innovative recommendations made by panelists during the Chipstone Foundation - sponsored Idea Day.

We look forward to sharing this Wilton House Museum Strategic Plan with the public once we have completed the planning process and the final document has the approval of the Wilton House Museum Board and the endorsement of the NSCDA-VA Board of Managers.

Wilton House Museum's Strategic Plan outlines the measurable and reasonable objectives for the institution over the next five years (2017-2022). Guiding the planning process is a desire to better understand, care for, and share this historic landmark. We remain committed to preserving this historic landmark while seeking new ways to activate our collection, expand our historical narrative, engage new audiences, and ensure the relevance and sustainability of the museum's efforts. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan is a living document to secure our vision of Wilton House Museum as a leader among house museums, innovatively preserving and presenting the evidence of its past to advance the goals of the present in meaningful ways.



Of course, we cannot do this without the commitment and contributions of our donors, sponsors, visitors, volunteers, employees, and board members. Thank you for your sustained investment and interest in Wilton House Museum as we move forward - together.

## Museum Interns Making a Difference

College and graduate school student interns contribute to Wilton House Museum while gaining professional experience and earning credits toward their degrees. Afterward, Wilton House Museum's interns share what they learned here as they pursue higher education and join the work-force. Here, we catch up with some of our more recent interns and share their efforts.



This fall Rachel Asbury started at the Winterthur Graduate Program in American Material Culture. While at Wilton, Ms. Asbury enjoyed a year-long collections management internship assisting in the annual cleaning of the museum collection and in the installation of various exhibitions. Working with the Wilton House Museum collection was ideal training for her current graduate studies.



Emily Campbell serves as the Architectural Preservation Assistant with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Ms. Campbell works with the preservation team to maintain and care for all structures in the historic area. While at Wilton House Museum, Emily documented the historic paneling and researched the use of gray paint in mid-eighteenth century interiors.



Susan Norkus spent her time at Wilton House Museum guest curating the museum's first contemporary art exhibition "Anywhere but Now". Susan now serves as Donor Relations Associate at the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University where she is responsible for enhancing the ICA's relationship with donors through stewardship initiatives.



Nicole Kappatos is the Richmond Times-Dispatch Newsroom Researcher/Archivist. In this position Ms. Kappatos manages the newspaper's extensive archives including over two million photographs. While caring for the archives, Nicole promotes access and public engagement with the collection through virtual and digital events and programming.

College and graduate students interested in pursuing an internship at Wilton House Museum are encouraged to contact our Director of Education, William Strollo at 804-282-5936 or [wstrollo@wiltonhousemuseum.org](mailto:wstrollo@wiltonhousemuseum.org)

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

### *Miniatures from the Collection*

*Opens November 11, 2016*

A look at the seldom seen portrait miniatures, hollow-cuts, and silhouettes in the Wilton House Museum Collection.



### *VIVID VIEW: The Art and Science of Paint Analysis*

*Opens March 31, 2017*

An exhibition with Dr. Susan L. Buck



**KEEP UP WITH ALL OF WILTON'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT [WWW.WILTONHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.WILTONHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG/EVENTS)**

## Experts Stitch Together the Evidence

Wilton's parlor has long been admired. The rhythmic symmetry and rich detail of its paneling of fluted pilasters and arched alcoves has been studied and documented by noted historians and antiquarians for over a century. And after all this time, there remains new discoveries to be made.

This summer, textile historian Natalie Larson investigated evidence of historical window treatments and consult on the most appropriate upholstery for an interior. Ms. Larson will stitch together the documentary, physical, and contextual evidence to make a report recommending the most historical appropriate textiles for the parlor. These recommendations for window treatments and upholstery will contribute to future considerations of restoring the parlor to its eighteenth-century color.

This effort is in response to Dr. Susan Buck's Historic Paint Microscopy Report revealing the parlor was painted a stone gray c. 1750 - 1780. Dr. Buck was called back to assist in this investigation. Together, Susan and Natalie spent a day examining and documenting evidence of window treatment hardware. Evidence of previous window treatment hardware was documented and paint samples taken in the hope that paint history will help date the evidence.

Until then, the parlor at Wilton House Museum will have a more authentically eighteenth-century appearance with just a few changes to the room's textiles. Ms. Larson is replacing feather down cushions on the sofas with artificial horsehair stuffing. These will now have the appearance of a flat and firm seat truer to period. And while the investigation is on-going the room's curtains have been delicately cleaned and carefully placed in storage.



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## Making a Daily Difference at Wilton House Museum

With the museum's recent publication of the 2015-2016 philanthropic summary, Wilton House Museum gratefully acknowledged the donors, partners, friends, and collaborators whose support made the last fiscal year so memorable. Last year's landmark success in raising the organization's highest Annual Fund total of more than \$140,000 encouraged both celebration and reflection. Continuing shifts in the cultural and economic landscape within the Richmond community and beyond fostered discussions of revenue, attendance, outreach, and programming. Specifically, how does Wilton House Museum best communicate and connect with its supporters to express and display the manifold reach of gifts to the Annual Fund.

Providing unrestricted financial support to Wilton House Museum, Annual Fund proceeds address not only the organization's greatest needs but also the implementation of strategic, mission-based priorities. These gifts inspire the boards, volunteers, and staff of Wilton House Museum to share and shape this 18th century site as Richmond's premier historic house museum: a gathering place for discussing life in Virginia, displaying Southern decorative arts, defending historic preservation, and debating how the past continues to shape life in America today.

These priorities took shape in contemporary art installations, sold-out symposiums, reimagined tour experiences, and new cultural partnerships, all supported in part through the museum's Annual Fund. Your gift made a daily difference at Wilton House Museum last year.

As our museum community continues to discuss and reimagine how Wilton best serves as a regional resource, we ask you to continue investing in our mission. Your support has achieved so much for this museum, and Wilton House Museum is exceptionally grateful for your trust and generosity. Join this campaign to raise \$125,000 for Wilton House Museum as we continue this meaningful work better to care for and share Wilton.

*Wilton House Museum's Annual Fund campaign reflects the museum's fiscal year (June 1, 2016–May 31, 2017).*

The National Society of The  
Colonial Dames of America in  
the Commonwealth of Virginia  
at WILTON  
215 South Wilton Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

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