The Nichols House was buzzing with activity on June 28 when it opened its doors for a second year of participation in Free Fun Friday! Thanks to the Highland Street Foundation for a grant that enabled us to provide hands-on activities to families throughout the day for a second year in a row. The Museum greeted over 240 guests who participated in woodcarving, bell-ringing, tissue paper flower-making, and self-guided tours and reflective activities throughout two floors and the front garden of the Museum. The Nichols House is one of 100 cultural institutions chosen to participate in Free Fun Fridays across Massachusetts this summer.

The Museum has received a matching capital grant from Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund for $125,000. This grant is for the Collections Conservation Project (CCP), which at a total project cost of approximately $410,000, will replace the existing climate control system as well as address building improvements aimed at increasing energy efficiency, including window restoration, interior storm windows, and insulation of the attic floor and rear ell, all critical to the long-term preservation of the 1804 townhouse and collection. The Museum is thrilled to also receive an anonymous challenge grant for the remainder of the project costs once the Museum has raised the capital grant match.

The CCP will require the Museum to be closed in September and much of October. Please visit the website for up to date information as planning progresses. We’re excited to be implementing a project that has been many years in development and appreciate the support of the Board of Governors, and all of our donors and supporters in getting us to the finish line!

Despite construction work happening on site, the Museum will present some exciting offsite opportunities in the early fall. We’re pleased to announce that Brock Jobe will be returning to lecture on September 19 as a follow-up to last year’s lecture on Thomas Chippendale. The Museum is also launching a new fundraising event this fall--the Rose Standish Nichols Award--inspired by the Museum’s founder. The award is intended to recognize individuals of outstanding achievement, and the 2019 award recipient is Elizabeth Owens, a lifelong proponent of historic preservation who has served for over
twenty years as a Governor of the Museum, active committee member and President of the Board. We hope you will join us as we honor Biddy on October 17 at the Union Club.

Enjoy these wonderful days of summer and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Linda Marshall

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**Panel Discussion: Women in Landscape Architecture**

*Today*

Date: August 21, 2019  
Time: 6:00-7:30pm  
Location: Nichols House Museum  
Tickets: Free and open to the public, advanced registration is required

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women today earn 82% of what men earn in architecture professions. On Wednesday, August 21st at 6:00pm, the Nichols House Museum will host a conversation surrounding women and gender in the field of landscape architecture featuring panelists **Clara Batchelor**, Principal and Founder at CBA Landscape Architects, L.L.C.; **Deneen Crosby**, Principal at Crosby I Schlesinger I Smallridge; **Eleni Glekas**, Director of Historic Preservation at Boston Architectural College; and **Jessalyn Jarest**, Principal and Founder at Jessalyn Jarest Landscape Architecture. This panel discussion is the final event in a series of programming related to the Nichols House Museum's exhibition "The Gardens of Rose Standish Nichols, 1890-1930" on view through August 31, 2019.

Register through Eventbrite, [here](#).

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**Brock Jobe, In Search of Good Design: The Impact of British Design Books on 18th-Century American**
Date: September 19, 2019  
Time: 6:00-7:30pm  
Location: New England Historic Genealogical Society

During the 1700s, British furniture makers produced more than a dozen volumes of furniture designs. None achieved greater fame than Thomas Chippendale’s Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker’s Director. Yet all of them made their way to America and impacted cabinetmakers from Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Charleston, South Carolina. Join Brock Jobe for an armchair journey along the Atlantic Coast as he examines the role of design books in shaping the appearance of American furniture. In the process we will discover the English connections to many of the grandest American pieces.

In 2000 Brock Jobe was appointed professor of American decorative arts in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture after a 28-year career as a museum curator and administrator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Colonial Williamsburg, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England), and Winterthur. Between 2010 and 2014, Brock co-directed the collaborative project, Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture, which united eleven institutions in a celebration of Bay State furniture-making. His newest publication, Crafting Excellence: The Furniture of Nathan Lumbard and His Circle, which he co-authored with Christie Jackson and Clark Pearce, appeared in January 2018. Brock is a recipient of the President’s Award from Old Sturbridge Village, the Award of Merit from the Antiques Dealers’ Association of America, and the Eric M. Wunsch Award for Excellence in the American Arts. He retired from his professorship in May 2015, but retains an office at Winterthur and continues to study, write, and lecture about American furniture.

Tickets:  
General - $20  
Member (NHM or NEHGS) - $15  
Student - $10

Reserve your tickets by calling the Museum at (617) 227-6993.

The House Museum Alliance of Downtown Boston presents: 5-4-3-2-1 Architectural Walking Tour

Date: October 5th or October 19th  
Time: 10:00am-12:00pm  
Location: Begin at the Paul Revere House  
Tickets: $25 General; $20 Members; $12 Children (12 and under)
5 Houses, 4 Centuries, 3 Neighborhoods, 2 Hours, 1 Amazing Walking Tour

Admire the exteriors of five landmark historic houses, experience four centuries of architecture, and explore three of the city’s iconic neighborhoods on this two-hour walking tour that winds its way across picturesque downtown Boston, making for one special experience.

From Colonial to Federal to Victorian, the stylistic intricacies of the Paul Revere House, Otis House, Nichols House, Prescott House, and Gibson House will be highlighted.

Additionally, show your ticket to receive free admission at all five houses during the month of October.

Space is limited and advance ticket purchase is required.

Register through Eventbrite, here.
New Faces at the Nichols House Museum

The Nichols House Museum is delighted to welcome new volunteers, interns, staff, and fellows.

Mark Luburic, Volunteer Guide

New to Boston from Southern California, Mark recently graduated from Chapman University where he studied Vocal Performance and Journalism. He currently works in sales for TIBCO
Mark is a self-professed media fanatic who consumes myriad news sources, The New York Times and NPR being his favorites. Eventually, he would like to pursue graduate school but he has yet to decide where or what to study! His passion for local history stems from high school when he established an effort to learn about his local community. He recently set a goal to become more adept at doing crosswords, and he welcomes advice on that front. He highly recommends you stop whatever you’re doing and listen to 99% Invisible, a podcast on design and architecture. “I look forward to building a relationship with the Nichols House Museum and I know my time here will be fulfilling.”

Frances McNamara, Volunteer Guide

Frances McNamara grew up in Boston, where her father served as Police Commissioner for ten years. She has degrees from Mount Holyoke and Simmons Colleges, and recently retired from the University of Chicago. She now divides her time between Boston and Cape Cod. Author of The Emily Cabot Mysteries about a social activist in Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Frances is Secretary of Sisters in Crime New England and active in MWA New England. She is currently working on a new mystery series, the first book of which is set in Boston in 1919.

Evan Wenner, Volunteer Guide

Evan Wenner is currently a student at Simmons University working towards his master's degree in history. In addition to volunteering at the Nichols House Museum, he works at the U.S.S. Constitution Museum, the Old North Church, and the Gibson House Museum. In his spare time he enjoys singing and playing the guitar.

Alexandra Steed, Archives Intern

Alexandra Steed is in her final year at Simmons University, completing her Masters of Science in Library Science and Masters of Arts in History. She has completed several projects with various collections including the Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass, Houghton Library at Harvard, and the Boston Public Library. She is delighted to be spending time...
with the Nichols Family this summer and becoming further ensconced in Boston history.

Elizabeth Weisblatt, Visitor Services Representative

Elizabeth Weisblatt is a Dress & Textile Historian and former Collections Intern at the Nichols House Museum. She received her undergraduate degree in Art History at Massachusetts College of Art before getting her master's degree at the University of Glasgow. Currently, she is also working with the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America helping to digitize their extensive costume collection. Outside of work, she spends time with family and friends as well as wandering museums seeking inspiration for her art. She firmly believes that there is no bad season for iced coffee.

Astrid Tvetenstrand, Julie Linsdell and Georgia Linsdell Enders Research Fellow

Astrid Tvetenstrand is a current Ph.D. Student in the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University. She received her MA in American Fine and Decorative Art from the Sotheby's Institute of Art and a BA in English Literature from St. Lawrence University. She is interested in how fine and decorative art, architecture, and material culture survives as an embodiment of the philosophical, theological, environmental, and economic context of this country. Astrid is curious about the role of nature in the lives of nineteenth-century Americans and how it influenced the creation of art and commerce in the United States. Her research at the Nichols House Museum focuses upon the career of Rose Standish Nichols and the European inspirations for her landscape designs in America.

Photos from Free Fun Friday
Furniture-maker Ellen Kaspem demonstrates wood inlay.
A pint-sized antiquarian admires a Federal case clock.
Young artists becoming expert tissue paper flower-makers at one of the arts and crafts tables.
The Nichols House Museum is accessible by public transportation... and by scooter.
The Back Bay Ringers lead a demonstration in the Library.