

Tatiana Shannon

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To Whom it May Concern

This cover letter has been submitted to outline the relevant skills and professional experiences I have that would make me a good candidate for the Somerville Community Preservation Committee. As a pre-program art conservator with a professional focus of preventative and object conservation, as well as an avid amateur historian, I have a strong background in historic preservation. Over the past 7 years I have worked with a range of cultural organizations, museums, and private businesses, acquiring hands-on experience in the field of historic preservation which could prove invaluable to the committee. And while I do not have any professional experience in the CPC's other programmatic areas I would like to point out that as a Somerville resident looking at the ever-increasing housing rates afflicting Boston right now I am deeply invested in the creation of more affordable housing in Somerville. Furthermore, I am an avid proponent of community gardens and strongly support increasing access to other forms of outdoor recreation for Somerville residents.

Amongst my most recent work experiences in preventative conservation is my paid internship with the Northeast Museum Services Center, as well as my work with the Mark Twain House and Museum. In the fall of 2017, I started a three-month contract position with the Northeast Museum Services Center at the Charlestown Navy Yard. I assisted in the development of an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) for museum collections storage and exhibit areas at two separate national parks, as well as assisting in an assortment of other research projects. In the winter of 2017 I served as a conservation technician for a short-term project at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. Assisting a larger team of established conservators, we addressed a significant mold infestation in the Museum's collections storage facility and archives; treating approximately five thousand objects.

From 2012 to 2015, I was a senior intern at the Smith College Museum of Art's Frame Conservation Apprenticeship program where I participated in or led a number of conservation treatments for numerous paintings, prints and frames in the museum's collection. During this period, I also interned with the Amherst Historical Society and Museum. As an intern I created a comprehensive catalog of the museum's photography collection, as well as designing and implementing a plan of action to rehouse the collection which had been hitherto haphazardly stored in various locations across the Amherst History Museum's premises.

As this cover letter outlines, and my resume goes into greater detail on, I have dedicated a significant portion of my time and energy over the past 7 years to acquiring professional experiences in art

conservation and historic preservation – experiences that would serve me well on the Community Preservation Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Shannon

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Education

Hampshire College, Bachelor of Arts, 2009-2012

Professional Experience

Sculpture and Decorative Art Services LLC **October 2018 – November 2018**
Somerville, MA

Milky Row Cemetery Intern

Assisted in the conservation of 20 marble grave markers and small monuments from the 19th century. Responsibilities include documentation, dismantling of small monuments, removal of old repairs, pinning with stainless steel dowels in some cases, adhering fragments together using either epoxy or mortar, some repointing, and replacement of bases.

Excelsior Art Services LLC **September 2017 – Ongoing**
Trenton, NJ

Independent Contractor – Conservation Technician

Provided technical and administrative support on an outdoor monument conservation project of the bronze sculptural components of the *George R. White Memorial* located in the Boston Public Garden in August 2018. Assisted in grant writing, copyediting, and material research for other Excelsior Art Services projects.

Northeast Museum Services Center **October 2017 – January 2018**
Charlestown, MA

Museum Intern

Assisted in the development of an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) for museum collections storage and exhibit areas at Saratoga National Historical Park and a Scope of Collections Statement for Hopewell Furnace National Historical Park. Conducted research, monitoring, and preparing the IPM plan for facilities where museum collections are stored and/or on exhibit.

Central Park Conservancy **June 2017 – August 2017**
Manhattan, NY

Monuments Conservation Intern

Involved in the annual program of examination, documentation, preservation, and conservation of the bronze and stone sculpture in Central park in New York City.

**The Mark Twain House and Museum
Hartford, CT**

February 2017 – March 2017

Conservation Technician

Short term position assisting a team of professional conservators with the surface cleaning of approximately five thousand objects of all types, from furniture to glass to books to textiles to metals, with the primary focus being removal of dormant mold and pest management.

**Jones Library; Special Collections
Amherst, MA**

April 2016 – January 2017

Independent Contractor

Responsible for the design and development of an online tour focusing on select pieces of artwork in the library's collection, and communication materials associated with the tour.

**Framework Galleries
Holyoke, MA**

January 2015 – September 2015

Conservation Technician & Gallery Assistant

Play a key role in designing and creating the gallery's website, and determining and implementing social media strategy for the company. Communicate with potential artists, and catalogue owner's collection of European and American frames for sale. Assisted Frameworks Galleries' owner and conservator, William Myers in the design and manufacture of a large format picture frame for a 19th century portrait in the collection of the [Slater Memorial Museum](#) in Norwich, CT.

**Smith College Museum of Art
Northampton, MA**

October 2012 – June 2015

Frame Conservation Apprenticeship Program Senior Intern

Studied the history of American and European picture frames, prepared condition reports, and developed treatment strategies for cleaning and restoring historic picture frames in the museum's collection. Researched aesthetic trends in picture frame design; and designed, carved and produced historically accurate reproduction frames for paintings by George Bellows, Childe Hassam, and William Closson. Developed and applied conservation treatments for a Stanford White designed frame, a WWI recruitment poster, and several paintings from museum's collection.

**Amherst Historical Society & Museum
Amherst, MA**

May 2012 – January 2015

Intern & Videographer

Created a comprehensive catalog of the museum's photography collection, served as a tour guide, and conducted historical research for exhibitions. Curated two exhibitions - *An Amherst Harvest* and *George Thomas: Local Artist*; mounting artwork, designing the exhibitions, writing labels, and determining and implementing social media strategy to advertise exhibitions. Assisted in the effort to raise the funds needed to conserve important pieces in the museum's collection. Filmed and edited bi-weekly lectures for release on community television stations.

**A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery
Northampton MA
Gallery Assistant**

September 2011 – May 2012

Staffed the front desk monitoring visitors and keeping the artwork safe, greeting visitors, answering questions, and fielding sales inquiries. Assisted with the physical installation and removal of exhibits. Updated the gallery's website and social media outlets

**Empowerment Through the Arts (ETTA)
Amherst MA**

July 2010 - May 2011

Gallery Assistant

Maintained a gallery space for local artists, managed communication with visitors and other outside parties, assisted with the physical installation and removal of shows, and coordinated on- and off-site events.

Software and Productivity Tools

Quickbooks, MS Office, MS Excell, MS Powerpoint, Adobe Creative Cloud: Photoshop, Bridge, Lightroom, Acrobat, Premiere, and Encore; Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google Analytics, Wordpress, Knowledge of SEO & SEM

Publications

Shannon, Tatiana. [“Conserving a Stanford White Frame.”](#) *The Frame Blog*. Web. 13 Oct. 2014.