



Happy New Year!

As we reflect back on last year, we are amazed and humbled by all that we have accomplished together during this time of uncertainty and challenge. The resilience and determination that you have brought to your volunteer service has helped propel Hillwood to achieve unimaginable success, such as welcoming back 82,849 visitors through our doors in 2021. The grace you have extended to visitors, staff, and fellow volunteers is evident across campus. While 2022 may bring new challenges, we are confident that together we will continue to meet them and grow in new and exciting ways. Thank you for your continued support and choosing to be a part of the Hillwood community!

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email featuring news and updates from the Hillwood staff.

FEBRUARY 2022 SCHEDULE

The February 2022 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

This winter offers a variety of exciting virtual education for volunteers. Please mark your calendars and join us online for these upcoming sessions this month and next.

How to Attend: All volunteers are invited to attend these sessions and no advance registration is needed. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the program date. The sessions will also be recorded and the video link shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting
Thursday, January 27 (10 a.m.)

Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting will be offered virtually via Zoom on Thursday, January 27, 2022 (10 a.m.). The meeting will provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn about Hillwood's strategic plan, important updates, and major projects for the year ahead. The meeting is scheduled to run about 1 hour and 20 minutes and will include time for volunteers to submit questions via the Q&A feature.

Virtual Day of Horticulture

Monday, February 7 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Join the horticulture department for a morning of garden-related lectures:

- **Gardening for Caterpillars (10-11 a.m.)** | Join Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager, as he discusses the vital role caterpillars play in a healthy ecosystem and hear a few design and maintenance tips to encourage their abundance in our home gardens.
 - **The Vanilla Orchid (11-11:30 a.m.)** | Learn about the lure, history, and culture of the vanilla orchid with orchid and tropical plant specialist Andrew Bedenbaugh.
 - **Azaleas at Hillwood (11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)** | Azaleas are a fundamental plant of Marjorie Post's gardens. Join gardener Veera Pfaffli as she shares a few of Hillwood's most iconic azaleas, recent additions, and how they are used and cared for in the landscape.
 - **Hillwood and Sustainability (12-1 p.m.)** | Hillwood as an organization has made a strong commitment to addressing local and global environmental concerns. Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, to learn about these exciting initiatives across the campus.
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Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *The Luxury of Clay*

Tuesday, February 22 (5:30 p.m.)

Join Rebecca Tilles, associate curator of 18th century French & western European fine and decorative arts, for an overview of Hillwood's new exhibition, *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*, on view in the Dacha February 19 through June 26, 2022. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post valued porcelain objects for their beauty, exquisite design, and historic associations. While most were crafted for specific uses, these items are valued objects in their own right. Featuring more than 125 objects, the exhibition will trace the remarkable development of porcelain, from its origins in 9th-century China to its discovery in Europe in the early 18th century, leading to contemporary artistic interpretations of this material.

Virtual Day of Horticulture

Monday, March 7 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Save the date for the March session and join the horticulture department for a morning of garden-related lectures. The line of speakers and presentation is forthcoming.

JANUARY CLOSURE

Hillwood is closed to the public from January 10-February 4 to clean and keep the mansion maintained to the pristine standards for which it is known. Hillwood will reopen to the public on **Saturday, February 5***.

*Please note the reopening date has been updated since the December volunteer email.

2021 VISITATION RECAP

In 2021, we welcomed 82,849 on-site visitors. It was our third highest attendance after 2017 (85,974 visitors) and 2019 (83,784 visitors), despite not opening until later in February and limiting capacity with timed entry until mid-June. We also welcomed more visitors virtually this year with 5,913 attendees to virtual programs, up from 3,091 virtual visitors in 2020. Thank you for supporting the visitor experience and helping us pivot last year as our operations evolved through the pandemic.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Thank you to all who generously donated to Hillwood's winter coat drive, which ran from November 16 through December 16. Shortly before the holiday break, Hillwood collected and delivered 29 adult coats, 2 children's coats, 17 scarves, 7 pairs of gloves, and 2 hats to [Thrive DC](#), whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness in D.C. We deeply appreciate your help in making a difference in our local community.

SPREAD THE WORD: RECRUITING VISITOR SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

After a two-year hiatus from recruiting new volunteers due to the pandemic, Hillwood is delighted to announce we have once again opened recruitment for new, incoming volunteers starting with a new Visitor Services Volunteer class in early 2022.

Visitor Services Volunteers are integral members of Hillwood's volunteer cohort who provide customer service and interpretation to museum visitors in the visitor center and mansion. This is the perfect opportunity for those who have a passion for sharing their love of history, art, and/or gardens with others in a forward-facing role. Weekday and weekend positions are available. Help us spread the word about this exciting volunteer opportunity to your friends and colleagues.

To apply, interested candidates should review the [detailed position description](#) and complete the [online application](#) on Hillwood's website.

OPEN COMMUNICATION: RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

As you plan for the year ahead, please continue to keep Hillwood abreast of any changes in your volunteer service and tenure. We understand how challenging the past two years have been for many volunteers, and for some, that has meant a temporary pause on service or stepping back completely from the program. Hillwood is committed to providing a safe environment for all and appreciates feedback on how we can best support the volunteer experience at all stages of service.

IN THE GARDENS

Little doubt remains whether or not winter has officially arrived as January rolled in with heavy, wet snow coupled with some of the lowest temperatures of the season. [Please enjoy a few recent photos of the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.](#)



A snowy day in the garden

MISSED AN EMAIL?

Visit [Stay Connected: Volunteer Email](#) on the volunteer website for an archive of articles, images, and videos shared in the volunteer email and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

Thank you for being a part of the Hillwood community. Our "virtual doors" are always open. Feel free to reach us at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, Maria Matlock, and Samantha Hernandez

HILLWOOD AT HOME

Enjoy Hillwood through our comprehensive digital offerings, including the online collections, educational video library, mobile app, and virtual programs.

[Explore >](#)

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[Visit >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

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HILLWOOD

ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS



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