

Hillwood Volunteer Program

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

DECEMBER 2024 SCHEDULE

The December 2024 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics, complete with private tours and special events. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts. If you have any changes or questions regarding the volunteer schedule, please continue to contact volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

UPDATED VISUAL AIDS FOR MANSION BAG POLICY

Hillwood has introduced two updated visual resources to aid in a more streamlined implementation of our bag policy: updated measuring boxes and ribbons for exempt items. Two new measuring boxes are now available in the coat room and visitor center. Each measure about 11x14x8 inches, and the open top is designed to allow guests to easily check if they can keep their bag or item with them as they explore the mansion. The ribbons for exempt items will help volunteers and staff identify individuals who have been granted a bag policy exception and received prior guidance about our bag policy. For more information about these visual resources and Hillwood's bag policy, please consult the [Updated Visual Aids for Hillwood's Bag Check Policy](#) document.



Measuring box now available in the visitor center for guests to learn about our mansion bag policy.

COMING SOON AT HILLWOOD

Conservation Flooring in Pavilion To Be Installed November 18

Hillwood looks forward to another conservation project with Eyemats, a UK-based company specializing in conservation flooring utilizing digital images, in the pavilion. The installation is scheduled for Monday, November 18. The current T-shaped runner will be replaced with an Eyemats featuring the printed image of the pavilion precious floor. Be on the lookout for more information in next month's newsletter about the installation project!

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Installation Re-scheduled for November 2024

We are thrilled to share that our Electric Vehicle Charging Stations will be installed in mid to late November 2024. We originally anticipated these stations to be in place and ready earlier this fall but had to postpone installation due to delays from DC permitting. We will have a single charging station with two chargers located in the first and second parking spaces nearest to the greenhouse, with additional lines buried to accommodate potential future chargers. We hope our visitors appreciate this new amenity that will be compatible with a wide range of electric vehicles and aligns with our efforts towards more sustainable practices. [Please read here for further information on the usage, cost, and management of Hillwood's EV charging stations.](#)

FALL GARDEN TOUR SEASON CONCLUDES

The fall garden tour season ended on Sunday, November 10. Thank you to our garden docents for a remarkable season, and for successfully helping us launch a third tour on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Their combined efforts resulted in reaching more visitors and enriching their Hillwood experiences with their tours. In 2024, to-date garden docents have led 652 tours with 6,175 visitors. Kudos on a fabulous year!



Garden docents Jim Higgins, Judy Patterson, and Tom Pollaci with visitors in the motor court.

HILLWOOD'S HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Hillwood is Open Thanksgiving Weekend

The museum and administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28. Hillwood will be open Friday, November 29 through Sunday, December 1.

Holiday Hours in December

Hillwood will adjust its hours and close early to the public at 3 p.m. on:

- Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
- Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Hillwood will close to the public on Wednesday, December 25. Following this holiday closure, the museum will re-open Thursday, December 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars: January 2025 Closure

In January, Hillwood will be open to the public from Wednesday, January 1 through Sunday, January 5. The museum will close to the public from Monday, January 6 until Friday, January 31 for a deep-clean of the mansion and to update our exhibition spaces. Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 1.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY SÈVRES PORCELAIN AT HILLWOOD

While a majority of the Sèvres porcelain in Hillwood's collection dates to the eighteenth century, a small number of objects represent the continued vitality and cultural relevance of the Sèvres Manufactory in nineteenth-century France. After a period of decline due to the French Revolution, early nineteenth-century rulers revived the manufactory by commissioning lavish services and decorative pieces that represented societal interests of the time, such as science and orientalism. [Click here to learn more about this portion of Hillwood's Sèvres porcelain collection and the nineteenth-century figures and ideas associated with the objects in an article from Assistant Curator of European Decorative Arts Thomas Wu.](#)



Vase depicting African and Indian birds. Sèvres Manufactory (French, 1740-present), manufacturer. Pauline Knip (French, 1781-1851), painter. France, 1822. Hard-paste porcelain, ormolu. 24.181.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

November is an exciting time for the horticulture staff. The holidays are almost upon us with Thanksgiving right around the corner. This year's holiday décor theme, 'Tis the Sea-son, takes inspiration from five different pieces in our current special exhibition, *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*. Out in the gardens, the mums are giving way to winter and preparations for the spring seasonal display. Finally, the staff have been working on a new planting in the Japanese-style garden. [Click here to learn more from an article by Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture.](#)



Holiday décor coming soon to Hillwood.

MUSEUM SHOP UPDATES

Museum Store Sunday

Hillwood's museum shop is proud to be participating in the 8th annual Museum Store Sunday, an annual event that encourages shopping at museum stores to support the missions and programs of each participating museum and cultural institution.

On Sunday, December 1, the official Museum Store Sunday, enjoy the following exclusives:

- Free gift with purchase on sales over \$100
- Deals on Apparel, Books, Perfume and Accessories
- Free gift with a purchase of Blue's Coffee and Tea
- Free shipping online and in-store

Holiday Discount

It's time to show our volunteers some love! Get 30% off non-clearance items from December 4-18 - in store or online. Don't miss out on this special discount!

Come visit in person or [shop conveniently from your own home](#), with shipping or in-store pickup available!

IN MEMORIAM: ISABELLE DE BORCHGRAVE

We are saddened to hear of the [recent passing of Isabelle de Borchgrave](#), a prominent Belgian artist and sculptor whose work was featured in Hillwood's 2012 exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier*.

Inspired by the rich history of fashion represented in European paintings, famous costumes in museum collections, and designs of the grand couturiers, she turned her passion for painting toward the recreation of elaborate costumes – crumpling, pleating, braiding, and painting the surface of simple rag paper to achieve the effect of textiles and create the illusion of haute couture.

We are honored to have a few pieces by de Borchgrave in Hillwood's collection, which are often displayed in the pavilion. [Visit the Prêt-à-Papier page on Hillwood's website to learn more about de Borchgrave's work and the exhibition.](#)



Isabelle de Borchgrave's gorgeous paper sculptures were on display in the 2012 special exhibition Prêt-à-Papier.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Tour: Holiday Display

December 10, 11, 12 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Get an intimate look at Hillwood's holiday décor on this tour of the mansion and grounds hosted by director of horticulture Jessica Bonilla or floral and event décor designer Ami Wilber. Tours are limited to 15 volunteers and depart from the horticulture breakroom. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [December 10 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)
- [December 11 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)
- [December 12 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)

Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop

December 11 & 12 (Wednesday & Thursday), 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Be inspired and create your own unique holiday wreath of wintery greens under the guidance of gardener Matt Boyle. Space is limited to 16 volunteers per workshop. The workshop takes place in the Dina Merrill Pavilion. Cost is \$35. Please use the links below to sign up for a workshop:

- [December 11 Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)
- [December 12 Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECORDINGS

Don't miss out on our robust lineup of volunteer lectures and programs of 2024! If you were unable to attend a virtual volunteer program, check out our [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) to catch up with the recordings. Please note that the 2024 Lecture Videos page on the volunteer website now has a link to [Hillwood's YouTube Library](#). In lieu of adding duplicate videos to the volunteer website, we hope you enjoy watching public programs, such as lectures and workshops, on Hillwood's YouTube channel.

STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

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

-The Volunteer Support Team

Jordan Hansen, Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

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 >](#)

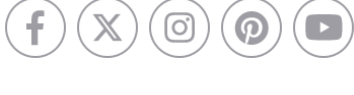
STAY CONNECTED

Visit the volunteer website for an archive of past monthly volunteer newsletters and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)

HILLWOOD

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