

Hillwood Volunteer Program

Dear Volunteers,

Happy New Year!

As we step into 2025, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible successes we achieved together last year. Hillwood welcomed a record-breaking 110,772 on-site visitors in 2024, along with 3,139 virtual visits, marking another milestone in our shared journey. Your unwavering support and dedication throughout 2024 have left a lasting impact on Hillwood, helping us create unforgettable experiences for our visitors. We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers for playing an indispensable role in this remarkable accomplishment.

We're excited for another year of collaboration, growth, and success. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting on Wednesday, January 29, at 10 a.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from Hillwood's senior management team about our vision for the year ahead.

Enjoy this month's newsletter, filled with the latest news and updates from Hillwood staff.

FEBRUARY 2025 SCHEDULE

The February 2025 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](#)

JANUARY 2025 CLOSURE

Hillwood's annual cleaning has begun! Every January, Hillwood closes its doors for a few weeks for a thorough cleaning of the mansions and collections to maintain the standard set by our founder and expected by our visitors. The museum is closed to the public until Friday, January 31.

Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 1, when we will host [Crêpe Days: Celebrate La Chandeleur!](#) We look forward to welcoming you back for another wonderful year of programs, exhibitions, and year-round beauty in the gardens.

2025 GUEST PASSES

As part of Hillwood's volunteer benefit package, volunteers are welcome to visit the estate free of charge during normal operating hours and receive guest passes for family and friends. Be on the lookout for your volunteer guest passes, which will be mailed later this month. If you do not receive your guest passes by Friday, February 7, please reach out to us at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.

At your earliest convenience, please ensure that the mailing address associated with your Volgistics profile is correct by Monday, January 20. Instructions for updating your profile can be found on pages 6-7 of the [Volgistics User Guide](#).

HILLWOOD UPDATES

Capital Campaign: 21st-Century Friends of Marjorie Merriweather Post

A new plaque was installed for the Friendship Walk to commemorate the generosity of those who supported the recent [porous pathways project](#). Recognized as the "21st-Century Friends of Marjorie Merriweather Post," they joined us for a celebratory unveiling on December 9, 2024.



The new plaque for the Friendship Walk commemorates the generous donors who supported Hillwood's recent porous pathways project.

EV Charging Stations Now Active!

Hillwood's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are now active! A single charging station with two chargers is now located in the first and second parking spaces of the visitor center parking deck, nearest to the greenhouse. [For instructions on how to use the station, along with the guidelines for visitor, volunteer and staff use, please read more about Hillwood's EV Charging Stations here.](#)

New Suggested Donation Adult Pricing Beginning April 2025

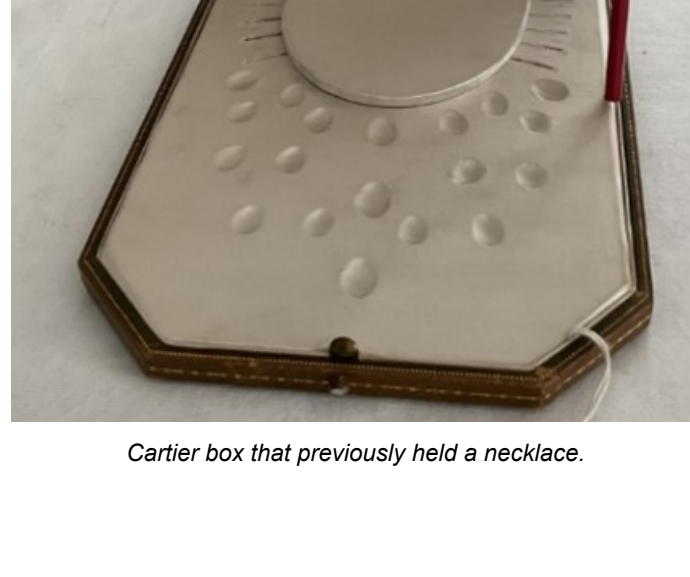
The past few years have been a time of immense growth for Hillwood, and as we conducted research this year related to the strategic planning process, we determined that it is time to increase the suggested donation. Beginning in April 2025, we plan to change the adult suggested donation price from \$18 to \$20, though, of course, guests will still be allowed to pay whatever makes them comfortable to prohibit any barriers to visiting.

Hillwood's suggested donation pricing has not changed since 2015, despite the cost of operating steadily increasing. As we work to ensure Hillwood is a place that is welcoming for everyone, this higher price will help to maintain financial stability while also subsidizing visits for those who cannot afford to pay the full donation.

As we move close to the launch date, Hillwood will share talking points and a communications plan with both volunteers and staff.

BOXES AND LACE: THE ART OF INVENTORY AND REPRODUCTION

In 2024, Hillwood's Collections and Curatorial department began work on two exciting projects: inventorying object boxes and lace reproduction for the Marjorie Post Bedroom Suite. As with all things at Hillwood, these projects are a true pleasure, given the stunning nature of the objects. Many of the boxes are easily recognized by their signature Cartier red and there is always something new to discover in the exquisite detail of the lace. With the help of interns and dedicated team members, both projects made great strides last year and will continue into 2025. [Click here to learn more about the box inventory and lace reproduction initiatives from Collections and Curatorial Coordinator Diana Brazil.](#)



Cartier box that previously held a necklace.

EXCITING UPDATES IN THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

We're thrilled to share some wonderful updates about staffing in the Volunteer Department, all aimed at enhancing our ability to support volunteers and the remarkable work you all do at Hillwood.

Volunteers were emailed about this exciting news on December 19, 2024, and the highlights are provided below:

- **Jordan Hansen's Promotion** | We are delighted to announce that Jordan Hansen has been promoted to Volunteer Programs Manager, a role she has earned through her outstanding dedication and exceptional contributions to Hillwood! In her new role, Jordan will take on expanded responsibilities in volunteer education and communication, further strengthening our programs. Her office location will remain the same, and her schedule will continue as Monday-Friday.

Jordan will remain actively involved with volunteers, ensuring continued in-person presence and engagement during volunteer shifts and providing ongoing support as she transitions into this exciting new role.

- **New Volunteer Programs Coordinator Role** | To support our robust community of over 370 volunteers, we're thrilled to announce that recruitment has begun to add a new Volunteer Programs Coordinator to our team in 2025. This new position will assist with managing monthly and daily schedules, supporting recruitment and training—particularly for new VSVs—and providing on-site assistance to docents and VSVs. Working Saturday-Wednesday, the coordinator will bring a focus to providing weekend support to meet peak visitation demands.

- **Butler's House Office Construction** | To accommodate the new coordinator position, a new office will be constructed on the staff side of the Butler's House. Construction has started and will continue during our January closure. Please note that the Butler's House and volunteer lounge will be **closed to volunteers until January 31** to facilitate construction, coinciding with Hillwood's winter cleaning. We appreciate your understanding and support as we improve our team's workspace and capacity.

STAFF UPDATES

As we kick off the new year, we want to take a moment to recognize the exceptional contributions of our staff and celebrate their well-deserved promotions. These team members have gone above and beyond in their roles, and we're excited to share their new positions and the continued impact they will have on Hillwood in 2025. Please join us in congratulating them!

Lindsey Woods – School Programs Coordinator

Lindsey Woods has been promoted to the full-time role of School Programs Coordinator. Since joining Hillwood in March 2023, Lindsey has strengthened our connections with local schools, overseeing 100+ field trips annually for over 3,300 students, with a focus on DCPS schools. We look forward to her continued work enhancing teacher engagement and expanding our school programs.



Lindsey Woods

Kitty Bell – Librarian/Archivist

Kitty Bell has been promoted from her role as Library and Archives Technician to full-time Librarian/Archivist. Kitty has been instrumental in managing our extensive archives, including cataloging over 3,000 architectural drawings and processing our historical curatorial records. We're excited for her continued contributions in this expanded role.



Kitty Bell

Luis Espinal – Facilities and Grounds Technician II

Luis Espinal has been promoted to his new role as Facilities and Grounds Technician II. With 36 years of exceptional service at Hillwood, Luis's unmatched knowledge of the campus and his expertise in plumbing, painting, masonry, and electrical work have been vital to maintaining Hillwood's buildings. His mentorship and dedication continue to make a significant impact on the team.



Luis Espinal

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Business Meeting

January 29, 2025 (Wednesday), 10 a.m.

Join us for Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting, offered virtually via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 29 at 10 a.m. Volunteers will have the opportunity to hear from Hillwood's senior management team to learn more about Hillwood's strategic plan, important updates, and major projects for the year ahead. Time will also be dedicated to answering volunteer questions submitted via Zoom's Q&A feature. The meeting is scheduled to run for about 1 hour and 20 minutes. All volunteers are encouraged to attend, and no advance registration is needed. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date. The business meeting will be recorded and the video link shared with volunteers via email.

Day of Horticulture Programs

February 3 (Monday) and March 3 (Monday), 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

All volunteers are cordially invited to attend a morning of garden-inspired talks hosted by the horticulture department on February 3 and March 3. These programs will be held in-person at the visitor center theater and light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the first presentation begins at 10 a.m. No RSVP is required. Presentations will be recorded and posted on the volunteer website for those who are unable to attend. [Please click here to learn more about the programs.](#)

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

HILLWOOD'S WEBSITE

Stay engaged with all things Hillwood at our website by exploring the collection database, finding out what's in bloom, and registering for programs. Learn more about current visitor offerings and booking your next visit on our [Plan Your Visit page](#).

[Explore >](#)

VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

Catch up on past volunteer communications, newsletters, recorded volunteer programs, and updated guidelines by consulting the volunteer website. Continue your Hillwood learning journey by exploring the robust collection of educational resources available to all volunteers.

[Learn >](#)

HILLWOOD

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