

Dennos Museum Center Curatorial Research Internship
Summer 2026 | Traverse City, Michigan

Internship Description

This internship provides curatorial research in preparation for the fall 2026 Works Project Administration (WPA) exhibition of basketry, quill, and beadwork at the [Dennos Museum Center](#) (Northwestern Michigan College) in Traverse City. The intern is primarily responsible for research; as such, the intern will work independently, with Dennos staff, and with members of the Grand Traverse (GTB) and Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to prepare written, digital, and archival research materials for the forthcoming exhibition.

NOTE: This is a summer internship, set to run between May - August 2026 depending upon intern availability. If necessary, the intern is responsible for applying for NMC housing on April 1, 2026. It is critical that the [housing application](#) be submitted ASAP as summer lodging in Traverse City is very competitive and costly. Interns are responsible for the cost of their own lodging, meals, etc.

Stipend

\$5,000 stipend payable in two installments: \$2,500 at the beginning of the internship and \$2,500 at the conclusion of the internship's 140-hour requirement.

Schedule

Flexible (140 hours total to be completed at a pace that works for the intern)

Qualifications

Required:

- High school graduate
- Basic computer skills: use of internet, email, and calendaring software

Preferred:

- Enrolled in or completed an associate, bachelor, or graduate degree program in a related/adjacent field of study (history, art history, museum studies, etc).
- Some familiarity with Anishinaabe art and/or history
- Basic familiarity with research tools such as library catalogs and/or Google scholar
- Ability to travel to other museums and nearby sites for research and meetings

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Intern Responsibilities

- Conduct background research on the Dennon Museum Center's (DMC) Works Project Administration (WPA)-era [collection of black ash, sweet grass, and quill baskets](#) from the DMC's permanent art collection. Most of these baskets are from northwest lower and upper Michigan and were made in the 20th century.
- Artist and object research may entail utilizing the museum's collections management software system (PastPerfect), reviewing historical paper files, conducting secondary source research via interlibrary loan and digital resources, and other resources as determined by the intern.
- Collaborate with DMC staff and the LTBB's archivist, [Eric Hemenway](#), to prepare materials for a forthcoming exhibition in fall 2026 at the Dennon. This work may include exhibit planning between DMC staff and Mr. Hemenway. Other meetings may also include representatives and artists from GTB as well as NMC.
- Partner with the museum's educator to research and prepare potential educational programming to align with the anticipated exhibition.

Application

Please submit a resume and a cover letter by March 1, 2026 to chadley@nmc.edu for full consideration. The one-page cover letter should address the candidate's qualifications and interest in the research internship, as well as how they see this opportunity helping them advance their career, educational, and/or personal goals.

Brief Zoom interviews will take place shortly after the application deadline. An internship offer will be extended by March 15 to allow ample time for the candidate to secure NMC housing by April 1, 2026 if necessary.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Craig Hadley, Executive Director and Chief Curator, at 231-995-1572 or chadley@nmc.edu to discuss this opportunity in more detail.

Special thanks to the [Decorative Arts Trust](#) for funding this paid internship opportunity through a generous grant award.