The Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) is seeking a creative, experienced special exhibitions curator and project lead who will deliver, from concept to execution, an exhibition centered on the 250th commemoration of the events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Working with MHS staff and a wide range of external partners, the Curator/Project Consultant will shape the scope and scale of the exhibit, ensuring that it showcases the extraordinary and matchless collection of the MHS while simultaneously appealing to a wide and diverse audience of local, national and international visitors to Boston. Specifically, the Curator/Project Consultant will:

- In consultation with the President of MHS, staff, and external partners, curate a large public exhibition from concept development through fabrication and installation
- Develop a flexible project plan, outlining a fluid and evolving timeline, logistics, and budget
- Lead exhibition brainstorming sessions with staff and external partners with a focus on exhibit design and content development
- Conduct exhibition prototyping and evaluation
- Secure one or more venues for the exhibition, negotiating with state, city and local officials and other key stakeholders
• Work with President, the SVP for Programs and External Affairs, and external partners to identify and secure public and private funding sources and sponsorships

• Coordinate with internal staff and external partners to select and prepare exhibiton-related materials for public relations and marketing efforts

• Hire and oversee vendors, consultants and subcontractors, as needed

MHS seeks an accomplished individual with an entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and demonstrated excellence in project management. The successful candidate will bring a passion for US history, as well as an appreciation for and/or experience with the work of a museum coupled with a business-like and strategic approach. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 8 years’ experience in professional exhibition design management, preferably in a visitor-driven cultural institution with an emphasis on public programs, and proven skill in managing creative teams and large projects, including oversight of construction, installation and operations.

The expectation is that the Curator/Project Consultant will work on a part-time, contract basis from January 2023 through July, 2026.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1791, the MHS is an invaluable resource for the study of American history, life, and culture. Its collections tell the story of America through over twelve million documents, artifacts, and national treasures, including the personal papers of three presidents—John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Since 1791, the Society has nurtured and spread knowledge and the appreciation of American history by preserving and enriching its collections, providing tools and services to support research, and cultivating scholarship. The MHS is committed to the principle that knowledge of our nation’s past is fundamental to its future, and strives to reach a broad audience in order to elucidate the importance of history in understanding change and continuity in our world.

Over the past decade, the MHS has made its resources increasingly available not only to researchers but to the wider public. This has been greatly enhanced by the use of technology, especially through an improved website, ABIGAIL (the Society's online catalog), accessible collection guides and increased digitization. Library visitation is also growing, owing to the Society’s online presence and an increase in the number of research fellowships. A new endowed acquisitions fund has made it possible to add to collections at a time when purchasing materials has become increasingly competitive.

Public events play a central role in the Society. The MHS offers a full roster of engaging programs, including talks by established and emerging historians, history makers and public figures. Exhibitions highlight the Society's collections as well as subjects of topical interest in an endeavor to attract a growing audience.
The Society's education initiatives, designed to enhance the teaching of history to school-age children, have grown substantially. Annually, the MHS provides workshops to over five hundred teachers from across the country, focusing on the use of primary documents to enrich the classroom experience. Teacher Fellows use the MHS collections to develop new lesson plans that are added to the catalog of online educational resources and made available to educators everywhere. The MHS is now the Massachusetts sponsor of National History Day, which engages over a thousand students statewide each year. These efforts are augmented by a number of on-site student programs.

Through its activities, the MHS has built a national and international network of scholars, with fellowships and seminars and much-praised conferences. Publications are aimed to further knowledge of MHS collections. The Adams Papers documentary edition has increased its output in addition to producing several popular works and providing increased digital access to unpublished materials and online tools.

In expanding its range of activities, the Society has built a community of members who share an interest in history. Members enjoy the social as well as the intellectual stimulation of events while spreading the word and building public support for history and the MHS. After a decade of transformation and growth the Society finds itself poised to become an even greater influence in shaping the future of our nation.

**TO APPLY:**
Sage Search Partners is assisting MHS with this search. Confidential nominations and applications (cover letter and resume) should be sent to Paula Fazli, Managing Partner

pfazli@sagesearch.com