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PRESS RELEASE

Spring Unfolds at Historic Deerfield

Fashion, Black Folk Music, and Hands-On History

Two New Exhibits Begin as Season Opens

Wooly Wonders is the Highlight of Opening Weekend with Heritage Sheep

(Deerfield, MA) – [Historic Deerfield](#) is delighted to open the season this spring on May 3, 2025, unveiling an expansive list of engaging exhibitions, hands-on workshops, immersive demonstrations, and thought-provoking lectures that bring history to life. This season, visitors can explore fashion's evolution, witness the craftsmanship of early American artisans, and celebrate significant cultural traditions—all within the beautiful historic village setting.

Historic Deerfield is excited to present several remarkable exhibitions that highlight the artistry and craftsmanship of past centuries. Opening on May 3 in conjunction with opening weekend, [Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real](#) offers a fascinating look at how clothing shaped the human form throughout history. This exhibition will showcase 25 ensembles spanning three centuries, from voluminous gowns to structured corsets to Spanx, providing insight into both the idealized body image of different eras and the reality of everyday dress.

Also debuting on May 3, [Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings](#) offers a rare opportunity to view a curated selection of works from the Academy's distinguished collection. This exhibition traces American history through paintings and sketches, capturing both the evolving landscape of the nation and the artistic movements that shaped its visual culture.

Kicking off the event season, [Wooly Wonders – Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend](#) on May 3-4 will give visitors a chance to meet rare heritage breed sheep up close. Throughout the weekend, guests can watch skilled artisans demonstrate traditional wool-processing techniques, from shearing to spinning, and try their hand at fiber-related crafts. There will be games, crafts, sheepdog herding demonstrations, and a food truck on site!

For those fascinated by historic cooking techniques, the ever-popular [Hearth Cooking Demonstrations](#) return this spring with a focus on seasonal herbs. On select Saturdays from May 10 through June 28, expert interpreters will prepare dishes using fresh herbs, demonstrating how these ingredients enhanced flavors, preserved food, and contributed to early New England cuisine. Visitors can experience the sights, sounds, and aromas of an 18th-century kitchen while learning about the culinary traditions of the past.

Historic Deerfield's [Historic Trade Demonstrations](#) offer a rare glimpse into the skilled work of early American artisans. On Saturday's in May and June, craftspeople will showcase specialized trades, including dressmaking, shoemaking, lace-making, broom-making, and leatherwork. On May 24, [Smithy Saturday](#) will highlight the knowledge and precision required in blacksmithing and gunsmithing, while [Sparkling Silver](#) on June 14 will feature master silversmith Steve Smithers, who will demonstrate the fine art of working with silver.

On June 13, Historic Deerfield will mark Juneteenth with a special concert featuring acclaimed musician [Jake Blount](#). Known for his unique blend of Black folk music and Afrofuturism, Blount's performance will celebrate the deep musical traditions of African American history. In his hands the banjo, fiddle, electric guitar, and synthesizer become ceremonial objects used to channel the insurgent creativity of his forebears. This event promises to be an unforgettable evening of storytelling through song.

Visitors looking for hands-on experiences will have several opportunities to learn from expert artisans. On May 17, a [Soapstone Bead Workshop](#) will explore the traditional bead-making techniques of the Wampanoag people, allowing participants to create their own carved bead. On June 8, basket maker Jennifer Lee will lead a [Bark Basket Workshop](#), guiding guests in crafting their own bark basket using time-honored methods. Families can also celebrate Father's Day on June 15 with a [Tile Workshop](#), where they'll create colorful clay tiles inspired by historic designs—a perfect keepsake or gift.

For those eager to deepen their understanding of history, the [Hybrid Summer Lecture Series: Indigenous Histories and Material Culture](#) will take place from June 26 through July 17. This series, available both in-person and online, will explore Indigenous narratives, craftsmanship, and the evolving interpretations of Native American history. Scholars and experts will lead discussions on the significance of material culture in understanding the past.

Rounding out the season, the [Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife: Recalling the Revolution](#) on June 27-28 will examine how the American Revolution has been remembered—and sometimes forgotten—throughout history. Historians, folklorists, and cultural experts will present research on how New Englanders have shaped, celebrated, and challenged revolutionary narratives over the centuries.

Historic Deerfield invites visitors of all ages to experience this vibrant season of history, art, and tradition. General admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 13-17, while children 12 and

under, Historic Deerfield members, and Deerfield residents enjoy free admission. Join us this spring as we bring the past to life through exhibitions, demonstrations, music, and hands-on learning in the heart of New England!

For more details, including event schedules and ticketing information, visit

historic-deerfield.org.

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About Historic Deerfield. Historic Deerfield is a museum of early American life situated in an authentic 18th-century New England village in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Its historic houses and world-famous collection of early American decorative arts open doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world. Visitors are invited to stay at Historic Deerfield's [historic inn](#), eat at its [restaurant & pub](#), and shop at its [museum store](#).