

Shaker Museum

Shaker Museum Appoints Lael Locke to Board of Trustees

Lael Locke previously served 14 years as an elected official in the village of Chatham as well as serving as a board member for various local non-profit organizations

CHATHAM, NEW YORK. May 20, 2021 — Shaker Museum announced today the election of Lael Locke to its Board of Trustees. Locke is a respected, longtime member of the community having served seven terms as an elected official in the Village of Chatham. In addition, she was a co-founder of the Chatham Business Alliance now Chatham Area Business and Arts.

Locke has lived in the Chatham area since the 1960s. She is a retired publisher and writer who published a free monthly newspaper in the 1980s distributed in Columbia and Dutchess Counties in New York; Berkshire County, Massachusetts and the Salisbury-Lakeville area of Connecticut. She also served as a board member of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for nine years and continues to serve on several committees, most notably the Fund for Columbia County, which awards annual grants to the communities it represents.

“Lael Locke is a well known member of the Chatham community who has consistently invested her time and energy into the Village and its environs. Her enthusiasm for the future of Shaker Museum is unmatched and she will be a unique and wonderful addition to our board,” said Paul Cassidy, Board Chair of Shaker Museum.

"I have lived in Old Chatham and Chatham since 1963, and am familiar with the area's history, growth and changes—as well as many of its residents," explains Locke. "The original Shaker Museum was the site of many wonderful festivals, as well as other community-based activities. I hope to recapture much of this sense of community when the new museum opens in the Village."

Locke currently serves as a board member of the Crandell Theatre located on Main Street in Chatham and also the board of the Neighbors of Northern Columbia County (NNCC), a non-profit that helps seniors age in their homes by providing volunteer services and social activities.

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With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, NY designed by Selldorf Architects is estimated for completion in 2023. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York and has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, which is open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection can be viewed online at <http://shakermuseum.us>

A photo of Lael Locke can be downloaded [here](#)

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Shaker Museum

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