



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SEAN R. REARDON, MAYOR

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MAYOR@CITYOFNEWBURYPORT.COM

To: President and Members of the City Council  
From: Sean R. Reardon, Mayor  
Date: February 12, 2024  
Subject: Appointment

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I hereby appoint, subject to your approval, the following named individual as a member of the Public Arts Committee. This term will expire on March 15, 2025.

Shanna Sartori  
2 Garden Street, Apt. #2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Shanna Sartori

Newbury, Massachusetts 01950  
Shannasartori@gmail.com • 603-661-3020

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Dear City of Newburyport,

I am interested in serving as a community member on the Newburyport Public Art Committee. Last year I became the Site Manager for Historic New England's Newbury and Amesbury properties. I also moved to downtown Newburyport this past autumn. In April of 2023, I received my master's degree in public history from Southern New Hampshire University. The research that I conducted while at SNHU centered around marginalized groups and their experiences throughout American history. My thesis focused on the influence of Puritanism on Wampanoag enslavement during King Philip's War. In addition to researching American history from a history-from-below approach, other public history topics I studied included urban renewal and city planning, including how to best utilize green spaces in cities and public artwork placement.

Before pursuing public history, I worked as an actor in New York City, where I founded my own theater company, The Night Owl Players. I successfully produced, fundraised, designed, and marketed four off-Broadway shows with that company. In addition to my work in the arts, I also have extensive experience in childcare and managing restaurants. I love working with the public and enjoy leading teams, problem-solving, and finding ways to creatively connect with others.

I believe my passion for the arts, experience in stage production and management, my love of history and art, as well as working with the public would make me a valuable addition to the Newburyport Public Art committee. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Shanna Sartori

Recently completed a master's program in Public History at Southern New Hampshire University. Over 12 years of experience in theater in New York City, producing, designing, and performing in several productions. Extensive experience working with the public with an exceptional focus on customer service and building positive, long-lasting relationships. Passion for historical interpretation and connecting the public with the past.

## Professional Experience

**HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND**, Newbury, Massachusetts

**Site Manager**, October 2023-Current

**Preventative Care Assistant**, May 2023-October 2023

**Research Intern**, May 2022 - August 2022

Currently serving as the Site Manager for Historic New England's Newbury and Amesbury properties. Oversees five house museum's care, interpretation, and tours, including three 17th-century homes in Newbury. Responsible for all the programming and functions that are held at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm. Manages over twenty staff and volunteers. Regularly engages with the community at the farm and during events. Oversees over a dozen MSPCA farm animals at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm.

Served as the preventative care assistant for various Historic New England properties. Monitored environmental conditions and their impact on the collections. Used Integrated Pest Management to keep collections and the houses stable.

A research-based internship that focused on supporting and interpreting various house museums for Historic New England. The research included the Abenaki in western Maine, New Hampshire lawyer William Merchant Richardson, and English gardener William Bell. Geo-coded over four hundred historic properties for an exhibit on architect William Ralph Emerson. Utilized Leventhal Maps to overlay older maps of Boston with current maps to ensure the correct property and location were being found. Designed a hypothetical Gatsby-styled gala at Beauport, the Sleeper-McCann House which would act as a fundraiser.

**THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES**, Salem, Massachusetts

**Historical Interpreter**, June 2023-October 2023

Lead educational and engaging tours through the famous 17th-century mansion in historic Salem, integrating both information regarding the city of Salem and the mansion's history, as well as the novel. A history from below lens was utilized when interpreting the history of Salem's indigenous community and the enslaved individuals who resided at the mansion.

**PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM**, Salem, Massachusetts

**PEM PAL Lead**, July 2023-September 2023

**Art and Nature Center Graduate Intern**, January 2023-May 2023

Lead the education team's program, PEM Pals, a monthly hands-on activity that uses storytelling, movement, music, and art to explore the senses. Each month, a new children's book was selected, and an art-based activity was planned, inspired by the book.

A graduate internship in the Art and Nature Center that oversaw the daily management and care of two interactive exhibits, *Climate Action*, and *The Pod*. Lead climate-based conversations and engaged with the public using the Climate Action Cart, offering solutions, and answering questions regarding climate change. Co-lead and developed daily drop-in activities in the Create Space.

**FLIGHT COFFEE**, Dover, New Hampshire  
**Shift Leader, Barista**, August 2020 - July 2022

Oversaw front-of-house operations at one of New Hampshire's most popular coffee shops. Interacted with each guest to ensure a positive and pleasant experience. Managed an effective, productive, and upbeat team that focused on teamwork. Produced high-quality coffee beverages in a fast-paced environment. Open and closed the café and oversaw live events. Created connections with patrons that put Flight in the center of Dover's community.

**THE NIGHT OWL PLAYERS**, New York, New York  
**Co-founder, Producer**, January 2013 - July 2020

Founded the theater company, The Night Owl Players in New York City. Successfully produced four shows in New York with dozens of performances. The production work began with the reading and selection of a script. Fundraised in the form of crowdfunding as well as live events, including auctions and raffles. Assisted in the casting process and hired designers. Worked alongside the costume, set, and sound designers of the show. Managed the advertising and ticket sales of productions. Coordinated with the theater to load the show in and out.

**FRED'S**, New York, New York  
**Manager, Host, Bartender, Server**, May 2016 – August 2020

Managed a popular family restaurant and bar, during peak business hours, including nights and weekends. Responsible for opening, closing, and overseeing operations. Supervised and trained dozens of front-of-house staff. Ensured a positive and organized flow of the restaurant atmosphere and operations during busy brunch and dinner shifts. Assessed and addressed customer and staff incidents as needed. Assisted with serving and bartending as needed.

**CHILD CARE**, New York, New York  
**Child Care Provider**, 2008 - 2020

Took care of over 30 children in the Harlem area with ages ranging from newborns to middle school aged. Provided supervision and guidance in a private home setting including overnight stays. Responsible for drop-offs and pickups from school, aiding in homework, and arranging recreational, educational, and artistic activities out of the home. Mentored middle school-aged children with learning disabilities.

## **Education**

**Master of Arts in History, Public History, 2023**  
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY- Manchester, New Hampshire

**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Dance, Acting and Directing, 2007**  
KEENE STATE COLLEGE – Keene, New Hampshire