

FOSTERING INNOVATION AND INQUIRY

A CULTURAL CENTER FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY



The Quill & Crumb café in the Folger's historic Great Hall opened in November 2024. It immediately became a popular Capitol Hill destination for coffee, lunch meetings, and pre-theater drinks.



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 DISCOVER MORE AT [FOLGER.EDU](https://www.folger.edu)

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

VISITORS
140,820

FIRST-TIME VISITORS
58%

ARTISTIC PROGRAMS
84

AUDIENCES
41,901

EDUCATION PROGRAMS
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
3,360

TEACHERS TRAINED
668

RESEARCH

VISITS
5,370

FELLOWS
55

WEBSITES

PAGE VIEWS
26,912,296

USERS
6,981,250

STATES
50

BLOGS

PAGE VIEWS
877,883

PODCAST
LISTENS
746,902

EPISODES
26

SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOWERS
205,614



From the Board Chair

TO THE FOLGER COMMUNITY:

It has been a true pleasure to observe and celebrate so much invigorating change and progress at the Folger Shakespeare Library over the past year. Since reopening the building in June 2024, we have welcomed more than 218,000 visitors. They have interacted with the Folger in new and different ways—as they explored exhibitions, attended programs held on site for the first time since the pandemic, paged through rare volumes again in the Reading Room, and enjoyed food and drink at the Quill & Crumb café.

While visiting the new spaces with my family and close friends, it has been extremely satisfying to see the exhibition halls filled with people of all ages excited to learn more about Shakespeare.

I am delighted that the public response, first and foremost, has been so positive, but I am also pleased that the building renovation received some noteworthy awards. Among them were the International Architecture Award in Museums and Cultural Buildings, as well as the “Best of the Best

Restoration and Renovation” by Architecture MasterPrize, the American Institute of Architects’ DC Historic Resources Award, and the Sustainability Architecture Award from Green Good Design. The Folger renovation has been cited as a “masterclass in balancing preservation with reinvention.”

None of these accolades would have been possible without the generous donors to *The Wonder of Will* campaign. Along with the dedicated support of our annual fund contributors, their generosity enabled the Folger’s transformation from a library into a cultural center fit for the 21st century.

Across the last year, the Board of Governors and I have been delighted to work with our superb new director, Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper. It was of course no small feat for her to take up the leadership of the institution at such a pivotal moment. The Board and I have been impressed at how effectively she has seized the moment, has leveraged new opportunities, and is leading the Folger with a clear vision and a great team. You can read more about this in her letter at right.

As we embark on this new chapter, we remain grateful for each of you, who have traveled this path with us and, we hope, will continue to invest in this special institution. For your support across recent years, for your support as we move forward with confidence, thank you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Jarrett Arp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "A".

D. Jarrett Arp
Chair, Board of Governors



From the Director

TO FOLGER FRIENDS, OLD AND NEW:

When I joined the Folger as its new director in October 2024, the excitement for the beauty and potential of our recently reopened building was palpable. Visitors, community members, theater patrons, subscribers, supporters, scholars, educators and their students all enthused about the new exhibition spaces, on-site programming, and expanded access to our world-class collection. I hope that the following pages of this report convey some of that exuberance.

As a cultural organization dedicated to Shakespeare that was purposely positioned next to the Capitol and the Supreme Court, the Folger Shakespeare Library is uniquely positioned to help shape a national conversation about the essential use of art and culture in our country. Shakespeare specifically, and the humanities more broadly, have the capacity to equip people with the tools they need to be independent thinkers who contribute to civic inquiry and a healthy democracy.

Shakespeare's plays demonstrate a deep awareness of the political and cultural forces that shape society, especially during times of change and

upheaval. The works give us the opportunity through performance to actively explore challenges we are facing in our own moment. At the Folger, the works help us mine the past to make sense of the present day.

As we plan for the years ahead, we are seeking new and improved ways of showing how reading, performing, and interrogating literary texts written over 400 years ago sharpen critical thinking skills for people of all ages in the here and now.

That is one of the reasons why we took a fresh look at our educational mission, following the retirement in July 2024 of longtime Director of Education, Peggy O'Brien. Building on the many successes of Folger Education, we are broadening the director's role, as reflected in the title, to include more informal and lifelong learning opportunities. I am excited to announce that our new Director of Learning and Educational Programs, David Kilpatrick, joined us this fall after 18 years at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where he oversaw education programs including Performances for Young Audiences among many others.

I am also pleased to share that Tamara Turoff Keough has been named Chief Development Officer. Tamara brings more than 30 years of fundraising experience to this role, having most recently served as Director of Development at Ford's Theatre Society in Washington, DC. There, she guided a capital campaign to raise \$52 million to expand the physical campus and programmatic offerings.

I look forward to introducing you to Tamara and David in the months ahead as we pursue our new vision and head towards our centennial celebrations. Most importantly, I want to thank you for your tireless belief in our mission and your support of the Folger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farah Karim-Cooper'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper
Director



PAGES, FOLDED.

WOMEN'S
PETITION
COFFEE
REFLECTING
PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS

CULTIVATING CURIOSITY

The reopened building resounded with energy and enthusiasm, as old friends and first-time visitors alike explored the expanded public spaces and enjoyed new programs.

Gallery Talks, DIY at the Folger, and printing press demonstrations using our functional historical model debuted in the fall and proved popular. Held on evenings when the exhibition halls stayed open until 9 pm, Gallery Talks took visitors on a thematic tour guided by the Folger's curatorial staff. The DIY workshops gave families an opportunity to learn about ruff making or try their hand at writing with a quill. A two-day program, *The Humanities Lab: Shakespeare 101*, kicked off the adult educational series offered on topics related to the Folger's collections and performances. The new exhibition spaces provided both the backdrop for the programs above and the reason many people visited the Folger.

Immersive Rare Wonders

The inaugural special exhibition of the Stuart and Mimi Rose Rare Book and Manuscript Exhibition Hall featured a selection of 52 works from the Roses' private collection. *Imprints in Time* explored how humans throughout time have sought to understand the world and our place in it. The works of religion, philosophy, science, and literature spanned 700 years of human history—from an Egyptian Book of the Dead to the Apollo

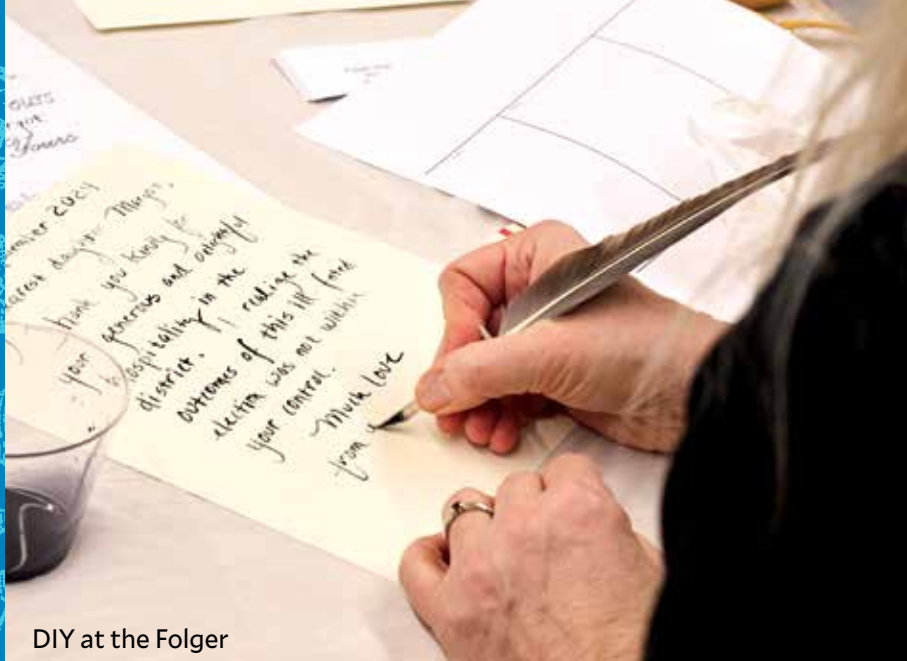
11 flight plan that went to the moon and back.

Additional 20th century gems on display included the advance copy of the "I Have a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King Jr., which does not include the famous dream section, and hand-marked galley proofs of *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien.

The variety and significance of the works in the exhibition enthralled visitors. "I was amazed



A visitor at *Imprints in Time* in the Rose Exhibition Hall. Opposite: Gallery Talk with Librarian Greg Prickman in the Shakespeare Exhibition Hall.



DIY at the Folger



Fred Wilson installation, Shakespeare Exhibition Hall

at the reactions that people had in that space, their excitement at seeing these things,” said Greg Prickman, the Folger’s Eric Weinmann librarian and director of collections and exhibitions. “People of all ages were yelling across the room to people that they came with to come and see something. It was genuine excitement.”

Making New Connections Online

The Folger serves millions of people online through its digital collections, resources like the Folger Shakespeare editions of the plays and poems, and its website, which includes the popular Ask a Librarian feature. The 27 episodes of the *Shakespeare Unlimited* podcast released during the year highlighted the extraordinary range of topics the Folger speaks to, from the top pop songs of the 1600s to practical magic in Shakespeare’s plays to race in Shakespeare’s narrative poems. One five-star reviewer said the podcast covered “everything you didn’t know you wanted to know about Shakespeare and more. Each episode is entertaining, insightful, and

thought-provoking. This is a thoroughly enjoyable podcast.” It was named the #1 Shakespeare podcast by Feedspot.

Underpinning this ever-growing engagement online is the Folger’s expertise, the scale of its collections, and the digital availability of many primary sources. A social media post about St. Crispin’s Day, which had high reach and engagement, featured an illustration by Felix Darley from *Henry V* and an engraving of the victory at Agincourt—both from the Folger archives—and showcased content from the Folger Shakespeare edition of *Henry V*. ■

FOLGER SOCIAL MEDIA | TOP POSTS

INSTAGRAM

It’s Twelfth Night! So, what is Twelfth Night? And what about Twelfth Night?

Read on or visit *The Collation* blog for more.

FACEBOOK

Happy (most likely) birthday, Will!

Learn more about Shakespeare’s life.

BLUESKY

What can *King Lear* teach us about power today? Now on the podcast, Nan Z. Da shares how Shakespeare’s play echoes her family’s experience in Maoist China.

YOUTUBE

Folger Theatre’s *Macbeth*, parts 1 and 2

“

Thank you for being such wonderful stewards of both this collection and the amazing legacy of work here. It's so important!

”

Folger visitor



EXHIBITIONS AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Ongoing Exhibitions

Shakespeare Exhibition

From the First Folio to a reconstructed printing press, explore Shakespeare the man, his works, and his legacy, including an art installation by Fred Wilson.

Out of the Vault

Changing signature objects from the Folger collection and how staff, researchers, and artists work with them.

Special Exhibitions

Imprints in Time

Stuart and Mimi Rose's collection of rare books and manuscripts offers a journey across human history, knowledge, and creativity.

June 21, 2024–January 5, 2025

Into the Vault: Books of the 1620s

Books printed in the same decade as Shakespeare's First Folio show a curious world of avid readers.

June 21–October 13, 2024

Little Books, Big Gifts: The Artistry of Esther Inglis

Commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death of the noted book artist with books from the Folger and Harvard collections, the largest in North America.

October 25, 2024–February 9, 2025

How to Be a Power Player: Tudor Edition

Experience the playbooks, people, and spectacular fails, as courtiers tried to navigate the minefield of working for a boss who could shower you with riches or chop off your head.

February 21–August 10, 2025

How to Be a Power Player: Global Edition

A companion exhibition showcases major global players in Tudor England.

February 21–August 10, 2025

Talks

Folger Archivist Talk:

The Vincent First Folio

September 5, 2024

Book Reading and Signing

with **Nicholas Meyer**

Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell

September 12, 2024

Folger Gallery Talks

September 26, October 3, October 17, October 24, November 7, November 14, and November 21, 2024

Coded Threads:

Translating Shakespeare Through Art

with Folger Artist Fellow **Suzanne Coley**

November 16, 2024

Edmond Dédé and Morgiane

presented with **Opera Lafayette** in conjunction with the exhibition of the manuscript of *Morgiane*

January 16, 2025

Also available to stream.

Special Events

Renaissance Circles Dinner

October 18, 2024

Quill & Crumb café opening

November 22, 2024

Folger Frost Fair

November 29, 2024–January 5, 2025

Folger Gala

April 26, 2025

Shakespeare Unlimited Podcast

A Tour of the Newly-Reopened Folger |

Part 2

July 2, 2024

The Brief Life and Big Impact of the Federal

Theatre Project, with **James Shapiro**

July 16, 2024

Colman Domingo on the Power of Theater

July 30, 2024

Barry Edelstein on The Old Globe's *Henry 6*

August 13, 2024

Juliet, Then and Now, with Sophie Duncan

August 27, 2024

Throughlines, with Ayanna Thompson

and **Ruben Espinosa**

September 10, 2024

Will Tosh on the Hidden Queer Lives

of **William Shakespeare**

September 24, 2024

Tabitha Stanmore on Practical Magic

in Shakespeare's England

October 8, 2024

How Shakespeare Revolutionized Tragedy,

with **Rhodri Lewis**

October 22, 2024

Farah Karim-Cooper on *The Great*

White Bard

November 5, 2024

Rebroadcast

Studying Shakespeare Now

November 19, 2024

The Tragedy of Richard II and Henry IV,

with **Helen Castor**

December 3, 2024

Directing *Romeo and Juliet*,

with **Sam Gold**

December 17, 2024

Shakespeare and His Contemporaries,

with **Darren Freebury-Jones**

December 31, 2024

Olivia Hussey: *The Girl on the Balcony*

January 14, 2025

Rebroadcast

Nisha Sharma on Adapting Shakespeare

for Modern Romances

January 28, 2025

Shakespeare's Narrative Poems,

with **Patricia Akhimie**, **Dennis Britton**, and **Kirsten Mendoza**

February 11, 2025

Lauren Gunderson on the Women of *Hamlet*

February 25, 2025

Julia Armfield Reimagines *King Lear* in a Drowning World

March 11, 2025

Reimagining Judith Shakespeare,

with **Grace Tiffany**

March 25, 2025

Surekha Davies on the Making of Monsters

April 8, 2025

The Yorkist Pretender, with Jo Harkin

April 22, 2025

Top Pop Songs of the 1600s,

with **Angela McShane** and **Christopher Marsh**

May 6, 2025

King Lear and Mao's China, with Nan Z. Da

May 20, 2025

Shakespeare's Boy Player Alexander

Cooke, with **Nicole Galland**

June 3, 2025

Simon Russell Beale on Shakespeare,

from *Hamlet* to *Titus*

June 17, 2025

Folger Blogs

Touching on a variety of interests related to the Folger collection, the Folger's three blogs serve the Folger's wide audiences with frequent posts about Shakespeare, his world and our own, and Folger programs and activities.

The Collation

A gathering of useful information and observations from Folger staff and researchers collation.folger.edu

The Folger Spotlight

Behind the scenes with the Folger's Artistic Programs, from performances to Book Club spotlight.folger.edu

Shakespeare & Beyond

All things Shakespeare, from upcoming books and films to moments in pop culture shakespeareandbeyond.folger.edu

POPULAR BLOG POSTS

SHAKESPEARE & BEYOND

33 Shakespeare quotes about the weather
by Ben Laur (July 30, 2024)

Quiz: What do you know about *Romeo and Juliet*?
by Esther Ferington
(September 3, 2024)

Taylor Swift and Shakespeare
by Stephanie Burt (July 23, 2024)

THE COLLATION

**Drinking with Shakespeare:
Early Modern Tavern Tokens**
by Leah Hampton (September 5, 2024)

**Early Modern Piracy:
A Matter of Perspective**
by Ania Upstill (August 22, 2024)

Convivial Cleopatra by Mira 'Assaf
(December 3, 2024)

THE FOLGER SPOTLIGHT

Folger Book Club: *Year of Wonders*
by Geraldine Brooks (August 15, 2024)

Macbeth* and the Roots of *Birnam Wood
by Todd Andrew Borlik (August 5, 2024)

**Play on!: An interview with *Twelfth Night*
composer Be Steadwell** (April 29, 2025)



ENGAGING PERFORMANCE



A series of sold-out concerts, lectures, readings, and theater performances demonstrated the desire of loyal patrons and new audiences for engaging live and virtual programming. Highlights included the ever-popular holiday concert by the Folger Consort and the Emily Dickinson Birthday Tribute reading by Kimiko Hahn, recipient of the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award. *New York Times* bestselling author Amor Towles gave the standing-room-only 2025 Eudora Welty Lecture, which was available for viewing on demand for three months afterwards. The third annual Reading Room Festival was the most popular to date, proving the continued appeal of the mix of workshops, discussions, and staged readings of works in dialogue with Shakespeare. Both tragedy and comedy had their time on stage during the 2024-25 Folger Theatre season. All three productions were designated as Helen Hayes Award Recommended.

A New Lens on Tragedy

Folger Theatre's new season began in October 2024 with *Romeo and Juliet*, which *The Washington Post* cited as one of the top ten theater productions of 2024 in both Washington and New York.

Director Raymond O. Caldwell gave the classic tale about the high price of tribalism a fresh take, incorporating smartphones, social media feeds, and political ads. Caldwell explained his choice of the nation's capital as the

play's backdrop, "I chose Washington, DC, as a setting because it's a deeply political city, and sometimes we don't really think about the way politics play out on the bodies of young people."

Caldwell's integration of Puerto Rican culture in the production aimed to challenge the well-known characterization of the Capulets from the 1961 film *West Side Story*. Several cast members were bilingual in Spanish and En-



Cole Taylor as Romeo and Caro Reyes Rivera as Juliet in Folger Theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.



Sabrina Lynne Sawyer as Ophelia in the world premiere of *A Room in the Castle* by Lauren Gunderson at Folger Theatre.

glish, and they collaborated with Caldwell and dramaturg, Carla Della Gatta, to incorporate Spanish into the text. The Capulet women switched back and forth between the two languages, working from a script that had been translated into Spanish by Puerto Rican translator Rosa Garay López.

Imagining an alternative end for another tragic character was the inspiration behind Lauren Gunderson's *A Room in the Castle*, co-produced with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, which had its world premiere in March 2025. "The origin story of this play is me trying to understand and perhaps try to find a way to save Ophelia," explained Gunderson. The play explores interactions among Ophelia, her nurse Anna, and Queen Gertrude as they navigate the fraught landscape of Elsinore and its surroundings.

The first staged reading of the play took place at the 2023 Reading Room Festival, during which Gunderson tested different transitions between *Hamlet* and her play. "This exact kind of

experimentation is the reason for and delight of this kind of early development process," she noted.

Involving DC Neighbors in Dramatic Exploration

From a first date to a commitment plunge, love stories set in DC neighborhoods had their moment in the limelight, thanks to *DC, I Love You*. This immersive theatrical experience featured site-specific love stories shared by DC residents in workshops facilitated by Folger staff. Held first in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, and then at the Folger, the sold-out performances introduced the Folger to new audiences and strengthened community ties. *DC, I Love You* is part of the DC Amplified Project, led by Katherine Harroff. The creative collaborative project "underscores the Folger's commitment to building authentic engagement with our DC community, in the community," said Director of Artistic Programs and Folger Theatre Artistic Director Karen Ann Daniels about the multiyear initiative. ■

“ *Twelfth Night* at Folger Theatre is shamelessly entertaining and surprisingly tender. ”

Sophia Nguyen,
The Washington Post, May 2025



Twelfth Night

“ ...Music, like power, is never neutral. It declares. It mocks. It remembers, and when performed with this level of insight and artistry, it resounds across centuries. ”

On *Kings and Commonwealth*
performance by Folger Consort
Teniola Ayoola,
Maryland Theatre Guide, May 2025

ARTISTIC PROGRAMS

The 2024–25 season was united under the theme of **Whose Democracy?**

Folger Theatre

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare
October 1–November 10, 2024

Global Majority Affinity Night

October 10, 2024

LGBTQ+ Affinity Night

October 30, 2024

THE READING ROOM FESTIVAL

January 30–February 2, 2025

HENRY 6

adapted by Barry Edelstein

VALOR, AGRAVIO Y MUJER (The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrong)

by Ana Caro Mallén de Soto
Adapted by Julissa Contrera
Original English translation from
Diversifying the Classics

BY THE QUEEN

by Whitney White

HAMLET

adapted by Reynaldo Pinella and Emily Lyon

A ROOM IN THE CASTLE

by Lauren M. Gunderson
Co-produced with
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
March 4–April 6, 2025

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare
May 13–June 22, 2025

Every Folger Theatre production included: a **Creative Conversation with Artistic Director Karen Ann Daniels** | **Post-Show Discussion with cast members** | **relaxed, mask-required, audio-described, and open-captioned performances.**

Folger Consort

Tale of Two Cities: Music of Florence and Venice

September 13–15, 2024
Early Music Seminar | September 11, 2024

A Mass for Christmas Eve: Baroque Music for the Season

December 6–15, 2024
Early Music Seminar | December 4, 2024

The Love Birds: Chaucer's

A Parlement of Foules

with a world-premiere composition
by **Juri Seo**
February 14–16, 2025
Early Music Seminar | February 12, 2025

Kings and Commonwealth: The English Civil War

May 2–4, 2025
Early Music Seminar | April 30, 2025

O.B. Hardison Poetry Series

We the People of the United States...

Establish Justice
Claudia Rankine and **Yesenia Montilla**
October 15, 2024

We the People of the United States...

Ensure Domestic Tranquility
Letras Latinas: Blas Falconer,
Valerie Martinez, and **Dan Vera**
November 12, 2025

Emily Dickinson Birthday Tribute Reading

with **Kimiko Hahn**
December 10, 2024

Not Just Another Day Off

January 18–20 (Virtual)

We the People of the United States...

Promote the General Welfare
Disability Poetics with **Camisha Jones**
and **torrin a. greathouse**
February 25, 2025

2025 Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize

with **Paul Muldoon** and **Julia Thacker**
March 11, 2025

The O.B. Hardison Series Finale Reading

with **Ellen Bass**
April 8, 2025
Poetry readings were available to stream.

The 2025 Eudora Welty Lecture

Inspired by the writing and life of famed author Eudora Welty. Produced by the Eudora Welty Foundation in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Amor Towles

March 27, 2025

Inside the Season

Talks and activities highlighting our 2024–25 season theme

Season Kickoff

A day of discussions, performances and poetry readings, gallery tours, and more.
August 25, 2024

“Is the Day So Young?” Gen Z Finds a Seat at the Table

Youth activists and students discuss civic participation, mental health, and what it means today to plan for the future.
November 2, 2024

Power on Parade

Pop-up collection display and crafts.
March 1, 2025

Folger Book Club

Folger Book Fair 2024

July 14, 2024

Birnam Wood

by Eleanor Catton
August 1, 2024

Year of Wonders

by Geraldine Brooks
September 5, 2024

Edith Holler

by Edward Carey
October 10, 2024

Dating Dr. Dil

by Nisha Sharma
November 7, 2024

Symphony of Secrets

by Brendan Slocumb
February 6, 2025

The Tower

by Flora Carr
March 6, 2025

Twelfth Knight

by Alexene Farol Follmuth
April 3, 2025

The Death I Gave Him

by Em X. Liu
May 1, 2025

Queen B

by Juno Dawson
June 5, 2025

Folger Fridays

Free monthly early evening events featuring local artists and performers

Hip-Hop and Spoken Word

with **Kokayi and Friends**
July 12, 2024

Cuban Dance and Music Night

with **Gerardo Contino Band** and **DC Casineros**
July 26, 2024

Queer Culture Night

featuring **Be Steadwell** and **Pretty Boi Drag**, hosted by **Grace Towers** with an art exhibition by **Laya Monarez** and book sale with **Little District Books**
August 9, 2024

Arab Music and Poetry Night

with **Laith Alattar and Band** featuring poets **Danielle Badra** and **Zeina Azzam**, and comedian **Rola Z.**
August 23, 2024

Craft Your Power

September 20, 2024

Fall Get Down with the DC Rawhides

November 15, 2024

Holiday Singalong

December 13, 2024

New Year Wellness Celebration

January 17, 2025

Black Arts Fest

February 21, 2025

Bachata Lessons with Bachata Sáfica

March 21, 2025

DC Amplified Project

A docu-theater program celebrating the communities of Washington, DC

DC & ME

Exploring the stories of people living in DC

Art Installations

Community Stories from Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Library
April 24–May 29, 2024

Folger Shakespeare Library
May 31–June 20, 2024 and
June 21–September 10, 2024

Community Stories from Anacostia

Anacostia Library
May 31–August 25, 2024

Folger Shakespeare Library
August 26–September 10, 2024

Community Stories from Penn Quarter

National Building Museum
June 28–July 25, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
July 26–September 9, 2024

DC, I LOVE YOU

Love stories from diverse communities throughout DC

Community Playwriting Workshops

Anacostia Library
November 23, 2024

Mt. Pleasant Library
November 24, 2024

Folger Shakespeare Library
November 30, 2024 and
February 1, 2025

Immersive Performances

First Dates by Katherine Harroff
Mt. Pleasant
May 24–June 1, 2025

Ready or Not by Katherine Harroff
Folger Shakespeare Library
June 14–22, 2025

Halloween Trick-or-Treating

October 31, 2024

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration

April 19, 2025



**The DC, I Love You events
embody the Folger's mission:
offering accessible art
experiences woven into the
fabric of daily life. »»**

— DC Theater Arts

First Dates, part of DC, I Love You



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Teachers, students, and learners of all ages enjoyed new and relaunched signature programs that took place on site for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. Within weeks of the building's opening, educators from across the country gathered at the Folger for the first in-person Teaching Shakespeare Institute since 2018. Family workshops, held monthly on Saturdays, got under way in August 2024. They introduced children aged 11 and under (and their parents and caregivers) to Shakespeare's sonnets and Elizabethan acting styles and table manners, to name just a few topics. Some 19 high school students from the DC area were named 2025 Lily McKee Fellows, spending five months exploring the Folger's collections, participating in seminars and lectures, and attending Folger Theatre performances of *A Room in the Castle* and *Twelfth Night*. New, 45-minute guided tours of the Shakespeare Exhibition Hall, along with newly launched Student Experiences workshops, offered additional on-site opportunities for students to engage with the Folger's collections and Shakespeare's legacy.

Fostering Student Creativity and Community

For the 700 students from 26 schools who attended the Secondary School Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare's plays became more relatable after spending a day exploring and performing 15-minute-long productions for each other. Held for five days—the longest since the pandemic—the festival in March 2025 brought together

students from a mix of public, private, and home schools.

Among the participants were eighth graders from the Bullis School in Maryland—along with their teacher, Chelsie King, who had also performed on the Folger stage as a teenager at Thomas G. Pullen K-8 Performing Arts School. “Performing at the Folger when



Student scenes at the Secondary School Shakespeare Festival. Opposite: Students enjoying Festival performances. More scenes from the Festival on page 23.



Family workshop



Family crafting

I was in middle school has stuck with me throughout my whole acting and teaching career,” said King. “I jumped at the chance to pass on the feeling of pride I experienced there to my students.”

Highlights included a disco-themed *Romeo and Juliet*, a bilingual *As You Like It*, and a *Julius Caesar* rendition that received a standing ovation and demand for an immediate encore. Building on the festival’s great success, Folger staff are already hard at work planning for the future and how to provide the best possible experience for the students.

New Teacher Guides Series Published

More secondary school teachers around the country can now apply the renowned Folger Method to teaching Shakespeare in their classrooms. That’s thanks to a new series, *The Folger Guides to Teaching Shakespeare*—the first five volumes of which were published this year.

Edited by Peggy O’Brien, the Folger’s longtime director of education who retired in July 2024, the guides are successors to the

groundbreaking *Shakespeare Set Free* series, originally published by the Folger 30 years ago. The new guides offer fresh insights and innovative tools for teaching some of Shakespeare’s most frequently taught plays: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Othello*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

A broad range of scholars and teachers wrote the guides to be both welcoming for educators teaching Shakespeare’s plays for the first time and also reinvigorating for seasoned teachers looking for innovative approaches. Mark Miazga, an English teacher in Baltimore who worked on the *Macbeth* volume, noted the lessons included have proven effective in taking teachers “away from that role of the sage on the stage and putting Shakespeare’s language in the mouths and the minds of the students.” The goal of the guides, he continued, is for the teacher to “become a coach who can help students lead themselves to understanding the play rather than you explaining it to them.”

In the first eight months following publication, the *Teacher Guides* sold more than four thousand copies. ■

“ The Folger Method is so fabulous because the students have to be engaged. They work in pairs. They’re moving about. They’re not using their phones. It’s increased engagement tremendously. ”

Deborah Gascon, teacher of English and journalism, Columbia, South Carolina



“ With this method, my students are reading more deeply than they ever have before. They are breaking down language and really understanding it. ”

High school English teacher,
Washington, DC

LEARNING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Takeovers

Summer programs before the galleries open for our youngest visitors

Neurodivergent/All Abilities Welcome Dance Class featuring ZamDance
July 6, 2024

Cultural Literacy Through Puppets featuring Callaloo Kids
July 20, 2024

Youth Poetry Workshop
August 3, 2024

Dance Theatre Workshop with Havana Hop featuring Paige Hernandez
August 17, 2024

Family Workshops

Monthly Saturday sessions exploring Shakespeare and beyond for ages 5-11

Lines So Richly Spun
August 24, 2024

United States of Shakespeare
September 21, 2024

Something Wicked: Supernatural Shakespeare
October 26, 2024

Cram Thee with Food
November 16, 2024

To Be a Shakespearean Actor
December 14, 2024

The Fantastical World of Shakespeare
January 25, 2025

Shakespeare and Me
February 8, 2025

The Art of the Shakespearean Power Player
March 22, 2025

Spring Has Sprung
April 5, 2025

A Power Player Spectacle
May 3, 2025

DIY at the Folger

Hands-on workshops to learn more about Shakespeare's world

Printing
October 9, 2024

Letter Writing
November 6, 2024

The Tudor Ruff
June 18, 2025

Lifelong Learners

Continuing education for adults

The Humanities Lab: Shakespeare 101
March 13 and March 20, 2025

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Secondary School Shakespeare Festival

March 11–13 and March 18–20, 2025

Lily McKee High School Fellows

Riley MacArthur
Montgomery Blair High School

Ransom Plaster
St Mary's High School

Kieran Snow
Flint Hill School

Sofia Hemmens
Justice High School

Daniela Naaman
Thomas S. Wootton High School

Aoife O'Connor
National Cathedral School

Thalia Ehrenpreis
Washington Latin Public Charter School

Rania Seid
Justice High School

Selah Brown
Washington Latin Public Charter School

Lily Travis
Templeton Academy DC

Daniel Anker-Scherer
Washington Latin Public Charter School

Matilda Gray
National Cathedral School

Wen-Shiang Schenkel
Baltimore School for the Arts

Miranda Lacy
National Cathedral School

Lilia Lash
Montgomery Blair High School

Casey Pendergast
Montgomery Blair High School

Mira Soskis
Washington Latin Public Charter School

Ronya Sen
Richard Montgomery High School

Katherine Turcios
Bladensburg High School

TEACHER PROGRAMS

Virtual Professional Development

Monthly one-hour professional development sessions

Building Community in the Classroom with the Folger Method
with **Deborah Gascon**, an English teacher at Dutch Fork High School in Irmo, South Carolina, and **Missy Springsteen-Haupt**, Assistant Teaching Professor at Iowa State University
August 21, 2024

Thou Unknown Power: Embracing Ambiguity in *Macbeth*
with **Mark Miazza**, an English teacher at Baltimore City College in Baltimore, Maryland, and **Elizabeth Dixon**, an English teacher at West Lafayette High School in West Lafayette, Indiana
October 23, 2024

Hamlet and Way Beyond with the Folger Method
with **Ashley Bessics**, a Literacy Coach for Baltimore City Schools in Baltimore, Maryland, and **Stefanie Jochman**, an English teacher at Flint Hill School in Oakton, Virginia
November 13, 2024

An Hour O'erflow with Joy: Stories of Students and Teachers
with **Chanti Burnette**, English teacher at Animo South Los Angeles Charter High School in Los Angeles, California, and **Liam Dempsey**, Associate Director of Education, Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC
December 11, 2024

"How to Tell My Story": Language and Identity in *Othello*
with **Noelle Cammon**, an English teacher at Heritage High School in Menefee, California, and **David Fulco**, an English teacher at the Laboratory School of Finance and Technology in the Bronx, New York
January 29, 2025

Get Your Students into the Folger Collection
February 26, 2025

Stuck in a Soliloquy? Impactful Ways to Tackle Tough Passages
March 26, 2025

From *Richard III* to Adrienne Rich: Building Bridges with Complex Texts
with **Roni DiGenno**, English and Special Education teacher at Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, DC
April 30, 2025

A Midsummer Night's Dream in May with **Jessica Cakrasenjaya Zeiss**, an English teacher at Ames High School in Ames, Iowa May 28, 2025

In-Person Professional Development

Teacher training opportunities at the Folger and around the country

Weekend Workshops

Teacher training at the Folger during the school year

Folger Teacher Homecoming

October 25–27, 2024

Words, Words, Words:

Exploring Shakespeare and Complex Texts

March 28–29, 2025

NCTE Workshops and Panel Sessions

National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention

Boston, MA

November 21–23, 2024

Shakespeare and Way Beyond: Actively Empowering Students with Language and Literature

with **Deborah Gascon**, Dutch Fork High School, South Carolina; **Liz Dixon**, West Lafayette High School, Indiana; **Stefanie Jochman**, Flint Hill School, Virginia; and special guests from a Boston middle school November 21, 2024

Folger Guides to Teaching Shakespeare Launch Party at NCTE

November 22, 2024

Teaching Shakespeare Is Teaching Race: Courageous Conversations through the Bard

with **Noelle Cammon**, Heritage High School, California, and **David Fulco**, Laboratory School of Finance and Technology, Bronx, New York November 23, 2024

Macbeth and Frederick Douglass?

Troy Maxon and Lord Capulet?

Pairing Texts for Maximum Learning

with **Donna Denizé**, St. Albans School, DC; **Peggy O'Brien**, Folger, DC; and **Stefanie Jochman**, Flint Hill School, Virginia November 23, 2024

Teaching Shakespeare Institute

Shakespeare: *Othello* and *The Taming of the Shrew* in Conversation

Twenty-five middle and high school teachers from across the country in residence at the Folger and taking a deep dive into Shakespeare with daily lectures from leading scholars, generative seminars, studio classes on performance, and curricular workshops. July 8–19, 2024

Professional development resources on demand

A library of resources can be found online, including recorded webinars, lesson plans, and more, with some selections exclusively available to Teacher Members.

Publications

The Folger Guides to Teaching Shakespeare

Scholarly essays and detailed lesson plans for teaching some of Shakespeare's most frequently taught plays, based on the proven Folger Method of teaching and informed by the experiences of classroom teachers across the United States.

Guides for *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*

Published November 2024

Guides for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Othello*

Published March 2025



Clown actors and boy actors

- Not leading men
- Marginal but also important
- Nonnormative bodies
- Often paired as scene partners
- Similar performance styles



**ADVANCING
KNOWLEDGE**

As academic institutions across the country faced new challenges over the past year, the Folger's programs for scholars became what Patricia Akhimie, director of the Folger Institute, described as "a port in a storm for academics facing a rapidly changing landscape." The Folger experienced high demand for new and longstanding fellowships—demand that was also driven by the more flexible option to complete part of the long-term fellowship virtually. The reopened Reading Room and the full collection being back on site made it possible to reinstate important services including collection-focused experiences in the new seminar room for visiting undergraduate classes and contributing items to various Folger programs and initiatives. Scholarly programs participants discussed the history of the law of nations, editing drama, handwriting in early modern England, and how Shakespeare speaks to new publics, among other topics.

Largest, Most Diverse Cohort of Fellows

After more than four years, the first full cohort of long-term fellows convened on site together in October 2024. The group broke records in several ways: it was the largest cohort ever (with 55 fellows), included the most international fellows, and had the most diversity. More than half were Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); just under a third were first generation college graduates; and just under

a quarter reported living with a disability.

The Folger Institute also launched three new fellowships this year: for Books in Progress, Public Humanities, and Community College Faculty. The latter is a partnership with the American Council of Learned Societies.

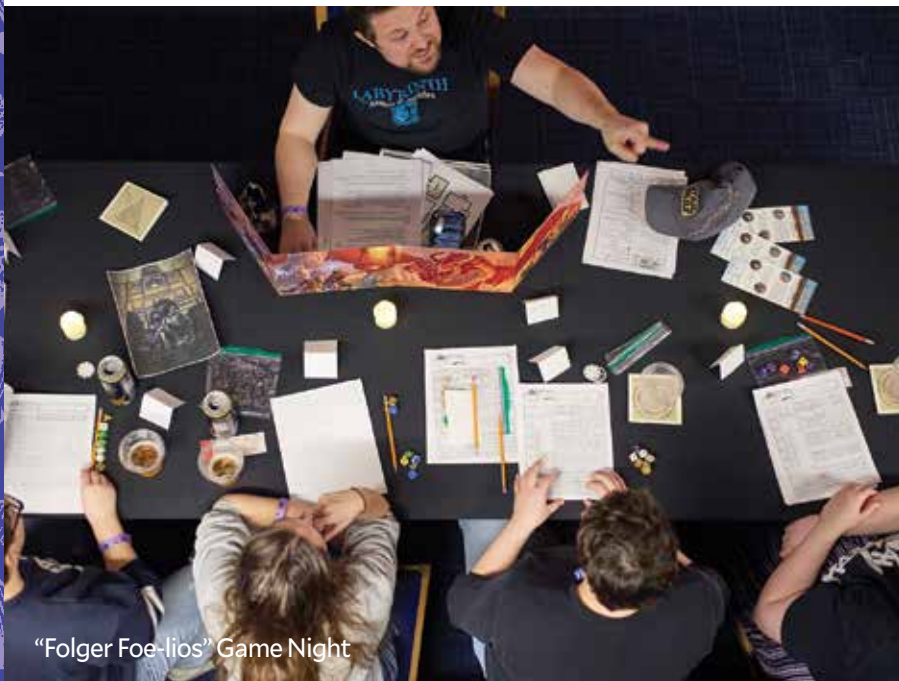
For many, having hands-on access again to the Folger's vast collection was critical to their



Scholarly Programs like *Research Methods and Agendas* for graduate students, shown above, support research in the collection. Opposite: Fellow Sylvia Korman shares new discoveries at a Folger Salon.



Shakespeare for Swifties



“Folger Foe-lios” Game Night

research progress. An artistic fellow, Leah Hampton, who teaches creative writing at the University of Idaho, described the serendipitous discoveries that arise from unfettered access: “I came to the Reading Room to work on a historical novel, and while there I [...] stumbled upon many unexpected objects and books that enriched my work simply by following a hunch or asking a librarian to open an archival box that caught my eye.”

She described the tactile experience of handling the Folger’s collection of tavern tokens, which were used as currency, as a “sensory and artistic delight.”

Sparking Imagination with Public Humanities Programs

The Folger’s popular Mixology program featuring cocktails and trivia kicked off its on-site programming with a Shakespeare for Swifties evening. The program draws on the Folger’s rich collection of handwritten recipe books from early modern Britain—the largest in the world—and connects it with the present. Adding to the enjoyment (and

learning) of Shakespeare fans of all ages is a new tabletop, role-playing game that debuted in February 2025. “Folger Foe-lios” incorporates both familiar spaces in the Folger and items from the archive as up to six players seek to solve a mystery in one session. It aims to highlight not only the fascinating objects in the Folger’s collection but also the research being done with them. ■

“

What this fellowship period left me with is hard to put into words, but it glows, it radiates.... I also emerged with a great deal of hope for the future. ”

Casey Carsel, 2024–25
Artistic Research Fellow

NEW FOLGER ACQUISITIONS

204 rare items have been added to the collection this year, including:

PRINTED BOOKS AND SERIALS
132



A Lavish Extra-Illustrated Bible

This 1660 Bible features gorgeous hand-colored engravings held within a beautiful Restoration binding. It includes a dedication and portrait of Charles I.

MANUSCRIPTS
48



Reading Shakespeare While On Vacation

This extensive and impressive manuscript travel diary was written by 17th-century courtier and diplomat Bullen Reymes, who was reading Shakespeare's works in August and October of 1636.

ART OBJECTS
24



60 Unbound Books

Printed between 1591 and 1891, this archive offers a unique opportunity for researching the history of book printing, paper studies, and printed illustrations.



An Early Manga *Hamlet*

One of the earliest examples of a manga based on *Hamlet*, it's one of 30 items acquired from a Japanese collection which show the response to Shakespeare's works in Japan from 1907-1997.

FOLGER INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

SCHOLARLY PROGRAMS

A Folger Orientation to Research Methods and Agendas

Directed by **Patricia Akhimie**, **Caroline Duroselle-Melish**, **Owen Williams**, and **Heather Wolfe**; weeklong skills course for early-stage graduate students
August 6–10, 2024

Shakespeares, Publics, and the Humanities

Directed by **Amanda Bailey**, University of Maryland, and **Ruben Espinosa**, Arizona State University; yearlong colloquium
October 11, 2024–June 13, 2025

Atlantic Empires: Slavery, Race, and War

Directed by **Holly Brewer** and **Alejandro Cañeque**, both University of Maryland; yearlong colloquium
October 4, 2024–May 9, 2025

Researching and Writing the Early Modern Dissertation

Co-directed by **Herman Bennett**, City University of New York, and **Jenny C. Mann**, York University; yearlong seminar
October 3, 2024–June 12, 2025

Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Editorial Futures

Organized by **Brandi K. Adams**, Arizona State University; **Claire M. L. Bourne**, Pennsylvania State University; **Rory Loughnane**, University of Kent; and **Catherine Richardson**, University of Kent; weekend symposium
October 17–19, 2024

Whose Sovereignty?

Directed by **Urvashi Chakravarty**, University of Toronto; semester-length colloquy for undergraduates
January 31–April 11, 2025

Petty Crime in Early Modern London:

The Bridewell Court Minute Books

Co-directed by **Alan H. Nelson**, University of California, Berkeley; **Lena Orlin**, Georgetown University; and **Duncan Salkeld**, University of Chichester;

two-weekend seminar
February 21–22 and May 23–24, 2025

Empires, Law, and the Law of Nations

Directed by **Lauren Benton**, Yale University, and **Andrew Fitzmaurice**, Queen Mary University of London; weekend seminar
Sponsored by *The Center for Early Modern Political Thought*
May 2–3, 2025

Introduction to English Paleography

Directed by **Heather Wolfe**, Folger Shakespeare Library; weeklong skills course
May 27–31, 2025

FELLOWSHIPS

Long-term Fellows

Beatrice Bradley

“The Erotics of Sweat: Residues of Embodiment in the Early Modern World”

Zainab Cheema

“The White Legend: Circulations of Race in Seventeenth-Century Anglo-Iberian Borderlands, 1603–1713”

Robert Clines

“Ancient Others: Race, Empire, and the Invention of the Italian Renaissance”

Mercedes Annaís Estévez Cruz

“Resistance”
Artistic Research Fellow

Alex Lewis

“A Text That Every Man Will Gloss: Cuckoldry, Allegory, and Subjectivity in English Renaissance Literature”

Patricia Matthew

“What Sugar Taught Us: Gender, Race, and the Afterlives of Abolition”

Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva

“In the Wake of the Raid: Blackness, Piracy and the 1683 Sack of Veracruz”
Folger-Omhundredo Fellow

Short-term Fellows

Samantha Arten

“Making Notes: Print, Music, and Readers in Tudor England”

Alex Baines

“Escape in Time: Performance and Empire at Reconstructed Heritage Sites”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Javiera Barrientos

“The Common Fate of Books: The Wearing and Tearing of Poetry Anthologies in the Seventeenth Century Transatlantic World”

Shaul Bassi

“The Arden 4 The Merchant of Venice – a new critical edition”

Mark Bland

“The World of Simon Waterson, Stationer”

Tiffany Bragg

“An ‘Unhappy Accident’ in Madrid: English Republicans, Exiled Royalists, Spain, and the Assassination of Anthony Ascham”

Julia Burke

“Irregularities of the System: Women and their Abortions in Nineteenth-Century Britain”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Andy Cabot

“A source of Internal Weakness and Danger’: Abolishing the slave trade in the British empire after Saint-Domingue (1791–1804)”

Amy Cooper

“Speaking Pictures’: from Aesthesis to Aesthetics”

Charmaine Cordero

“‘Caught in the Crossfire’: Biracial Characters and Literary Migration in Borderlands Shakespearean Adaptation”

Esteban Crespo

“Iberian Intimacies: Constructing a Pre-Modern Queer Culture”

Kate Doubler

“The Prophetess: Delia Bacon, the Search for Shakespeare, and the American Knowledge Tradition”

Delanie Dummit

“The Poor Laws’ Un/Deserving Poor: Labor and Disability in 16th and 17th Century Drama”

Jamie Gemmell

“Reckoning with Race in Early Modern London”

Lisa Jennings

“A Floud of Poyson Horrible and Blacke: Reading Racial and Alchemical Blackness in Edmund Spenser’s *Faerie Queene* (1590–1596)”

Gillian Knoll

“Passive Voice: Erotic Submission in Early Modern England”

Sylvia Korman

“The Fool and the Lady: Theatrical Labor at the Margins of Gender”

Wouter Kreuze

“The Genesis of a News System: Reconnecting the Folger to the Handwritten Newsletter Network”

Roberta Kwan

“Ancient Ethic for Uncertain Times: Reimagining Neighbourliness with Shakespeare”

Edel Lamb

“Writing Early Modern Girlhood”
Folger-SSEMWG Fellow

Yuen-Gen Liang

“Where was northwest Africa in the Age of Exploration?: An intermediary space between conceptions of the ‘Moorish’ and ‘Black’ Other”

Patricia Lott

“Memory’s Ruins: Slavery, Commemoration, and Wastecraft in the Nineteenth-Century U.S. North”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Yusuf Mansoor

“Native Americans in Tangier: Slaveries in the Early Modern Atlantic World”

Silvia Marchiori

“Early modern surgical instruments and the material Renaissance of ancient medicine”

Brittany Merritt Nash

“Epidemics and Systems of Racialization in Barbados, 1647–1854”

Elise Mitchell

“Morbid Geographies”

Laura OBrion

“Sit by my side, and let the world slip”: Segregation and American Theatres from Slavery to Jim Crow”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Sara Pennell

“‘I can work all manner of Works’: Hannah Wolley’s life and labours in seventeenth-century England”

Alfrena Jamie Pierre

“George Lamming and William Shakespeare: The Interface and its Contributions to Caribbean Scholarship”

Anandi Rao

“Hindi Shakespeare in Colonial India”

Simon Smith

“Twelfth Night (Cambridge Shakespeare Editions)”

Ianick Takaes de Oliveira

“A Most Severe Judgment to All Peoples: On the Circulation of Philippe Thomassin’s ‘Last Judgement’ (1606) in the Early Modern Iberian World”

Susan Valladares

“Black Power in British Theatres, 1783–1838”

Jennifer Wu

“The Curtain, the Stage, and The More Family Portrait”

Samuel Yates

“‘Mend your speech’: Elizabeth Inchbald, Communication Disorder, and the Remaking of Theatre History”

Artistic Research Fellows

Rohan Chander

“FINAL SKIN: HINDOO LEGACIES”

Sumie Garcia

“Maps of Post-truth”

Taylor Johnson

“Free and Open to The Public”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Jami Nakamura Lin

“The Girls of Godzilla, Illinois”

Suzette Marie Martin

“A Bestiary and Herbal for the Anthropocene”

John McGinty

“Shakespeare in Signs: Unveiling ASL Artistry Through Performance”

Natalia Mejia Murillo

“A burnished disc in the air”

Jessy Muyonjo

“‘Re-Imagining Twilight’: Audio-Visual Narratives of Ugandan Heritage”

Manny Orozco

“LOSSLESS”

Dominick Porras (Chicano-Coahuiltec)

“Unveiling Ethnohistory: The Complex Narratives of Texas Indians”

Camille Simone Thomas

“Sweet Blood”
Whose Democracy? Fellow

Ania Upstill

“Illicit Acts: Antonio, Queerness and Piracy in the early modern period”

KhoKhoi (mary alinney villacastin)

“Ubos sa Dagat: The Under Sea”

PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

Mixology

Trivia and cocktails inspired by the Folger collection

Shakespeare for Swifties

August 15, 2024

How Alchemy Gave Us Alcohol

October 26, 2024

Game Night with Luis Carazo

in partnership with Labyrinth Games & Puzzles
February 28, 2025

Foraged Mixology

May 9, 2025

Folger Salons

Each month, fellows share their research, followed by conversation

Tiffany Bragg, Alex Lewis, Simon Smith, and Jennifer Wu

October 17, 2024

Suzette Marie Martin and KhoKhoi (mary alinney villacastin)

November 21, 2024

Edel Lamb, Dominick Porras, and Susan Valladares

December 6, 2024 (virtual)

Pablo Miguel Sierra Silva and Ania Upstill

December 12, 2024

Shaul Bassi and Sylvia Korman

January 16, 2025

Alex Baines, Rob Clines, and Anandi Rao

February 20, 2025

Beatrice Bradley and Sara Pennell

Mach 13, 2025

Douglas Clark, Jamie Gemmell, and Patricia A. Matthew

April 24, 2025

Mark Bland, Zainab Cheema, and Kate Doubler

May 15, 2025

Maria Canon, Amy Cooper, and Carrington OBrion

June 12, 2025

Charmaine Cordero, Esteban Crespo-Jaramillo, and Toby Yuen-Gen Liang

June 27, 2025 (virtual)

Humanities Talks

Romeo and Juliet: Pre-Show Talk with **Margo Hendricks** and **Jeannette Christensen**, moderated by **Kathryn Vomero Santos**
October 11, 2024

Tarot, Magic, and the Fairy King with Folger Artist Fellow **Alexander D’Agostino**
November 1, 2024

Coded Threads: Translating Shakespeare Through Art with Folger Artist Fellow **Suzanne Coley**
November 16, 2024

Author Talk and Reading: The Girls of Godzilla, Illinois with Folger Research Fellow **Jami Nakamura Lin**
January 16, 2025 (virtual)

Workshop and Community Read: Sweet Blood with *Whose Democracy?* Artist Fellow **Camille Simone Thomas**
February 8, 2025

Cocktails and Conversation: Tabletop role-playing games with **Luis Carazo**
February 27, 2025

Cocktails and Conversation: A Springtime Revival with **Douglas Clark**
May 8, 2025

Twelfth Night: Queer Dramaturgy with **Alexa Alice Joubin**
May 30, 2025

Shakespeare’s Birthday Lecture

Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper: “Shakespeare Beyond Relevance”
April 19, 2025

Publications

Shakespeare Quarterly
A leading journal in Shakespeare studies

Folger Shakespeare editions
Shakespeare’s plays and poems in print, ebooks, audiobooks, and online



INSPIRING APPLAUSE

Folger Director Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper welcomes guests to the Folger Gala

OUR DONORS

Thank you to the many individuals, foundations, and government agencies that provided support to the Folger and its programs from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Your commitment to our mission is instrumental as we begin a new chapter in the Folger's history.

The list below includes gifts and pledges of \$250 or more received during fiscal year 2025.

Thank you all. You make our work possible.

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Anke Neumann's paper-and-light sculpture leads visitors up the stairs to the theater.

Financials: Fiscal Year 2025

THE TRUSTEES OF AMHERST COLLEGE

FOLGER SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,759,000
Accounts and loans receivable, net	2,031,000
Contributions receivable, net	8,054,000
Other assets	362,000
Investments	516,702,000
Property, plant and equipment, net	128,134,000
Total Assets	\$ 673,042,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable	\$ 585,000
Accrued liabilities	821,000
Liability for life income obligations	401,000
Pension and postretirement benefit obligations	6,119,000
Bonds payable	30,787,000
Other liabilities	1,017,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 39,730,000
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 115,993,000
Restricted	517,319,000
Total Net Assets	\$ 633,312,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 673,042,000

The Folger Shakespeare Library is a private, independently endowed, tax exempt institution governed by an independent Board of Governors. The Folger Shakespeare Library is administered by the Trustees of Amherst College in accordance with the terms of the wills of its founders, Henry Clay Folger and Emily Jordan Folger. Therefore, the Trustees of Amherst College are the official body under which the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the tax code.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Investment gains appropriated	\$ 849,000	\$ 20,243,000	\$ 21,092,000
US government grants	418,000	-	418,000
Gifts and other grants	3,386,000	-	3,386,000
Interest income	931,000	-	931,000
Other	3,620,000	-	3,620,000
Net assets released from restrictions for operations	21,379,000	(21,379,000)	-
Total Operating Revenues and Other Support	30,583,000	(1,136,000)	29,447,000
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries	12,775,000	-	12,775,000
Benefits	3,827,000	-	3,827,000
Other	11,723,000	-	11,723,000
Interest	-	-	-
Depreciation	3,299,000	-	3,299,000
Total Operating Expenses	31,624,000	-	31,624,000
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(1,041,000)	(1,136,000)	(2,177,000)
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Realized and change in unrealized gains on investments, and investment income	3,775,000	65,346,000	69,121,000
Investment gains appropriated	(849,000)	(20,243,000)	(21,092,000)
Payments to trust beneficiaries	-	(66,000)	(66,000)
Gifts to life funds, endowment, and plant	-	527,000	527,000
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	58,000	-	58,000
Change in post-retirement benefits, other than periodic benefit cost	1,000	-	1,000
Net assets released from restrictions for nonoperations	2,643,000	(2,643,000)	-
Total Nonoperating Activities	5,628,000	42,921,000	48,549,000
Increase in Net Assets	4,587,000	41,785,000	46,372,000
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	111,406,000	475,534,000	586,940,000
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 115,993,000	\$ 517,319,000	\$ 633,312,000

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The Folger Shakespeare Library showcases the utility of Shakespeare and the humanities in cultivating healthy civic life. Anchored by the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the Folger is also home to a world-renowned collection of books, manuscripts, and prints from the 1500s to the early 1700s. Visitors to the Folger can choose how they want to experience the arts and humanities, from interactive exhibitions to captivating performances, and from pathbreaking research to transformative educational programming. The Folger fosters curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, and welcomes visitors from Washington, DC, and from across the globe.



Young visitors enjoy a sword-fighting demonstration at the Folger's annual celebration of Shakespeare's birthday.

This annual report for fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025) features the work of the following photographers:

John Abbott; Juliana Avery; Destination DC; elman studio; Henri T; Maria Maza; Erika Nizborski; Ryan Pelham; Michael Reinhold; Peggy Ryan; and Lloyd Wolf.

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