



## **Curating Citizenship: Longwood University's Brock Experience in Boston 10-19 June 2019**

### **The Brock Experiences at Longwood University:**

In 2016, Longwood alumna Joan Brock, and her husband Macon Brock (founder of the Dollar Tree chain of stores), made the largest gift in Longwood University's history to create the Brock Experiences, a growing group of immersive, citizenship-focused courses throughout the United States, in locations such as Yellowstone National Park, the Arctic Circle, border regions between the U.S. and Mexico, and the Chesapeake Bay. Exploring the important issues of our time, new courses will be announced each fall and, after a development period, will be added to the slate of signature experiences available to students.

### **Curating Citizenship: Longwood University's Brock Experience in Boston:**

The Longwood University Brock Experience in Boston engages students in an exploration of the role the arts play in society and culture in an academic program based in Boston, Massachusetts. Students in this program will interact with stakeholders in both the public and private sectors in an effort to understand how the arts cultivate social and civic bonds in communities. Our larger goal is to identify and to grapple with the larger questions of why the arts and humanities improve communities, and how they can enhance individuals' understanding of their own roles as active participants in citizenship, and, indeed, in the greater concerns of our shared humanity. This Brock Experience takes the idea of "curating" as a point-of-departure for thinking about the ways in which governments and private donors curate art and culture in society for the benefit of citizens; but the term also describes the ways in which citizens themselves have an obligation to serve as stewards of the arts, and to manage and curate the arts for the benefit of the community. The word "curate" comes from the Latin noun *cūra*, and the verb *cūrāre*. In Latin, these words refer to the obligation to take care of important things—such as works of art—and to serve as a guardian entrusted with the care and management of such things. But the words also suggest concern and worry about important things, and this, too, reflects the current state of the arts in America, where funding for the arts from both public and private sources is in decline. One of the first uses of the word in English, "curate," as a noun, designated a member of the clergy responsible for the care of souls. One of the aims of this project is to adopt this term in a similar way to describe the care and management of the idea of citizenship itself, especially as it is shaped by the arts.

### *Contact information:*

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