

EXPERIENCE

EDUCATOR:

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, Fairfax, VA **2017 - present**

Instructor, History

- World History, class size 40-50 students
- Created course content and designed syllabus for: *World History; The City and Civilization*

KEAN UNIVERSITY, Union, NJ **2015 –2016**

Instructor, History

- World History, freshman seminar; class size 22-30 students
- Created course content and designed syllabus for: *World History; The Rise of the City and Worlds of History; The Modern Century*

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, South Orange, NJ **2013 - 2014**

Adjunct Professor

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Urban Anthropology; class sizes 22-35 students

CULTURAL ARTS LEADERSHIP:

MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS, Madison NJ **2014 – 2015**

Assistant Director

- Oversight on all operations and programmatic functions of the Museum, to include education programs, exhibitions, public programming, membership, and community relations
- Provided line-item content and strategized with interim director on FY15 \$300,000 operating budget
- Marketed education department programs to public and independent school leadership; reconfigured programs with Education Curator in order to meet the changing needs of primary and secondary school curricula
- Researched and developed latest museum exhibition, "The Art of Books: Taking the Page Beyond the Press"
- Designed Historic Homes Preservation Workshop Series to attract and engage a wider adult audience in Museum's education programs
- Successfully wrote several grant applications for new program initiatives; completed summative reporting on outstanding grant agreements
- Led a full-time staff of four, part-time staff of six, numerous interns and volunteers

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES, Trenton, NJ **2013 – 2014**

Interim Executive Director

- Program manager for all-volunteer 20-member Board of Trustees during interim period
- Developed a streamlined budget with fiscal officer for FY14 in light of the NEH's proposed 10-40% budget cuts; submitted a 20% reduced budget which was approved by the Board
- Edited Council's quarterly newsletter: established content priorities for publication, copyedited and proofread, recruited guest authors, collaborated with graphic designer on layout and printing
- Implemented public programs, conferences, and scholarly events partnering with diverse state and local organizations
- Oversaw annual Humanities Awards event and fall gala; implemented Literature & Medicine program for healthcare professionals
- Marketed programs through social and print media avenues
- Reviewed and authorized the re-grant of NEH dollars to cultural organizations across the state
- Managed full-time staff of five and annual operating budget of \$900,000

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, Hoboken, NJ **2010 –2012**

Education Curator

- Wrote and taught all arts- and history-based curriculum and programming for children, families and adults; all programs steeped in object-based inquiry and Visual Thinking Strategies
- Initiated and executed collaborations with new audiences: Boy and Girl Scout troops, senior citizen groups, teen groups, The Boys and Girls Club of Hoboken

- Utilized HHM's digital archives and database for project research
- Proposed and was awarded annual contracts between the Museum and the Hoboken Public School District, which allowed for expanded museum programming to students of the district
- Maintained relationships with key stakeholders at the Hoboken Board of Education for the ongoing support and implementation of Museum-Schools contracts
- Wrote and submitted grant applications and was awarded grant funding for the Education Department
- Hired and managed interns and junior staff members; conducted junior staff evaluations
- Project leader for all fundraising activities for the 2011 and 2012 Hoboken Baby Parade

PROJECT MANAGER:

Special projects consultant and freelance writer

2015 - present

- Special projects contractor: research/ writing/curating expertise and project management
- Freelance writer: articles and essays on topics of historic preservation, material culture, and civic engagement
- Marketing and public relations action team member for Newark's 350th anniversary steering committee

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, Newark, NJ

2014

Project Director, Office of the Chancellor

- Project director for University-wide strategic planning and visioning process in partnership with new Chancellor
- Organized and implemented participatory data-gathering sessions, including Town Hall meetings, focus groups, and online interface with the Rutgers community
- Structured and facilitated focus groups of faculty, staff, students, and community members for new brand initiative
- Synthesized qualitative data gathered from focus groups and prepared detailed briefs for the Chancellor's final report
- Presented bi-weekly to Provost and Chief Deputy on strategic planning process and progress

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, Newark, NJ

2012 –2013

Curator, "Bricks, Mortar, Memories, and Pride: The James Street Commons Reconsidered"

- Co-curated with Dr. Clement A. Price, this exhibit shed a nuanced light on the life and times of Newark's most important and vigilant historic district: the James Street Commons; mounted at the Newark Public Library Jun-Dec 2013
- Conducted all archival research for development of exhibit's social and historical narrative; wrote all exhibition text
- Convened James Street Commons community members in order to locate personal artifacts for exhibition
- Created interview questions for the project's accompanying documentary film; interviewed James Street Commons residents for documentary film in comprehensive oral history project
- Moderator for panel discussion on the creation of the historic district at Newark Public Library's exhibition opening event

VOLUNTEERISM:

Friends of the Plume House, Newark, NJ

2016 – 2017

President

William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, Stanford University

2016

Reviewer

New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Trenton, NJ

2014 – 2016

Trustee

Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee, Newark, NJ

2013 – 2014

Trustee

National History Day

2012

Judge, New Jersey

Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY

2009

Intern, Membership & Development

New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ

2008

Intern, Museum Education

EDUCATION

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK, Newark, NJ

May 2015

Doctor of Philosophy, American Studies

- Focus on historic preservation and the creation of memory and identity in the cultural landscape. Dissertation, *The Age of Sail in The Age of Aquarius; Preserving Memory and Identity at New York's South Street Seaport*, examines historic

preservation and maritime commemoration in lower Manhattan's seaport district during the most publicly violent and challenging cultural landscape in modern American history, the late 1960s

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, South Orange, NJ

May 2010

Masters of Arts, Museum Professions

- Master's Thesis: "Museums and Urban Revitalization: Regional Museums as Catalysts for Physical, Economic, and Social Regeneration of Local Communities." This project examines three regional museums in Massachusetts as each has created a web of partnerships and collaborations with local organizations in the advancement of physical, economic, and social revitalization of local communities

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Education

ADDITIONAL

I enjoy river kayaking, collecting Oaxacan woodcarvings, and poring over prints and maps in The Old Print Shop in New York City.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

“Apple vs. FBI; Personal Security vs. Public Safety,” *The Legal Eagle*, Vol 21, No 2 (New Brunswick: New Jersey State Bar Foundation, 2017)

“Male or Female: Should Everyone Serve?,” *Respect*, Vol 16, No 2 (New Brunswick: New Jersey State Bar Foundation, 2017)

“Gerrymandering; An Invented Word for a Serious Issue,” *Respect*, Vol 16, No 1 (New Brunswick: New Jersey State Bar Foundation, 2016)

“One Person, One Vote,” *The Legal Eagle*, Vol 21, No 1 (New Brunswick: New Jersey State Bar Foundation, 2016)

“Historic Preservation in Newark: Sweat Equity and Community Action,” Glen Ridge Historical Society annual meeting keynote lecture. April 2016.

The Age of Sail in The Age of Aquarius; The South Street Seaport and the Crisis of the Sixties (South Carolina: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2016)

“Blurring Artistic Lines for Songwriters,” *The Legal Eagle*, Spring 2016, Vol 20, No 3 (New Brunswick: New Jersey State Bar Foundation, 2016)

“Home Turf; To Newark, the endangered Plume House is much more than just a house: It’s history,” *The Star Ledger*, July 5, 2015, p. D5.

http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/06/with_newark_preparing_to_celebrate_350_years_citys.html

The Age of Sail in The Age of Aquarius; Preserving Memory and Identity at New York’s South Street Seaport, Doctoral Dissertation, Rutgers University-Newark. May 2015.

Past Forward: National Preservation Conference, November 2014. Savannah, Georgia. Panel presenter, “Breathing Life into Legacy Cities: Newark, New Jersey as a case in point.”

Avenues in American Studies, Rutgers University-Newark symposium, May 2014. Newark, NJ. Presenter, “Past Perfect: History and Identity on the Waterfront.”

“Battle of the Port; Memory, Preservation and Planning in the Creation of the South Street Seaport Museum,” *Journal of Urban History*, SAGE Journals (September 2013)

<http://juh.sagepub.com/content/early/recent>

“American Tribal Style; Third Wave Feminism Shimmies Into Popular Culture,”

Jareeda; The Soul of Belly Dance, History and Culture (Sutherlin: Oasis Press, 2014)

NYMASA *Memory* Conference, November 2011, New York, NY.

Presenter, “The Founding of the South Street Seaport Museum; visions for a new urban future and the role of memory in historic preservation.”

“Museums and Urban Revitalization: Regional Museums as Catalysts for Physical, Economic, and Social Regeneration of Local Communities,” Master’s Thesis, Seton Hall University. May 2010.

[http://domapp01.shu.edu/depts/uc/apps/libraryrepository.nsf/resourceid/F89FE1AFD457E573852577A5004BE9D4/\\$File/Westervelt-Robin-F_Masters.PDF?Open](http://domapp01.shu.edu/depts/uc/apps/libraryrepository.nsf/resourceid/F89FE1AFD457E573852577A5004BE9D4/$File/Westervelt-Robin-F_Masters.PDF?Open)

Member, Golden Key International Honour Society Member

Recipient, New York University Founder’s Day Award