

PROFILE

- Experienced interpretive professional, dedicated to creating mission-driven, measurable success
- Adept facilitator, able to initiate productive relationships and lead teams across organizational lines
- Creative thinker, with proven ability to envision and realize large, innovative projects

EXPERIENCE IN INTERPRETATION

Assistant Director of Interpretive Services, State Parks, TPWD

2010 - present

- Supervised a team of exhibit planners and supported a larger team including interpretive specialists, buffalo soldiers, designers, and curators
- Led strategic alignment initiative to maintain positive and supportive relationships with larger agency
- Managed and provided oversight and coordination to contractors and staff in support of large projects
- Monitored budgets and expenditures, establishing priorities in collaboration with all stakeholders
- Worked with Interpretive Specialist team to renew Interpretive Master Plan format and to identify and develop new interpretive trainings
- Reviewed and provided professional guidance on interpretive exhibits and print materials

Head of Interpretive Planning & Development, State Parks, TPWD

2006-2010

- Supervised a team of exhibit planners and supported a larger team including interpretive specialists
- Led initiative to codify project selection process and ensure adequate communication with stakeholders
- Managed a portfolio of complex, long-term interpretive projects, seeking funding as necessary
- Monitored budgets and expenditures, establishing priorities in collaboration with stakeholders
- Created (along with team) two innovative, national-award-winning interpretive projects
- Developed a proposal and received funding from Humanities Texas; assisted a staff member in her successful proposal to the Friends of Garner State Park

Interpretive Planner, State Parks, TPWD

2005-2006

- Researched, wrote and led design processes for interpretive exhibits and signage projects
- Developed a proposal and received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities which funded a number of live community-based outreach programs as part of a planning process for the Levi-Jordan State Historic Site.
- Attended the two-week Winedale Seminar on fundraising and completed a grant-writing intensive

Education Programs Developer, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

2001-2005

- Coordinated with academic, artistic and community consultants and constituencies to plan and implement an array of public programs, including guided tours, lecture series, film series and musical performances
- Developed and taught a series of workshops for educators and docent tour guides to prepare them to lead educational tours of the museum
- Developed a proposal and received funding from the Museum Foundation for a sequential education collaborative which culminated in a display of both the educators' curriculum and the children's projects
- Performed quantitative and qualitative audience research studies to evaluate program effectiveness
- Initiated, scripted and directed a series of educational plays and acted in a series of scripted web casts.
- Conducted tours of the museum for family, adult and student groups

Curatorial Assistant, Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, AL

1997-1999

- Assisted with large-scale conservation and curation of WPA-era lithic and ceramic collections
- Assisted in large public events, giving tours and demonstrations of ancient technologies

EDUCATION

University of Texas, Austin

PhD (abd), Dissertation: The Experienced Exhibit: a communicative analysis of messages, memories and meanings

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

MA, Applied Socio-linguistics

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

BA, Anthropology/ English

EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION

Adjunct Instructor, St. Edwards University, Austin

2004

☉ Taught three sections of directed readings in museum and interpretive theory for the MLA program

Instructor, SAGE program, University of Texas, Austin

2004

☉ Facilitated a tour-based exhibits seminar for the College of Continuing Education

Research Assistant, Systemic Research Collaborative for Education, Austin

2000-2001

☉ Collected and analyzed qualitative data from classroom observation and participating scholars for an educational reform project supported by the National Science Foundation

Adjunct Instructor, Austin Community College

2000-2003

☉ Taught three sections of anthropology

Assistant Instructor, University of Alabama

2000-2003

☉ Taught two sections each semesters of introductory rhetoric and composition

☉ Edited and coached student writers in the university's writing center

RELEVANT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Well Said! Composing Exhibits with Purpose. Presented as part of an exhibits and graphic design workshop. Texas Association of Museums annual conference, Spring, 2011.

Advocating for Ethical Interpretation. Presented as part of the joint session Making it Real: Educators shaping interpretation through Accessibility, Advocacy and Accountability at the American Association of Museums annual conference, Chicago, IL., April 5, 2005.

Museum Audiences: Creating new relationships. Museline; Fall, 2004.

Inviting Audiences: Museums, Messages and Communities. Presented at the Texas Association of Museum's annual conference, March 31, 2004.

The Role of Audience Research in Planning for Public Programs. Presented as part of the joint session Dinner, Dancing...and Dinosaurs? Adult Public Programming for Learning, Fun, and Sustainability at the Texas Association of Museum's conference, March 31, 2004.

Interpretation with Integrity: Representing the multi-cultural past. Presented at the Texas Association of Museum's Conference, March 28, 2003.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association for Interpretation, Texas Association of Museums, American Association of Museums