

Joseph Sherren

Collections Stewardship Professional

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SKILLS

- Collections Database management in PastPerfect4, PastPerfect5, ArchivesTree
- Collections storage planning and maintenance, collections handling, research, and interpretation
- Archival processing and cataloguing
- Exhibition development, design, and installation/deinstallation
- Creation and distribution of marketing/publicity materials for exhibits and public programs
- Use of Microsoft Office Programs to perform administrative tasks including reporting, documenting, cataloguing, analyzing, and compiling data
- Historical research and presentation

TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Museums Consultant 07/2020- Present

Collections Stewardship Consultant

- Perform comprehensive inventory of collections and reconcile with existing institutional records.
- Create and implement a formal documenting system for collections, Collections Policy including accession and de-accession guidelines and working with found-in-collection and abandoned property (commensurate with MD SB88, 2020, “Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum”).
- Construct a risk assessment practice.
- Train staff on best practices for collections stewardship.

University of Maryland, iSchool, College Park, MD 07/2020- Present

Adjunct Lecturer

- INST643- Curation in Cultural Institutions
- INST341- Introduction to Digital Curation

Montpelier Mansion and Historic Site, Laurel, Maryland 02/2017- Present

Collections Manager

08/2017- Present

- Maintain an active collections storage and research area conducting annual inventory, scheduling and performing a quarterly housekeeping practice (in the interpretive spaces and the storage areas).
- Manage and maintain physical and digital object documentation.
- Maintain and update digital object database by inputting metadata, updating scans and photographs, and catalog information commensurate with current best practices.

- Create new policies and procedures related to accessioning, deaccessioning, loan management, object cataloging, condition reporting, and object photography for permanent collection, research archives, and PROP collection. All commensurate with current collections stewardship best practices.
- Research diversity, equity and inclusion practices to apply to archival practice including anti-racist archival practice and innovative and diverse educational programming.
- Assist in the preparation of proposal materials for a \$50,000 Maryland Historical Trust grant in the African American Heritage Preservation Program.
- Consult on policies and procedures applying to other historic properties within the Natural and Historical Resources Division of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.
- Provide cost-saving analysis of products, vendors, and services to optimize services within the facility's budget.
- Assist with exhibit development, design, and installation/deinstallation.
- Recruits, trains, and supervises interns and volunteers for Collections-based projects.
- Develops innovative special topics programming including lecture series, hands-on workshops, and events for audiences of varying abilities. Seeks out consultant historians and other presenters for these special topics programs and sets scheduling for day-of programs/events. Topics include a Queer History of the Chesapeake lecture, an antique appraisal event, and Women's Suffrage Memorabilia lecture series.
- Perform research with primary and secondary sources in support of exhibitions or other interpretive projects including fine and decorative arts, photography, and collections history.
- Manages a reference library and reference archive with photographs for use by researchers and other staff members.
- Researches new technologies and practices for application within the museum's collections.
- Formulates and institutes museum-wide policies and formal plans.
- Advises and trains museum staff on object handling and archival practices.
- Forms strategic partnerships with partner sites/programs and area museums and historical societies to develop exhibitions and programming.
- Consult on the planning of a new museum HVAC system in keeping with current museum best practices regarding environmental issues.
- Manages the long-term loans from the Maryland Historical Society and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Coordinates the M-NCPPC Risk Management Office to provide special insurance coverage for the duration of loan periods in a timely manner.
- Plan and chair bi-annual Collections Committee Meetings.

Assistant Collections Manager

02/2017- 08/2017

- Worked within all areas of collections stewardship: ethical and legal issues surrounding the use and care of museum objects in the permanent collections and all loans pieces.
- Assisted in creation of new policy and procedures for collections

- Assisted in implementing conservationally-sound housekeeping techniques, environmental control methods and standards, and pest management.
- Assisted in planning, coordinating and chairing Collections Committee meetings.
- Conducted public outreach events through collections-based programming
- Assisted with exhibit development, design, and installation/deinstallation
- Assisted in responding to collections and research inquiries from independent researchers and other institutions by letter, telephone, email, or in person.

EDUCATION

George Mason University Fairfax, VA December 2015

Master of Arts in Art History

Thesis Title: “Discovering a New Identity: Influences of the German Avant-Garde on Transatlantic Modernists from the United States”

University of Maryland College Park, MD

Credits Earned: 30 Semester Hours

Major: Post-Baccalaureate Studies in Art History

Mt. St. Mary’s University Emmitsburg, MD

May 2010

Bachelor of Sciences in Biology

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists, *Individual Member*

01/2021- Present

Rainbow Heritage Network, *Member*

01/2021- Present

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), *Individual Member*

01/2021- Present

American Alliance of Museums (AAM), *Professional Member*

03/2018- Present

SELECTED PROJECTS

Presentations

- *Memorializing the Great War: The D.C. War Memorial and Contemporary Issues of Representation on the National Mall*, D.C. History Conference November 12- 14, 2020. Poster Presentation on the visual metaphor of the D.C. War Memorial on the National Mall and issues of D.C.’s representation and recognition in a political and larger social context.

Public Programs/Workshops

- *Your Grandparent’s Attic: How to Preserve Your Family Treasures*; Montpelier Historic Site, May 2021.

- *Textiles Show & Tell and Preservation Workshop*; Montpelier Historic Site, November, 2020.
- *To Collect and Preserve*; Montpelier Historic Site, March 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)
- *Informal Appraisal Event*; Montpelier Historic Site, November, 2019
- *Textile Preservation and Research*; Montpelier Historic Site, November, 2018
- *Archiving and Photography/Paper Preservation*; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Black History Program, May, 2018
- *Archiving and Photography/Paper Preservation*; Montpelier Historic Site, March, 2018

Guest Lectures

- Public Programming in an Information Institution, University of Maryland Master of Library and Information Science, March, 2020

Guest Blog Posts

- Collectors' Day 2019- Dining in Decadence: Culinary Culture in Early America, <https://web.archive.org/web/20200409191457/https://hammondharwoodhouse.org/collectors-day-2019-dining-in-decadence-culinary-culture-in-early-america/>

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

- Recipient of the Glenn Harwood Memorial Scholarship, 2019
- Recipient of the Graduate Excellence in Art History Award, Spring 2016
- Contributing writer to Art History Graduate Research Symposium, Spring 2015.