

## STARR PAGE

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### Accomplishment Summary

Through my experience in the museum field I have had the opportunity to work in textile and costume conservation, historical accessories (18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century purses), archival and collections management. I am sincerely interested in and excited by the knowledge of being in the position of maintaining historical facts through research for students, the general public and our future generations. One way I have been able to contribute thus far is to share my knowledge with the community by providing museum tours, workshops, presentation and educational sessions. This would not only acquaint individuals with the artifacts but the environment also creates an exchange of ideas between the institution and the community. Another aspect of my working opportunity is working with the museum database that contains valuable information through each institution along and their artifacts. Through these databases I cataloged the museums information, created object data-cross reference lists, deleted, added, and updated object descriptions, and uploaded documented images that the curators, collection managers or I created.

On the exhibitions and installation component, this involved me implementing exhibitions themes, by composing (from start to finish) the location or areas where the exhibits will be installed, research and examining the artifacts for the exhibit, props that may add texture, design brochures for the public about the exhibition, also formulating the layout, type, style, didactics, graphics, video and sound. There was also a need for me to research institutional reports to write papers and Grant proposals.

#### Core Competencies

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Microsoft Office Suite
- PastPerfect
- KEEMu database

#### Education

##### **Western Illinois University**

Masters of Arts Museum Studies: GPA 3.47

Macomb Illinois  
May 2013

##### **Roosevelt University**

Bachelor of Professional Studies-Paralegal

Chicago Illinois  
April 2011

#### Professional Experience

##### **Smithsonian Institute-Museum Conservation Institute (MCI)**

*Historical Textile and Costume Internship*

Washington, DC  
June 2013-August 2013

The Smithsonian Institute Museum of Conservation Institute Textile and Costume department cares for all of the Smithsonian's Costume that will be exhibited and housed in the National Museum of African American History and Culture [NMAAHC]. In this position I determined the structural stability of individual artifacts, counteracting deterioration and performed conservation treatment based on an evaluation of aesthetic, historic, characteristics.

- Prepared condition reports for incoming acquisitions
- Assist in ordering conservation supplies and maintain the Conservation Lab and the equipment
- Documented treatment(s) and prepare a condition report and proposal
- Photographed costumes in preparation for storage as this is an important step in preservation
- Photography costumes

At the Smithsonian Institute- Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) I was exposed to a central research laboratory for works of art and artifacts. This enabled me to participate in joint projects between the (MCI) and the National Museum of African American History Center (NMAAHC) with the support and assistance of the Head conservator from MCI in the accessioning, preliminary condition reporting, photographing, and re-housing of the newly acquired collection from the Black Fashion Museum. I had the privilege and opportunity to learn textile conservation skills and museum collection management ranging from American to European materials. In addition, I was expected to learn to catalogue and complete an examination report that assessed the damages to garments, learning about stain removal and to become moderately proficient at identifying repairs, renovations and discolorations.

I am now proficient at identifying repairs, renovations, and discolorations. This opportunity has prepared me to carry out microscopy (and photomicrography) to identify fibers and confirm their fiber identification with Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR). I am also familiar with AATCC Technical Manual methods of fiber identification

through the von Bergen/Krauss text. Finally my conservation opportunity introduced me to not only conservation but restoration in the museum context through hands on experience and also learning about pest control and pest monitoring the bionomics of insects that harass museum collections.

### **Rock Island County Historical Society**

*Historical Textile and Costume Internship*

Moline, Illinois  
January 2013-May 2013

RICHs Clothes Loft is made up of four storage spaces and one work room .The collection houses costumes that span from circa 1780 through the 1970's and a large portion of the collection was donated the Rock Island County residents and their families. Creating these exhibits involved planning schedule and timeline, research, organization of selected artifacts, installation, and Press release, invitations, and brochures. Working in this position I used practical skills to identify fibers and treat various textiles. The exhibition was titled "The Passing Show and these are the highlights:

- Processed historical costume collections through research, interpretation and preservation
- Documented the textiles and costumes collections
- Reorganizing and rehousing costumes using archival material
- Conduct research on the history of new collections

[http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2013/01/news-on-block\\_26.html](http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2013/01/news-on-block_26.html)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2Ng2hiSNek>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hum1tFIUas>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u93QWmxmsJo>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\\_EgljBAEEc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_EgljBAEEc)

### **Putnam Museum**

*Historical Costume Conservation Intern*

Davenport, IA  
October 2012-April 2013

The Cultural History Collection contains objects relating to religion, arts and crafts, education, and movements related to these subjects. The major focuses for these projects was rehouse, and reorganize each of these artifacts; along with deaccession and create an online exhibition titled "Carry Me". The links are of work in progress at the time and completion. I have accomplished this work through:

- Planning and organizing, archival storage, and create the first online exhibition.
- Studied, examine, and tested acquisitions to authenticate their origin, composition, history, and the current value
- Provide information from the institution's holdings for other curators abroad and to the general public.
- Inspected premises to assess the need for repairs and to ensure the climate and pest control issues (if any) were addressed
- Written report presented to Head Historian in charged and didactics completed for the exhibition

[http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2012/12/news-on-block\\_15.html](http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2012/12/news-on-block_15.html)

[http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2012/12/news-on-block\\_20.html](http://starr-page.blogspot.com/#/2012/12/news-on-block_20.html)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeHTHDKA3-M>

### **German American Heritage Center**

*Visitor Coordinator and Archival Intern*

Davenport, IA  
March 2012-March 2013

The German American Heritage Center was the Germania-Miller/Standard Hotel and it is now a cultural center and museum that chronicles and preserves the history of German-Americans in the Midwest region. As an archivist intern my position was to identified, collected, organized, recorded, describe and preserved materials that is of historical value and present authentic and relevant parts of history in an understandable manner. My work involved understanding the daily operations of the museum, through working with the Executive Director, Assistant Director/Curator and I have:

- Collected data for the purpose of providing, supporting documentation for Grant proposals
- Supported Assistant Director and Executive Director (festivals, lectures, etc.)
- Coordinate and overseen particular programs for summer youth programs pertaining to the better understanding of the German American Heritage Center and Museum
- Organized archival records and developed classification systems to facilitate access to archival materials
- Prepared archival records, such as document descriptions, to allow easy access to information
- Researched and recorded the origins and historical significance of archival materials that focus on the German arrival and that arrived directly from Germany
- Worked on several of the exhibitions with the Curator –sample of exhibit in progress
- Wrote grant for funding a public German American library within the German American Heritage Center

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXDLoRklHbs>

### **Zen Genius**

*Visual Merchandiser*

Columbus Ohio and Chicago, Illinois  
October 2011-January 2012

Zen Genius was a freelance opportunity. Through this organization I was hired create for a day or a month the visual aspects of a retail stores installation. Merchandisers are installing the clients' vision to help in opening a new store or re-organize the seasonal floor plan. My position as a VM was to:

- Build creative displays and arranges promotional materials for the store brand
- Inventory management and event product training creating the desired image of a store
- Maintained a clean, functional and attractive space for the interior (and sometimes exterior) of the store
- Support associate in training in merchandise

## **University of Berkeley-Berkeley Extension**

*Interior Design Art Library Assistant*

San Francisco, CA  
August 2005-June 2007

In this volunteer position I researched and sourced items to be sure all interior design material was identified and the descriptions of each items preserved in a responsible manner.

- Assisted with operations of circulation and reference services, providing serve to the Interior Design students, faculty and staff
- Answered reference queries and assist students locate items and resources.
- Processed newly acquired books through purchases and gifting
- Arranged and participated in organizing the fabric library
- Communicated with staff, students and the general public information pertaining to the Interior Design Library

## **Research Interests**

**I intend to complete a PhD in Art History: Historical Textile and Costume. I seek to better understand the history of fashionable dress in the West from the late middle ages through the twentieth century; the goal is to comprehend the changing styles and to explore the meaning as to how it affects our society.**

## **Presentations**

### **Smithsonian Institute Museum Conservation Institute [MCI]**

"Harlem Institute of Fashion and Black Fashion Museum"

Washington, D.C  
July 2013

Lois K. Alexander Lane born in Little Rock Arkansas completing a Master's degree in Fashion and Merchandising at the New York University and started the fashion institute and museum in New York-Harlem and the museum was later opened in Washington, D.C. This presentation was to talk about this phenomenal individual and through collaboration and documentation Alexander Lane was able to counter act the notion that her thesis at the time wanted to explore the history of African American's in retailing and fashion design. Prepared PowerPoint for presentation

### **Figge Art Museum,**

Gallery Talk: *Posing Beauty Exhibition*  
Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe "Nude"

Davenport, IA  
October 2012

I selected to share with the public the image by Ms. Moutoussamy-Ashe "Nude (Self-Portrait)" To me this image had two meanings the physical appearance and the point of view appearance. *Posing Beauty in African American Culture* was curated by Deborah Willis and organized by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California. This exhibit was about the African-American Culture exploring the ways in which African and African American beauty have been represented in historical and contemporary contexts through a diverse array of media including photography, video, fashion ad advertising.

- Prepared a PowerPoint presentation
- Communicated with Curator and Figge staff
- Researched image and artist

<http://www.jeannemoutoussamy-ashe.com/portfolio/>

### **Figge Art Museum**

"Waxing Poetic" Interview by Starr Page

Davenport, IA  
April 2013

Through the use of poetry and intuitive writing, visitors to the Midwest Writing Center in Davenport, IA are encouraged to engage with the exhibition that opened at the Figge Art Museum. The interactive elements of "Waxing Poetic" exhibition extended beyond the gallery walls; visitors were invited to Tweet poems about the art in the exhibit that inspired them. My interview was created to understand how the Director of the Midwest Writing center selected and compiled the writer's poems and the steps taken to create this exhibition that was held in the Figge Special galley.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UIUYZMDI-I>

### **Figge Art Museum**

"Art and Public Spaces" Presentation on Art in Public Spaces

Davenport, IA  
February 2012

This presentation was on the understanding or lack thereof concerning Art and the Public spaces.

I have viewed at art in recent years in the public and how it has increased and has expanded in scope and application, both into other challenging areas of the art platform. Even though monuments, civic statuary are our oldest and most obvious public art

architecture itself is also viewed as art and now more widespread and historians tend to interpret as public art: Bilbao Spain comes to mind as art work by Frank Gehry [one of my favorite artist and architects].

- Prepared a PowerPoint presentation
- Researched relevant material to create important facts about this project
- Interviewed artist who create public art international and national

<http://www.foga.com/>

## **Certificates**

### **Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies**

Care of Book Collection Certificate

Mount Carroll, IL

October 2012

This course was designed for museum, library, and archival personnel who had little to not technical experience with book materials and structure. In receiving my certificate I am now about to:

- Understand materials and structure with the focus on 19<sup>th</sup> to 21 century leather, cloth and paper bindings
- Understanding agents of deterioration and identifying deterioration and formulating appropriate solutions
- Reviewed protective housing for damage books and commonly occurring maintenance issues
- Practice guidelines for handling, storing and exhibiting bound volumes
- Studied policy and procedures for the risk assessment and disaster recovery

## **Volunteer**

### **College Art Association-CAA Conference - Course Monitor**

- Specifically observed the participates in the conference rooms
- Monitored the participates arrival, and departure along with overall room count of individuals
- Monitored computer, sound and video equipment

New York, NY

February 2013

### **WTTW-TV-Documentary DUSABLE to OBAMA**

- In-house library Research
- Transcript of interviews
- Assisted with documentary sound

Chicago, Illinois

April 2010-June 2010

## **Memberships**

Costume Society of America

2013-

American Alliance of Museums

2012-

Association of African American Museums

2013-

## **References upon request**