

DALE JONES

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MAKING HISTORY CONNECTIONS

Principal. *Making History Connections*. Helps museums, organizations and sites create experiences that make personal connections with visitors.

Qm2. Affiliated with Qm2 a Community of Consultants:

SELECTED CURRENT and RECENT PROJECTS

Museum Theatre

- **Gunston Hall 2017.** Created and directed performance: *George Mason and His Legacy*, designed to help visitors understand the mission of Gunston Hall.
- **Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth NH 2017.** Created script focusing on the African American population in Portsmouth in the late 1700s.
- **Jewish History Museum 2015-2016** Commissioned to script performance of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah
- **Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum: 2014-2015.** Scripted and directed *Citizens at a Crossroads*, an IMLS project which examines impact of museum theatre combined with dialogue on meaning-making.
- **Maryland Historical Society 2014:** Commissioned to research, script and direct scenes with actors portraying Francis Scott Key and Mary Pickersgill for Bicentennial War of 1812 celebrations in Maryland.
- **Tsongas Industrial History Center, 2014:** Creative advisor, script consultant/developer for short film
- **Baltimore Bicentennial Commission 2013:** Scripted and directed play about impact of War of 1812 on Frederick MD
- **Mt. Vernon Hotel Museum and Gardens 2013:** Consulted on development of museum theatre characters
- **Maryland Historical Society 2011-2013:** Co-producer, playwright, director of The Maryland Historical Society Players, a five-actor ensemble performing scenes complementing exhibitions on the Civil War and War of 1812
- **Sotterley Plantation 2012:** Creation of *The Choice – Risking Your Life for Freedom* about impact of War of 1812 on the lives of both white and black residents of the plantation; play has run successfully in 2012, 2013, and 2014.
- **Fort Delaware State Park, Delaware City DE 2010:** Scripted and directed *Swallowing the Yellow Dog*, play about Confederate Civil War prisoners

Evaluation

- **USS Constellation, Baltimore MD: 2016-2017** Conducted visitor study as museum plans for new exhibition
- **National Endowment for the Humanities 2014:** Conducted focus group for *Muslim Bookshelf* project
- **Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh PA 2013-2014:** Summative & longitudinal evaluation of underground railroad exhibition
- **National Archives, Washington DC 2010-11:** Museum evaluation consultant for marketing research
- **National Children’s Museum, Washington DC. 2012:** Conducting summative evaluations of literacy training programs
- **National Endowment for the Humanities 2011-12:** Evaluator for “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf on Muslim Worlds”
- **Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, 2011-13:** Conducting summative evaluations for *The Pennsylvania Civil War 150 Road Show* exhibition
- **Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front, Richmond CA 2012:** Conducted formative evaluations for exhibition
- **USS Constitution Museum, 2012:** Consulting, training, conducting formative and summative evaluations for exhibits and programs; Consulting, training staff in Museum Learning Department
- **USS Constitution Museum, Boston MA 2010:** Summative evaluation of “All Hands on Deck,” a hands-on exhibition for families

Interpretation, Planning, and Training

- **Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT:** Conducted study of 152-acre National Historic Landmark (with Dean Krimmel), including focus group interviews and staff workshops, to inform future interpretive planning (2017).
- **Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth NH 2016-2017** IMLS Long Range Interpretive Planning Team. Serving as advisor on visitor experience, evaluation, living history, and theater programs
- **Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock AR, 2017** Conducting training of guides and living history interpreters
- **Gunston Hall 2016** Staff training to integrate mission, the public exploration of democratic ideals, into interpretation
- **Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, 2015.** Trained staff in conducting tours while in character as servants.
- **Trustees of Reservations, MA 2014-2015:** Advised on interpretive planning for Castle Hill

- **Trustees of Reservations, MA 2014:** Conducted a “Blink” assessment of three sites and provided interpretation design recommendations for creating more engaging visitor experiences at Castle Hill, Naumkeag, and the Old Manse
- **Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, 2014.** Conducted training on creating engaging tours.
- **Baltimore National Heritage Area 2014, 2015:** Conducted training for Urban Ranger tour guides
- **Atlanta History Center 2013:** Conducted training for staff at the Swan House and Smith Family Farmstead. Worked on developing first person living history characters, creating "rehearsed improvisational" encounters between characters, making connections with visitors, storytelling, and using objects with visitors.

SELECTED RECENT SESSIONS and WORKSHOPS

- “The Power of Museum Theater” session at AASLH, Detroit, 2016
- “How Improvisation and Experimentation Can Foster Better Communication in our Museums” NEMA 2015
- “Creating Engaging and Memorable Tours” Webinar for AASLH Historic Houses Affinity Group: 2014
- “Creating Engaging and Memorable Tours” Workshop for Greater Baltimore Historical Association: 2014
- “When History Hits the Road” AASLH 2012 Annual Conference presentation on evaluation of traveling exhibition
- “Recent Research: Visitor-Directed Interpretation” at Incorporating Visitors into Museum Interpretation Conference, Historic London Town and Gardens, MD. 2012
- “Incorporating Museum Theatre into Your Interpretation” Delaware State Parks Seasonal Interpretive Training. 2011
- “Creating Better Visitor Experiences” Speaker at Greater Baltimore History Alliance. Nov 2010
- “Creating Experiences Visitors and Communities Value” Session Chair; “Which History, Whose History?” Facilitator. AASLH 2010 Annual Conference, September 2010
- Interpreter Training, Delaware Parks and Recreation, June 2010
- Keynote Talk: “Bring On the Drama: Costumed Interpretation and Theatrical Performance at Historic Sites” The Connecticut League of History Organizations. June 2010
- “Don’t Touch That” workshop at “Practice Makes Perfect: Improving Your Interpretive Skills” Historic London Town and Gardens, March 2010

INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING INNOVATION Senior Researcher, Annapolis MD 1997-2007

Designed and conducted visitor evaluation and research projects; designed programs and museum theatre projects for museums, historical agencies, and other institutions.

Selected Projects

- **International Spy Museum.** Washington D.C. Conducted front-end and formative evaluations
- **National Children’s Museum,** Washington D.C.: Testing audience reaction to exhibit concepts
- **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:** scripted and directed play *The Value of Life*, in association with exhibition *Deadly Science: Creating the Master Race* (Spring 2006).
- **USS Arizona Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii.** Conducted visitor study for new exhibition
- **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.** Conducted visitor study to determine value visitors placed on live interpretation.
- **High Desert Museum,** Bend, Oregon: Conducted visitor studies for new interpretive exhibits

BALTIMORE CITY LIFE MUSEUMS, Baltimore, MD (1985-1996)

Director of Interpretation (1991 -- 1996)

- Managed department responsible for staff, budgets, exhibits, public programs, and school tours at eight museums and historic sites, including the Peale Museum, the H.L. Mencken House, the Carroll Mansion, the 1840 House, the Shot Tower, and the Morton K. Blaustein Exhibition Center.
- Supervised staff of eleven full-time curators and educators, four part-time educators, and over 30 part-time historical interpreters, actors, and museum teachers.

Director of Education (1985--1990)

EDUCATION

M.A., Folk Studies: Historic Preservation, Western Kentucky University, 1984
 Concentration: Living history, folklife, theater. GPA 4.0/4.0