

Bonnie Byrd, Executive Director Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum

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Executive Director, Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum (WCHSM)
Waukesha, WI. November 2018 – present.

- Lead the WCHSM in strategic and organizational planning and institutional capacity building. Manage daily operations of the museum & research center.
- Secured & sustained community partners for programming including SHARP Literacy Inc, Era's Senior Services, Waukesha Public Library, City of Waukesha Parks Rec & Forestry, Chef Jack's Catering, and Retzer Nature Center.
- Established media relationships with regional providers including PBS Arts Page, CBS 58, Fox 6, and WTMJ Radio, Waukesha Freeman, and Shephard Express.
- Launched and renewed fundraising initiatives including annual fundraiser event, business sponsorships for exhibits and spaces, bi-annual giving campaign, and relationships with major donors.
- Successful grant applications: Waukesha County Community Foundation (2016 & 2018); Les Paul Foundation (2017, 2018, 2020); Wisconsin Humanities Council (2018, 2020); Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program (2020).
- Continued oversight of all functions related to collections management & exhibit development.

Curator Collections & Exhibits, WCHSM Waukesha, WI. June 2015 – November 2018.

- Oversaw curatorial processes for object and archival holdings,
- Supervised volunteers & student interns.
- Managed PastPerfect database, and all collections documentation.
- Managed all gallery spaces and exhibit planning: core exhibits schedules and interpretation planning, permanent exhibit expansion plans, and traveling exhibit installation, condition reporting and loan agreements.
- Managed the Huelsman Family Research Center, including supervision and project setting for the volunteer research team, and act as the point of contact for researchers.
- Planned, documented, and implemented Collections Move Plan during building restoration and rehabilitation project, October 2015 – September 2018.

Scout & School Group Educator, Discovery World Science & Innovation Center
Milwaukee, WI. February 2015 – July 2015.

- Present STEM based programs to 3rd -5th grade students
- Revise curriculums and provide input for new content development.

Development & Communications Assistant, Community Legal Aid Services, Inc. Akron, OH. November 2011 – July 2013

- Administrative support to the Executive, Associate, and Development Directors.
- Managed donor database and provided support to grant compliance & reporting.
- Created a catalog system for community education brochures & materials.
Coordinate Speaker's Bureau Program for staff attorneys.

Museum Educator / Programming Assistant, Foodways, Hale Farm and Village Bath, OH. June 2007- Nov. 2011

- Second to the Operations Manager in planning and execution of daily operations and annual programs including Civil War Reenactment, Music in the Valley, Made in Ohio Festival, Holiday Lantern Tours, and Underground Railroad program.
- Supervise foodways programming including budget, developing vendor relationships, and expanding operational capacity. Managed site liquor license.
- Collaborate with department managers on the integration of onsite agriculture into food service and foodways based interpretation.
- Prepare sites, train staff and volunteers, and conduct research in support of site interpretive plan.

Education

Masters of Arts History: Public History Concentration. University of Albany SUNY, December 2014.

Bachelor of Arts: International Studies, minor Music. Bridgewater College, May 2008.

Other Knowledge and Skills

Microsoft Office 365 & Windows 10 & Google Business Suite

PastPerfect 4.0 & 5.0

Giftworks & Raisers Edge Donor Software

WordPress Web CMS

19th century foodways and cooking techniques.

Elementary proficiency in Spanish, conversational proficiency in Greek.

Committees and Professional Associations

Planning Committee City of Waukesha 125th Anniversary, City of Waukesha 2020-21

Digital Readiness Planning & Implementation Committees, Recollection Wisconsin. 2019-21

Treasurer & Southeast Region Representative, Wisconsin Council for Local History, Wisconsin Historical Society 2019 – present.

Committee of the Whole, Waukesha Big Read, Waukesha Public Library, 2015-present.

Member Wisconsin Federation of Museum, American Association of State and Local History, and American Alliance of Museums. 2015-present.

Exhibits | Publications | Conferences

“ABC’s & 123’s of creating Innovative Local History Exhibits” workshop co-presenter, Wisconsin Local History Conference, October 2021.

“Clio.com for Digital Projects” presenter, Digital Readiness Fair, Recollection Wisconsin, July 2021.

History of Waukesha in 100 Objects exhibit, in partnership with the City of Waukesha’s 125th Anniversary, March 2020 – March 2021. WCHSM.

“Profile of a Suffragist: Mrs. Alice Hanlon Oatway,” *Landmark Magazine*, Fall Issue, 2019. WCHSM.

“Surviving Collections Moves” workshop presenter, Wisconsin Local History Conference, October 2019.

Wisconsin Historical Society. Wiley Wizard of Waukesha: Russel Oakes, exhibit exploring satire, invention, and science education in early Waukesha. July 2016 – June 2017. WCHSM.

Treasures Gallery: Les Paul 100th Celebration, offsite exhibit as part of Rotary Blues Fest, Nagawicka Park, Delafield WI. August 2015. WCHSM

Intertwined: The American Brewing Industry and New York State Hop Production, Graduate Thesis, Research Seminar with Dr. David Hochfelder, Spring 2014, University at Albany SUNY.

On Tap: Taverns & Breweries of Waukesha County, outreach lecture and Power Point, summer 2014, WCHSM.

Pioneer Suppers: 1815 and Victorian Suppers: 1896, first person, food-ways interpretive program, developed summer 2009 - 2011. Hale Farm & Village, a museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society.