Beverly K. Sheppard

326 Ellis Lane **Work phone: 610-701-8708**
West Chester, PA 19380 **Cell phone: 443-988-8485**
e-mail: Beverly@bksheppard.com

Professional Focus

As a national leader in museum practice, I seek to serve as a consultant/advisor to museums, exhibit designers and other lifelong learning institutions, applying my extensive experience and expertise in museum development, learning in museums, strategic and interpretive planning, building museum and community partnerships, evaluating visitor needs, and creating public value through access to lifelong learning.

Professional Experience

Principal: BKS Consulting September 2011 to present

Responsible for working with museums and other informal learning organizations to support their needs for comprehensive planning and implementation of both core and innovative services to the publics they serve. Breadth of consulting services, both as an individual consultant and in collaboration with other professionals, include interpretive planning, strategic planning, meeting facilitation, project management, project and exhibit evaluation, writing, project development, and advocacy for lifelong learning. (See current client list, at end)

Research Fellow: New Knowledge Ltd. January 2012 to present

Responsible for leadership of collaborative projects working to integrate cultural institutions more deeply into the fabric of community life. Focus includes project development, management and publications.

President and CEO: Institute for Learning Innovation August 2006 to August 2011

Responsible for growth and leadership of largest national research and museum evaluation organization dedicated to understanding learning in and social impact of museums, libraries, public broadcasting entities and environmental centers. Key person for external relationships, institutional planning, and development of new partnerships.

President and CEO: Old Sturbridge Village June 2002 to June 2006

Responsible for leadership of nationally-known history museum, employing more than 300 staff and operating on an annual operating budget of $8 million. Led

two-year strategic planning process to transform institution from a purely "living history" museum to a multifaceted history center.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Acting Director Mar.1999-Aug. 2001
Deputy Director June 1998 – March 1999, July 2001 – May 2002

As Acting Director:
Managed all aspects of the federal agency serving museums and libraries nationwide during the critical period of bringing museum and library services together for the first time at the federal level. Developed policies and identified emerging issues within the museum and library fields, specializing in learning and technology partnerships.

As Deputy Director
As IMLS' first Deputy Director for museums, managed all aspects of the museum program, designing and administering federal funding programs, developing museum office policies, initiating evaluation requirements, and integrating museum programs and priorities throughout the agency.

Associate Director: Chester County Historical Society June 1989-April 1998
As a principal administrator, worked on all aspects of strategic planning, fundraising, and budget development as well as all components of the visitor experience, including exhibits, interpretive programming, and school programs.

Museum and School Partnership Director; Chester and Delaware Counties Intermediate Unit: February 1988 – June 1989
Created first-ever liaison position to bring 25 school districts together with museums across two counties for teacher professional development and school programming.

Assistant to the Director: Everhart Museum July 1982-January 1988
As part of a small staff, took on multiple roles: exhibition development, marketing and fundraising, and educational programming.

Other Professional Experience

Teacher, English, grades 7-9
Assistant Editor, Scott, Foresman Publishing Co.
Teacher, Studio art and art history , Marywood University, University of Scranton, Keystone Junior College

Education

Marywood University - M.A. Studio Art, concentration in painting
Bucknell University - B.A. Art and English

Professional Activities

- **American Association for State and Local History** Council member 2008-2011, Annual Meeting Committee, 2007; Project Chair, Creating Public Value.
- **American Writers Museum,** Executive Planning Committee, 2010-11.
- **American Alliance of Museums** Board of Directors, 2004--2007. National Program Committee Chair 2006-07.
- **American Antiquarian Society.** Elected as a fellow, spring 2006
- **Chestertown River Arts:** Exhibits and Education Committee 2012-13
- **Creative Economy Advisory Committee** New England Council, 2003-2006.
- **Creative Baltimore** Chair, Board of Directors, 2006-07
- **Institute for Learning Innovation** Chairman, Board of Directors, 2005 Board member, 2003 – 2006
- **Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity** Advisory Committee, 2002 – 2006
- **Partners in Public Service** Advisory Committee, Museum/Library/Public Television Collaborative Project, 2001—2004
- **Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations** President, Board of Trustees, 1995-97; Board of Trustees, 1992-98
- **The Museum Group** Member, 2015
- **Williamstown Art Conservation Center** Board of Directors, 2003 –2005
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Publications

Books:

- *An Alliance of Spirit: Museum and School Partnerships*, co-editor. AAM: Washington DC, 2010.
- *Thriving in a Knowledge Age*, with John H. Falk, Altamira Press: Lanham, MD, 2006.
- *Building Museum and School Partnerships.* Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, Harrisburg, PA, 1993

Journals, Book Chapters, Public Presentations:

- *The Insistent Questions of Museum Education*, Journal of Museum Education, 2011.
- *The Gift of the ISE Frameworks: A New Language for Museum Learning*, Curator, 2010.
- *America's Museums* –the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, 2010
- *Grounded in Research*, History News, Autumn 2009, Volume 64, #4. AASLH: Nashville, TN
- *The Need to Know*, History News , Spring 2007, Volume 62, #2. AASLH, Nashville, TN

- *Meaningful Collaboration,* In Principle, In Practice, Altamira Press, Lanham, MD, 2007
- *Museums and Libraries: Forums for the 21st Century,* The Magazine of The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, Vol.2, Number 2. The Mary Baker Eddy Library: Boston, 2002.
- *Do We Make A Difference?* Curator, January 2000
- *Museums, Libraries and the 21st Century Learner.* The Institute of Museum and Library Services: Washington, DC, 2000
- Have presented dozens of keynote speeches, lectures, and panels at museum professional meetings and workshops throughout career: including talks and sessions at AAM, AASLH, ASTC, ACM, APGA, US Council of Mayors, NEMA, MAAM, Texas Association of Museums, Ohio Museum Association, Museum Association of Colorado and Wyoming, and Ontario Museum Asso.

Exhibitions

- *Kidstory,* (an interactive history teaching center), 2004
- *Barclay Rubincam: A Retrospective* (with catalogue), 1998
- *War Comes to Chester County, 1777-78* (comprehensive review of the events of the American Revolution that occurred in the Delaware Valley), 1998
- *Between Women* (drawn from extensive oral history project about African-American life in West Chester during the 1950s and 60s), 1997
- *History Lab (*A permanent hands-on, interactive gallery for all ages*),* 1996
- *To Everything a Season: The Art and life of Ida Ella Jones* (at the age of 72, African American artist, Ida Jones began to document her life and community through paintings and drawings.) With catalogue.

BKS Consulting: Clients and Partners

- American Alliance of Museums, education project advisory team
- American Library Association, project facilitator
- Audubon Center at Mill Grove, design/interpretive team
- Brent Johnson Design Associates, Boston, MA, exhibit advisor
- Chester County Historical Society, consultant
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, exhibit and educational development
- Drake Well Museum and Park, strategic planning
- Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, interpretive planning advisor
- Hawaii Cultural Center, museum development
- Gecko Group, West Chester, PA, member of exhibit team, writer
- Heart of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY, facilitator, institutional collaboration
- Iolani Palace, Honolulu, HI, interpretive planning
- Landis Valley Museum, strategic planning
- Lied Discovery Museum, Las Vegas, NV, education consultant

- Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, interpretive team, writer
- National Museum of the U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, VA, interpretive planning
- New Knowledge Organization, New York, NY, adjunct staff
- Next Step Philanthropy, McLean, VA, interpretive planning
- Old Economy Village, strategic planning
- Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA, strategic planning
- U.S. Marshals Museum, Fort Smith, AR, consultant, museum planning and program development
- Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA, education consultant
- White Oak Associates, Marblehead , MA, research advisor