

Jean Svadlenak

CONSULTANT TO MUSEUMS

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Jean Svadlenak is committed to excellence in museums.

She specializes in assisting organizations develop and implement short- and long-range plans for projects according to professional museum standards.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1989-Present Svadlenak Museum Consulting

Jean Svadlenak guides museums and other organizations in preserving and interpreting their history. She consults, coaches and works with individuals in organizations--board, staff and volunteers--to achieve excellence in collections care and management, creating award winning exhibits, and visioning long-term plans. She provides services to large and small organizations in: strategic planning, writing grant proposals, board development, staff recruitment and training, developing and implementing collections management policies and procedures, collections re-housing, inventory, and documentation projects, and exhibit planning, research, development and installation.

Jean's clients include private non-profit historical agencies, city, state, and federally-owned museums and historic sites, schools, parks, hospitals, corporations, and courts. She works with clients to define a project's scope, and establish a project's work plan, schedule, and budget, and manages projects to completion.

AWARDS

2012 AASLH Leadership in History Award, for development and production of the permanent and traveling exhibit, *Americans by Choice: The Story of Immigration and Citizenship in Kansas* and video *The American Dream: In Their Own Words*, for the U.S. District Court, District of Kansas.

2015 AASLH Leadership in History Award, for project management to develop and produce the permanent exhibition, *"Caring for Body, Mind & Spirit: The Story of St. Joseph Nurses,"* for St. Joseph Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

2015 AASLH Leadership in History Award, for research and development of the exhibit, *"Overland Park: A Place of Peace, Comfort & Plenty"* for the Overland Park Historical Society, Overland Park, Kansas.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Peter Drucker Strategic Planning Facilitation Training, 2000

M.A. History Museum Studies, 1982

Cooperstown Graduate Programs; State University of New York-Oneonta

Museum Management Institute, 1982

Sponsored by the Art Museum Association and University of California-Berkeley

Textile Analysis and Textile Conservation, 1981

Kansas State University, Graduate coursework

B.S. Home Economics, 1977

University of Delaware; Major: Textiles & Clothing in Business and Industry

PRIOR MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

1978 - 1989: Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

1987 - 1989 President

- managed day-to-day operations with a \$2.3 million annual operating budget
- opened 5,000 sq. ft. satellite exhibit facility in downtown office/retail complex
- developed program plan for a new 200,000 sq. ft. museum facility
- increased membership 30% in 1987; over 50% in 1989
- increased gross profit margin of museum store merchandise by 52%
- Board size and structure streamlined from 72 to 17 trustees
- served as staff liaison for volunteer group planning a new fundraising project which netted revenues of \$75,000 in the first year

1986 - 1987 Interim President

- served as liaison between staff, Board, and Trustees and serving on all Board Committees
- responsible for setting priorities, goals, and objectives for annual operating plan of projects and administering budget of \$1.6 million approved by Executive Board of Trustees; fiscal year ended \$79,000 net revenues over expenses
- museum earned accreditation by the American Association of Museums

1984 – 1987 Associate Executive Director for Collections & Exhibits Management

- managed department staff of 21 employees; annual departmental budget of \$322,000 coordinated short- and long-range planning for collections of over 250,000 objects including acquisition, conservation, storage, and research
- initiated establishment of an oral history program
- coordinated production of temporary exhibits, related publications and marketing
- supervised public programs including tours, seminars, special events, and city's only public planetarium
- administered government agency, foundation, and corporate grants including writing applications, budgeting, project implementation, and reporting to granting agencies

1982 - 1984 Chief Curator

- established and supervised a program for inventory, photography, and conservation of the museum's collections
- recruited, interviewed, hired, oriented, and trained professional staff in the areas of collections management, volunteer management and museum programming
- developed plans, policies, and procedures to consolidate collection in a 10,000 sq. ft. off-site storage area, and to improve the storage, access, management, and use of the collections
- managed a continuous two-year schedule of temporary exhibits and exhibit team

1978 - 1982 Curator of Textiles and Costumes

- improved storage and retrievability of collection of 15,000 artifacts
- organized and presented lectures and programs on the museum's collections and on textile care and conservation
- researched, planned, and installed temporary and permanent exhibits

1980: Guest Curator, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY (while on leave from the Kansas City Museum, funded by NEH grant)

- responsible for researching primary and secondary source materials, artifact selection, planning, and writing exhibit script for a 5,000 sq. ft. exhibit interpreting clothing and textile collection, "*From Rags to Britches: Textiles in Upstate New York.*"

1976 – 1977: Curatorial Assistant, The Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware

- researched, drafted patterns, and constructed a prototype reproduction wardrobe for a late 19th century black powder yard worker and their family, worn by the museum's interpretive staff
- worked with Museum Store Manager to track inventory control of store merchandise

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Lee Jeans-VF Asia-Pacific corporate History Training** (Hong Kong & Shanghai, 2014)
- **Heritage League of Kansas City Workshop Presenter** (2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011)
- **State & Federal Court Historical Society Annual Meeting Presenter** (2003)
- **Cooperstown Graduate Programs Professional Seminar Presenter** (2003)
- **University of Kansas Master's Program in Museum Studies**, Adjunct Faculty, taught required graduate course Museum Management (1991-2001)
- **University of Missouri-Kansas City**, Adjunct Faculty, taught graduate level courses in Museum Studies and Collections Care & Management, (1993-1998)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- **The Museum Group** (Vice President 2015-2017)
- **American Alliance of Museums**
- **American Association for State & Local History**
- **National Association for Museum Exhibition**
- **National Council on Public History**
- **Heritage League of Greater Kansas City**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **American Association for State & Local History "Not Your Ordinary Workshop Series" Planning Team** (1999-2000)
- **Committee on Museum Professional Training, Standing Professional Committee of AAM** (At-large Representative 1997-2000; 2nd Vice President 1994-1996; Midwest Regional Representative 1993-1994)
- **National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Reviewer** (1997)
- **Midwest Museums Conference Council** (1992-1995)

- **Missouri Museums Association** (President: 1992-1994; Secretary: 1991-1992; Council Member: 1988-1991)
- **American Association of Museums Accreditation Visiting Committee** (1990-1992)
- **Heritage League of Greater Kansas City** (Board Member: 1987-1989)
- **Institute of Museum Services Museum Assessment Program Consultant** (1986, 1987)
- **Institute of Museum Services, GOS Grant Peer Review Evaluator** (1985-1987)

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- **Finance Council, Church of St. Ann**, Prairie Village, KS (Chairperson, 2003-2004, council member, 2000-2003)
- **Strategic Plan Facilitator, St. Ann Parish**, Prairie Village, KS (1998-1999)
- **School Council, St. Ann's School**, Prairie Village, KS (President 1999-2000, member, 1997-2000)
- **FOCUS Kansas City-Civic Organizations Perspectives Group** (1993-1995) Citizens planning committee formed by Mayor Emanuel Cleaver
- **Mid-America Regional Council Task Force on Cultural Amenities** (1987-1989)

CLIENTS

Strategic Planning

- Andrew County Museum
- Johnson County Museums
- Kansas Museums Association
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farmstead
- National Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame
- National Museum of Toys & Miniatures
- National Veteran's Center
- Overland Park Historical Society
- Shawnee Town
- Shawnee Indian Mission (KS) State Historic Site
- Watkins Community Museum of History

Exhibits/Interpretive Planning

- 10th Circuit Court of Appeals (Denver)
- Andrew County Museum
- The Children's Mercy Hospital
- Johnson County Parks & Recreation*
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farmstead
- Menorah Medical Center Foundation*
- National Frontier Trails Center
- National Museum of Toys & Miniatures
- Overland Park Historical Society
- Shawnee Town
- Prairie Elementary School
- Research College of Nursing*
- Research Medical Center*
- St. Joseph Medical Center Museum
- Utilicorp United
- U. S. District Court, District of Kansas*

Collections Care & Management

- 21C Museum Hotels (Savoy Hotel)
- American Century Investments
- American Royal Museum
- Andrew County Museum
- Black Archives of Mid-America
- Bushwhacker Museums
- St. Joseph Medical Center Museum*
- Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
- H&R Block, Inc.
- Harry S. Truman National Historic Site
- Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum & Library*
- Jackson County Historical Society*
- Kansas City Museum
- Kansas City Fire Brigade Museum
- Kansas City Police Historical Society
- Lee Jeans Company*
- National Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame
- National Museum of Toys & Miniatures
- Overland Park Historical Society
- Park University Archive
- Platte County Parks & Recreation
- Pembroke Hill School
- United Missouri Bank
- U. S. District Court, District of Kansas*
- University of Kentucky
- John Wornall House Museum
- Wyandotte County Bar Association

Research & Writing

- Andrew County Museum
- Bank of America*
- Digital Evolution Group
- Downtown Salina
- Lee Jeans, U.S.
- Lee Jeans, Asia-Pacific
- Mid-America Arts Alliance-NEH On The Road
- Overland Park Historical Society
- Platte County Parks & Recreation
- Shawnee Town
- Tshibanda & Associates, LLC
- U.S. District Court, District of Kansas

Director/Staff Search

- Andrew County Museum*
- Bushwhacker Museums
- Shawnee Town*

Professional Development/Training

- Heritage League of Greater Kansas City*
- National Park Service-Midwest Region

* Multiple projects