



## **EXHIBITION ASSOCIATES**

**James W. Volkert**  
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**Jim Volkert** has overseen major institutional design and change processes, facilitated architectural and exhibition design and nurtured institutional transitions on a large scale. He has developed and installed more than 350 exhibitions on the arts, science, and history. His experience is broad in understanding issues of institutional growth, strategic planning, new construction and architecture, operational requirements and their linkage to facilities, exhibition development, staffing, resources, schedules, and programs.

### **Recent Experience**

- 2017**            *Senior Consultant, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR*  
Developing strategies and actions for facility and program expansion
- 2016-2017**    *Senior Consultant, Hamilton Wood Type Museum, Two Rivers, WI*  
Developing strategies for board/staff development and facility expansion
- 2016-2017**    *Senior Consultant, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK*  
Developing strategies and actions for facility and program expansion
- 2015**            *Senior Consultant, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, TX*  
Developing a feasibility study to move the institution into new facilities
- 2014**            *Senior Consultant, Fairmont Water Works, Philadelphia, PA*  
Developing program planning and operational strategies
- 2014**            *Senior Consultant, Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR*  
Master planning and accreditation initiatives
- 2014**            *Senior Consultant, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, Little Rock, AR*  
Developing program planning and operational strategies

- 2013-2014 *Senior Consultant, City Museums of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina*  
Developing a strategic plan for multi-site museum
- 2012-2013 *Senior Consultant, The Jordan Museum, Amman, Jordan*  
Program Assessment, exhibit modifications for visitor engagement
- 2011-2013 *Senior Consultant, Children's Museum of Jordan, Amman, Jordan*  
Coordination of exhibition plans for a USAID project.
- 2010-2011 *Senior Consultant, Ft. Smith Regional Art Museum, Ft. Smith, AR*  
Coordination of architectural and transitional program development.
- 2010-2011 *Senior Consultant, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA*  
Coordination of operational plans for visitors center
- 2008-2011 *Senior Consultant, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia*  
Coordination of architectural, exhibition, and program development.
- 2001-2005 *Associate Director, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution*  
Position was created by Museum Director Rick West to assure oversight of all aspects of the completion of NMAI on the National Mall. Responsibilities have included:
- The coordination of construction; oversight of the design, fabrication, and installation of 60,000 square feet of exhibition space
  - Development of operational programs; coordination of business ventures and food service; production of three films
  - Management of exhibition and program budget; and integration of all staff efforts to accomplish a successful opening of the museum.
  - Implementing new budget and transitional management strategies that include the coordination of a master calendar; development of an image bank for publications, public relations, and marketing, staff. Established the Transition Team.
- 1992-2001 *Assistant Director for Exhibitions, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution*  
Development of exhibitions for the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City; completion of architectural planning, design, and construction of the Museum on the National Mall; and planning and development of the inaugural exhibition efforts.
- 1991-1992 *Acting Assistant Director for Public Programs, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution*

Broad responsibilities for the development and management of public programs, and senior management responsibilities for planning, direction, and supervision of public program initiatives during the formative stages of the museum's development.

*1990-1991 Program Manager, Exhibitions and Facilities Planning, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution*

As Program Manager for NMAI, served as principal senior management facilities and exhibition planner, including development of consultations with Native people and early institutional organization

*1985-1989 Chief, Exhibitions and Publications, National Museum of American Art*

Directed and managed 51 exhibitions and numerous publications for three Smithsonian Institution facilities: the National Museum of American Art, the Renwick Gallery, and the Barney Studio House.

*1985-2017 Principal*

Exhibition Associates, exhibition development, program planning, and project review firm. Conway, Arkansas

**Selected client list of Exhibition Associates (in alphabetical order):**

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Palm Springs, California  
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR  
Autry National Center of the American West, Los Angeles, CA  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, Washington  
California Indian Museum, Santa Rosa, California  
Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica, Guatemala  
Children's Museum of Jordan, Amman, Jordan  
Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois  
Cradle of Aviation Museum, Garden City, New York  
Fairmont Water Works, Philadelphia, PA  
Ft. Smith Regional Art Museum, Ft. Smith Arkansas  
Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK  
Hamilton Wood Type Museum, Two Rivers, WI  
Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Illinois Holocaust Museum, Skokie, Ill  
Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, TX  
Jewish Museum, Berlin, Germany  
The Jordan Museum, Amman, Jordan  
King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
San Ignacio Visitor's Center, Ministry of Museums and Cultural Patrimony, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, Little Rock, AR  
Museo de la Ciudad, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
National Children's Museum, Washington, DC  
National Museum of the United States Army, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia  
Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR  
Park City Historical Society and Museum, Park City, Utah  
Paramount Studios Museum, Burbank, California  
Time Warner, Inc, New York, New York  
Typa Foundation, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
The World Bank, Washington, D.C.  
University of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.  
Warner Bros. Museum, Burbank, California

### **Executive Producer**

*A Thousand Roads* produced for the National Museum of the American Indian in association with Seven Arrows/Telenova Productions and Mandalay Media Arts. Directed by Chris Eyre. Accepted Sundance Film Festival, 2005.

*Who We Are* produced for the National Museum of the American Indian in association with Batwin + Robin. A 13 minute multi-media object theater to introduce the exhibitions.

### **Professional Activities**

#### *Senior Consultant*

- Thirty-five national and international exhibit design workshops/lectures
- Panel Member, American Association of Museums annual conference, 25 sessions

#### *Instructor*

- University of Victoria, Exhibition Development, Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2012
- University of Victoria, Museums and Communities, Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2006
- The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., Adjunct Professor, Museum Studies, 1990 - 2003
- University of California, Los Angeles, California, Exhibition Design, 1980

### **Education**

Bachelor of Arts (BA), University of California, Davis, CA, 1970  
Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA, 1977  
Museum Management Institute, 1981