

Jean Svadlenak

CONSULTANT TO MUSEUMS

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1989-Present Principal, Svadlenak Museum Consulting

Svadlenak Museum Consulting assists museums and corporations in preserving, documenting and sharing their history, according to professional museum standards. Clients include private non-profit historical agencies, city, state, and federally-owned museums and historic sites, schools, parks, hospitals, corporations, and courts. *(See client list, page 5)*

Jean specializes in developing short- and long-range plans and implementing projects to achieve excellence in collections care and management and to create award winning exhibits. She guides, consults and works with board, staff and volunteers to define a project's scope, work plan, schedule and budget, and manages projects to completion.

Services include: strategic planning, writing grant proposals, board development, staff recruitment and training, developing and implementing collection management policies and procedures, improving storage and re-housing collections, inventory, research, documentation, and exhibit planning, development and installation.

AWARDS & HONORS

2012 AASLH Leadership in History Award, for conceptualization, research, 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.

2016 Alumni of Distinction, SUNY-Oneonta, recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves through their careers, and service to their communities.

EDUCATION & SPECIAL TRAINING

Peter Drucker Strategic Planning Facilitation Training, 2000

M.A. History Museum Studies, 1982

Cooperstown Graduate Programs; State University of New York-Oneonta

Getty Leadership Institute (formerly 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

1987 - 1989 President, Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

- managed day-to-day operations with a \$2.3 million annual operating budget
- opened a 5,000 sq. ft. satellite museum in downtown Kansas City
- 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, Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

- served as liaison between staff, Board, and Trustees, serving on all Board Committees
- responsible for setting priorities, goals, objectives for annual operating plan of projects, and administering budget of \$1.6 million approved by Executive Board of Trustees
- museum earned accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums

1984 – 1987 Associate Executive Director for Collections & Exhibits Management, KCM

- managed staff of 21 employees; annual departmental budget of \$322,000 coordinated short- and long-range planning for collections of over 100,000 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 the city's only public planetarium
- administered government, foundation, and corporate grants, including writing applications, budgeting, project implementation, and reporting to granting agencies

1982 - 1984 Chief Curator, Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

- 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, Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

- 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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Lee Jeans-VF Asia-Pacific Corporate History Training** (Hong Kong & Shanghai, 2014)
- **Heritage League of Kansas City Collections Care & Maintenance Training Program Coordinator** (1991-2011) and **Presenter** (1996, 1997, 1998, 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; guest lecturer 1978-1990)
- **University of Missouri-Kansas City**, Adjunct Faculty, taught graduate level courses in Museum Studies and Collections Care & Management, (1993-1998; guest lecturer 1978-1989)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- **The Museum Group** (member by invitation 2013-present; Vice President 2015-2017; Governance Committee 2015-2018; manage TMG Archive). Jean is a member of *The Museum Group*, a national consortium of senior museum consultants who help museums identify innovative solutions and strategies for every part of their operations.
- **American Alliance of Museums** (1978-present)
- **American Association for State & Local History** (1978-present)
- **National Association for Museum Exhibition**
- **Heritage League of Greater Kansas City**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **American Association for State & Local History Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Kansas City, Missouri, 2016-2018**
- **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; Annual Meeting Keynote speaker: 2011)**
- **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