

TIMOTHY J. CHESTER

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal **Timothy J. Chester & Associates, LLC** Grand Rapids, Michigan 2006 - present

Principal of consulting firm providing institutional assessment, senior staff search services, strategic planning, interim administration, project planning, grant writing, exhibition planning and development services to museums, colleges and universities and non-profit cultural organizations. The consulting business was inducted into The Museum Group in 2008 (www.museumgroup.com).

Director **Grand Rapids Public Museum** Grand Rapids, Michigan
1988 – 2006

Director and Chief Executive Officer of program-driven municipal museum of cultural, social and natural history founded in 1854. Administered fulltime staff of 35 and hourly staff of 140- with \$6,000,000 annual budget, membership auxiliary and support foundation. Oversaw period of institutional growth with planning, fund raising, construction and operation of new \$42 million Van Andel Museum Center (opened 1994) and created support foundation with \$6,000,000 endowment. Completed \$20 million collections research and storage facility, expanded program to embrace traveling exhibitions, successfully completed two accreditation reviews and finalized plan for transition to governance by a single non-profit board with \$50 million endowment fund.

Assistant Director **Grand Rapids Public Museum**
1986 – 1988

Direction and administration of all functions of a general museum with accompanying ten interpretive properties. Managed and operated physical plant, budgeted trust funds, and with Director undertook long range strategic planning for institutional advancement, collections management and program development in a new physical plant.

Asso. Director for Collections **Louisiana State Museum,** New Orleans, LA.
1984 – 1986

Led direction and administration of curatorial and exhibition activity with professional staff of eight at major state history museum with eight historic structures in New Orleans' Vieux Carre and satellite museums in Baton Rouge and Shreveport.

Chief Curator & Curator of Decorative Arts **Louisiana State Museum**

1982 – 1984, and 1980 – 1982, respectively

Directed all acquisitions, conservation and display of permanent collections; managed changing exhibition program. Supervision of professional staff of ten with collections ranging from clothing & textiles to historic jazz archives. Developed and maintained departmental development program and established curatorial volunteer program. Oversaw decorative arts collections displayed in galleries and two period house museums: Madame John's Legacy (1789) and the Lower Pontalba Apartments 1850 House (1851).

Curator **City of St. Clair Shores, MI Historical Commission**

1977 - 1980

Established education and collections management program for municipal archives and material culture collections. Plotted preservation and created strategic plan for development of the Selinsky-Green House. an 1868 log-constructed saltbox farm house as "learning lab" museum of local history.

EDUCATION

1974-1980 The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice 1980 16 credit hours in museum studies beyond M.A. Degree including one year graduate residency at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI

M.A. American Culture 1979

B.A. History/History of Art Honors 1978

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Michigan Historical Commission, Commissioner, 2016 - Present

Michigan Humanities Council, Board of Directors, 2005 – 2013, Vice Chair 2007-2009, Chair 2009 - January, 2013

American Museum of Magic, Marshall, MI Board of Directors 2008-2016, Board Chair 2012 - 2015

Association of Midwest Museums Board of Directors, 2003 – 2008, Midwest Leadership Academy Faculty 2012 - 2013

Visiting Committee Lead Reviewer, American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Program, 1990 – Present

Institute of Museum & Library Services, Grant Reviewer, 1988 – Present

Michigan Museums Association, Board of Directors, 1988-1999 and President, 1995-1997. Development Committee 2007-2008, Co-Chair, Connecting to Collections Steering Committee, 2010-2012, Chair of Board

Task Force on Professional Development, 2015

Kresge Foundation, CASEMI Detroit Arts Support Grant Panelist, 2010

Strategic Alliances Advisory Board Member, Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan and Michigan Nonprofit Association, 2010-2011

MI Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Grant Reviewer, 2005 – present

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Review Panelist, 1984 – Present

American Alliance of Museums, Museum Assessment Program Consultant, 1987 – 2012

Advisory Board, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation NonProfit Leadership Institute, Johnson Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI 2004 – present; Philanthropy Archives Task Force, 2008 -2009.

Advisory Board, Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI 2006 – Present

American Association for State & Local History, Federal Funding Grant Coalition Volunteer 2007-2008

State of Michigan Cultural Tourism Advisory Council, 1997-2001

Louisiana State Folklife Commission Board of Directors 1982-1986

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Museum Group (inducted January 2008). Board member 2015 onward

American Association of Museums

American Association for State & Local History

Association of Midwest Museums

Michigan Museums Association, Past Board Member & Chair

Torch Club International, Grand Rapids Chapter, President 2000-2001

National Federation of State Humanities Councils

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Design Advisory Board, Grand Rapids Magazine, 2007-present

Grand Rapids Ballet Advisory Board & Capital Campaign Cabinet, 2012-13

Fountain Street Church Governing Board 1999-2001, 2004 – 2008

President 2006-2007

Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, 1993 – 2005, Treasurer, 1999, V. President, 2001, President 2002

Grand Rapids Water Fluoridation Commemorative Sculpture Committee 2005 – 2010

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS- RESTORATION/RESEARCH

Fort Gratiot Light Station, Port Huron, Michigan 1829

Norton Mounds National Historic Landmark, Wyoming, MI 500 B.C.

Voigt House Museum, Grand Rapids, MI, 1895

Old U.S. Mint, New Orleans, LA, 1835

1850 House, Lower Pontalba Apartments, New Orleans, LA 1851

Madame John's Legacy, New Orleans, LA 1789

Sam Daggett House, Andover, CT (now exhibited in Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI), ca. 1750

Selinsky-Green House, St. Clair Shores, MI 1868-1874

FACILITIES PLANNED & CONSTRUCTED

Van Andel Museum Center, Grand Rapids, MI 1994 150,000 sq. ft.
Budget \$42.5 million

Community Archives & Research Center, Grand Rapids, MI 2002 80,000
sq. ft. Budget \$20 million

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Distinguished Service Award, Association of Midwest Museums, 2008

President's Award for Distinguished Service, Michigan Museums Association 2006

International Forum on City & Social History Museums, Economic & Social History Foundation of Istanbul, Turkey, Guest: Lecturer, 1995

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., G.R. Alumnae Chapter Outstanding Service Award, 1991.

Museum Management Seminar, University of Colorado, 1990

Kellogg Museum Professionals at the Smithsonian Fellowship, 1987

Interpretive Conservation Fellowship/Kellogg Foundation, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA 1985

Fall Colloquium Guest Lecturer, Graduate Program in Museum Studies, University of Michigan, November 2005.

Field Museum Kellogg Foundation Fellow in Exhibition Planning, 1983;
Smithsonian/Kellogg Foundation Museum Education Project Colloquium I Participant, 1988

Attingham Trust Summer School in British Architecture & Decorative Art, Maverick Scholar Award, 1982

Winterthur Summer Institute in American Decorative Arts, 1981

Edison Institute of Technology Simmons Senior Intern Grant, 1979-1980

National Trust for Historic Preservation Maritime Internship, U.S. Coast Guard Academy Museum., New London, CT 1979

Rackham School of Graduate Studies Fellowship, U of Michigan, 1978-79

Phi Beta Kappa, 1978

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Summer Internship, 1977

Avery Hopwood Writing Award, University of Michigan, 1975

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS PLANNED/ORGANIZED

Good Design: Stories from Herman Miller, 2500 sq. ft. design education exhibition traveling 2009-2013 for the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI. Created in collaboration with The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI.

Newcomers: People of This Place Opened January 2008 3500 sq. ft. interactive permanent ethnic history exhibition – permanent installation for Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, MI

Collecting A-Z 2005, Twenty-six distinct exhibitions of humanities & science collections organized into a family friendly alphabet-based “game” on three levels of Van Andel Museum Center.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, 2003-5. 8000 sq. ft. Organized for the Public Museum of Grand Rapids in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority. Exhibited in Grand Rapids, Mobile & Houston. Catalog with Essays.

Anishinabek: The People of This Place 3500 sq. ft. permanent humanities installation exploring Michigan’s Native American History in Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, 1996

The Furniture City 10,000 sq. ft. permanent urban history humanities installation with published illustrated book with scholarly essays, Grand Rapids Furniture at Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, 1994

Streets of Old Grand Rapids 12,000 sq. ft. permanent urban history diorama installation at Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids 1995

CLIENT LIST FOR TIMOTHY J. CHESTER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Michigan Council for Art & Cultural Affairs, Lansing, MI

Cultural Alliance of Southeast Michigan Detroit, MI

Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI

Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, MI

Michigan Museums Association, Lansing

ExhibitTour, LLC, Bingham Farms, MI

Cultural Trust of the Palm Beaches, Wellington, FL

Elmhurst Historical Museum, Elmhurst IL

MK Communications, Shawnee Mission, KS

Friends of the Cabildo, New Orleans, LA

The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI

Grand Valley State University Art Gallery, Allendale, MI

Provost's Office, GVSU, Allendale, MI

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, GVSU, Allendale, MI

Holland Historical Trust, Holland, Michigan

St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Dept., Port Huron, MI

Underground Studio/LaFontsee Galleries, Grand Rapids, MI

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

Historic Ottawa Beach Society/Ottawa County Parks Dept., Holland, MI

Sable Point Lighthouse Keeper's Association, Ludington, MI

Tapshoe Enterprises, Grand Rapids, MI

Michigan NonProfit Alliance, Detroit, MI

Kruizenga Art Museum, Hope College, Holland, MI

Design+ Architects, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Progressive Architects & Engineers, Grand Rapids, MI

University of Michigan Program in Museum Studies, Ann Arbor

A nationally prominent sports organization

University of West Florida Historic Trust, Pensacola, FL

Agricultural Preservation & Awareness Museum, Blissfield, MI

Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, Saugatuck, MI

Hollins University, Roanoke, VA – Eleanor D. Wilson Museum

Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

City of Traverse City, Michigan

Cedarburg Cultural Center, Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans, LA

Ella Sharp Museum, Jackson, Michigan

Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Inc., Grand Haven, MI