

EDUCATION

Brown University - 2014
Providence, RI

M.A. Public Humanities
Fellowship for the Study of the Public History of Slavery

Spelman College - 2006

B.A. Sociology & Anthropology

WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2017 – Present

Rhode Island School of Design

Adjunct – *Rhode Island and the Rememory of Slavery*

Providence, RI

- This myth busting, undergraduate public history course, challenges students to explore and discuss their own racial identities and ancestries, while investigating the lives of Africans and Indians who were enslaved in 18th and 19th century Providence, Rhode Island.

July 2015 – Present

The Center for Reconciliation

Program Director and Curator

Providence, RI

- Organizing and leading multi-site walking tours that explore direct connections between the local built environment and the history and legacy of slavery and slave trading. This walking race dialogue includes opportunities to examine historical documents and memorials, and chat with local experts.
- Produced a 36-page study guide, music playlist and small and large group activities to accompany a theological meditation on America's history of anti-black lynching.
- Designed and led two half-day workshops on facilitating race dialogues for church groups.
- Developed a multi-part race dialog series to encourage the dissemination and use of the study guide by churches and community groups across Rhode Island.
- Leading a team of scholars and volunteers in the creation of a new museum that directly tackles the various intersections of slavery, race, resistance and the Christian church in New England.
- Organizing and facilitating critical conversations with the public and church congregations about race, racism, slavery and privilege. Specific topics have included the history of race and voting rights in Rhode Island, and how artists interpret race through their art work, as seen in the Rhode Island School of Design's archive.
- Coordinate screenings and discussions of educational and popular films on race and slavery.
- Serving as an advisor for the Rhode Island State Council of Churches' white privilege curriculum
- Community building work that involves reaching out and engaging clergy, lay leaders, activists, university administrators, students and members of the general public in the work of the CFR.
- Coordinated a theater project that tackled the history of slavery, public memory and erasure and was performed in a local cemetery.
- Recruiting and managing, volunteers and interns.
- Leading social media and marketing efforts, which includes assisting with the website and designing marketing materials.

June 2015 – Present

The Robbins House

Consulting Humanities Director

Concord, MA

- Created and hosted site specific trainings for Robbins House interpreters and National Parks Service rangers, on how to conscientiously improve each individual's pedagogic skills when interpreting America's history and legacy of slavery and racial identity formation.
- Designed, marketed and implemented a 3-part Fourth of July program that used the words of the Declaration of Independence and Frederick Douglass' seminal, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July" to engage a racially inclusive audience of 230+ in conversations about patriotism, race, slavery and the connecting lines between all American social justice movements.

- Assisted with the research, writing, editing, design and management of the first formal exhibition.
- Researching and co-creating the site's costumed interpreter program
- Consulting with Concord public schools to re-write the history of Concord's Black community.
- Working in collaboration with the programming, fundraising and executive committees to set policies, create programs and fulfill the organization's mission of preserving and disseminating the story of Concord's colonial era African American community.
- Grant writing, newsletter editing and managing social media.

December 2008 – Present

The Descendant Consulting

Independent Consultant, Genealogist, and Educator

Providence, RI

- Trained by the National Association for Interpretation as an Interpretive Guide Trainer. This week long workshop nurtured and strengthen my leadership, organizational and facilitation skills
- Developing and leading workshops for museum, historical society and historic house interpreters.
 - James Madison's Montpelier – Orange, VA – two-day Core Principles of Interpretation workshop for all 46 of their interpreters, plus managers and visitor center staff.
 - The Robbins House - Concord, MA – Core principles of interpretation, and Interpreting Massachusetts' enslaved and free African American history workshops.
 - Minute Man National Park – Concord, MA - Interpreting Massachusetts' enslaved and free African American history.
 - Rhode Island Historical Society – Providence, Rhode Island- Interpreting Rhode Island's enslaved and free African American history. This workshop focused on raising race dialogue comfort levels.
- Other speaking engagements
 - Keynote - Martin Luther King Day Celebration 2017, hosted by No Place for Hate, MA
 - Performer and committee advisor - University of Rhode Island's *Invisible Bodies, Disposable Cloth* 2017
 - Lectures - the Little Compton Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution chapters in RI and MA, Sons of the American Revolution in RI, Museum of the City of New York and others.
- Old Salem National Advisory Committee member – consulting member on interpreting slavery.
- Twisted Preservation Blog - www.twistedpreservation.com – editor on articles related to African American history.
- Researched and organized a walking tour that used local sites to discuss Rhode Island's slave trading history. This tour has served over 200 participants so far.
- Designed and hosted a four-week genealogy and oral history boot camp for teens and adults.
- Planned and coordinated a 130 person family reunion. Designed the website, information packets and brochures; produced and led an educational bus tour; and coordinated an intergeneration interview and story-telling workshop for youth and elders.

October 2012 – June 2014

Brown University Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice

Research Fellow and Curatorial Assistant

Providence, RI

- Co-managed the installation of a now permanent exhibition at the Iziko Slave Lodge Museum in Cape Town, South Africa. Exhibition photos <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjPesYm4>
- Assisted with the research, writing, exhibition design, and installation of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice's inaugural exhibition. Exhibition catalog - <http://goo.gl/V6Lqxs>
Exhibition photos - <http://goo.gl/DROJtw>
- Managed social media and oversaw a significant increase in active engagement with the public.
- Implemented highly acclaimed public programs and facilitated a critical panel discussion.
- Created an extensive database of English language films that included enslaved characters.

January 2014 – June 2014

John Hay Library

Exhibition Assistant

Providence, RI

- Identified and acquired objects for an exhibition I designed on the history of Brown University.

October 2013 – December 2013

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Education Department Intern

Boston, MA

- Designed activities that engaged and educated children and teens about genealogy.

June 2013 - September 2013

Ark Media

Research Assistant / Genealogist for “Finding Your Roots II” (PBS)

Brooklyn, NY

Fact Checker for “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross” (PBS)

- Researched and wove together family narratives for several modern celebrities.
- Assisted in writing biographies and genealogy briefs for celebrity guests.
- Prepped the celebrity guests on the basics of genetic genealogy, and DNA testing.

December 2010 – August 2012

Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History & Culture

Program Assistant, Museum Teacher, Curatorial Assistant

Washington, DC

- Researched and collected artifacts for the museum’s permanent collection.
- Conducted educational programs for elementary students on preserving artifacts and history.
- Served as advisor to the NMAAHC's head curator on a new genealogy venture with Family Search and Freedman's Bureau records
- Wrote policies and procedures for Education, Curatorial and Administrative office staff.
- Provided administrative, programming and logistical support for museum outreach programs.

January 2010 - December 2010

Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History & Culture

Research Assistant and Front Desk Receptionist

Washington, DC

- Conducted archival research for new museum acquisitions and reported findings to the curators.
- Tracked down obscure sources of artifacts and historical artwork.