

# BONNIE EPSTEIN

Email address: bepstein@risd.edu

## ***Professional Preparation***

A.B. 1994 Brown University, Geology/Biology

Ph.D. 1999 University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Geological Oceanography

## ***Appointments***

### **Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art (RIMOSA), Founder**

#### **Vice-President of Board & Interim Executive Director 2016-Present**

- Liaise between Board and staff as we transition from pop-up museum to one with a permanent site
- Maintain RIMOSA's vision and viability by working with Education Director on programming, and other stakeholders on museum and exhibit upkeep, events, development and marketing
- Work with Bookkeeper and Treasurer on expenditures and budgeting

#### **President of Board 2009-2016**

- Conceived of unique hands-on museum for RI for ages 8 and up. RIMOSA merges science and art in interactive exhibits and programs supporting open-ended exploration. Federal non-profit status (501-c-3) obtained 2010
- Built diverse and involved working board of directors; coordinated board in museum activities
- Wrote grants to support programs and design/construction of over 14 substantial, hands-on exhibits
- Hired p/t educators. Lead educators in development of curriculum for over 20 different science/art facilitated programs for middle and high school students. Developed evaluations for same.
- Coordinated partnerships with other RI non-profits to give as many Rhode Islanders as possible access to exhibits and outreach programs. Currently over 10,000 served.
- Oversaw hiring of consultants to develop strategic plan, 2015, and recruited new board president

### **Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI**

#### **Part-time Faculty 2009-Present**

- Developed and taught *Environmental Disasters* multidisciplinary course on Geology & Design.
- Developed and taught hands-on, broadly focused *Introductory Geology* course for designers
- Developed multidisciplinary course on global water issues to be taught winter 2018

### **University of Rhode Island. Kingston & Providence, RI**

#### **Grant Writer 2012**

- Wrote successful \$640K grant (NSF #1259473) supporting underrepresented STEM students at URI

#### **Part-time Faculty 1999-2000, 2013, 2015, 2016**

- Developed and delivered courses on Environmental Geology, Geomorphology and Oceanography

### **New England Aquarium, Boston, MA**

#### **Principal Investigator 2000-2007**

*New England Aquarium Master Plan: 2007*

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- Provided content, conducted visitor research and lead in-house focus groups to inform direction of New England Aquarium immediate and long term plans.

## ***Gulf of Maine Exhibit: opened 2005***

- Developed concept and content for graphics and interactive exhibits at the Aquarium which, combined with live exhibits, teach visitors about the unique nature of the Gulf of Maine.
- Wrote text for exhibit panels which explained concepts to visitors such as food webs, sustainable fisheries, fishing techniques and marine sanctuary management.
- Coordinated efforts between Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and New England Aquarium to create a joint exhibit which pleased both.

## ***Amazing Jellies Exhibit: opened 2004***

- Initiated, developed and wrote National Science Foundation grant for \$1.9 million, 2,500 sqft exhibit using live animals, graphics and interactive experiences to teach visitors how human activity is changing the ocean (NSF Award Number ESI-0206136).
- Directed internal exhibit team (husbandry, design, education and finance departments) to ensure integrity of completed exhibit.
- Accomplished our stated exhibit goal of raising visitor awareness of several specific threats to the ocean. This accomplishment was demonstrated by outside evaluation.

## **Director, New England Aquarium's (NEAq) Newport Exploration Center (NEC) 2000-2005**

- Developed, implemented, promoted and evaluated exhibits and programs at NEC, NEAq's seasonal satellite facility in Rhode Island, tripling attendance to reach over 11,000 people/yr.
- Generated \$150K annual budget through external grant support and program revenue.
- Hired and oversaw professional development of 12 seasonal staff and volunteers.
- Designed and supervised implementation of major improvements to the NEC including safety and aesthetic improvements, installation of 8 new live exhibits with related life support and 7 new computer or mechanical interactive exhibits.
- Developed, implemented and evaluated numerous new marine science programs, including activities for preschoolers, in-school programs and day camps for ages 6 - 14, and Elderhostel.

## ***Laboratory and Field Experience***

**University of Rhode Island School of Oceanography, Narragansett RI** 1996-1999

- Conducted geo/bio/chemical paleoclimatological research on global climate questions.

**Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole MA** 1998

- Sampled ocean sediments for climate based research aboard R/V Oceanus

## ***Publications***

*List is available upon request*

## ***Committees***

- Education Advisory Committee of U.S. Congressman James Langevin
- State Leadership Team for Next Generation Science Standards (RISLT-NGSS)
- Rhode Island STEM Center Task Force
- RISD Science Educators Working Group