

HEATHER HOPE KURUVILLA

MUSEUM REIMAGINER - ARTS ADMINISTRATOR



MY PASSION

I am a museum professional who actively challenges what a museum can and should be in the 21st century. A strong speaker, dedicated team member, and accomplished writer, I question what role our cultural organizations play in communities and what they can mean to individuals.

CERTIFICATIONS

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida, Muma College of Business, June 2021

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, April 2021

- Diversity: Inclusion in the Modern Workplace Certificate
- Managing Bias Certificate
- Accommodating People with Disabilities Certificate

The Cycle: Management of Successful Arts and Cultural Organizations by UMD, July 2018

Grant Writing and Research Certification, Delaware County Community College, 2016

CONTACT DETAILS

Berks County, PA
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IG & TikTok @HeatherHopeK1

MUSEUM FIELD EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder, Organization Re-Imaginer, Board Liaison

Agate Creatives | 2021 - Present

Assist in imaging and implementing a non-hierarchical NPO model that seeks to reject the fundamental characteristics of traditional PWIs (predominantly white institutions) Brainstorm and design social media posts on current events and DEIA (diversity, equity, inclusion, and access) issues in the museum field and American society. Successfully led process to incorporate as an Illinois nonprofit corporation and obtain 501(c)(3) tax exempt recognition.

Planning and Operations (POps) Team

Family Race Exhibit Collective (FREC) | 2020 - 2021

Assisted in laying groundwork for a non-hierarchical collective aimed at developing a museum exhibit examining race in American families. Conducted preliminary research to prepare the organization for incorporation and ultimately receiving federal tax exemption.

Event Executive Assistant → Curatorial Assistant

Museum Partners Consulting | 2018

Acted as cross-organizational liaison between government offices, nonprofit and community organizations, churches, and museums in the planning and launch of inaugural town-wide Juneteenth celebration in Morristown, NJ, taking lead on vendor identification, graphic design, and social media.

Served as curatorial assistant for exhibition "The Ties that Bind: How Race Relations Shaped Morris County and New Jersey, 1688-2018," with focus on local and regional African American, legal, and Quaker history, plus editing exhibit timeline and identification of visual inclusions.

Interim Director

The Meadowlands Museum | 2013 - 2014

Successfully oversaw museum reopening following long-term construction project. Connected with civic groups, stakeholders, and community members. Implemented two-year exhibition schedule with fundraising activities and programming to reinvigorate core visitor base and reach new communities and interest groups.

Law Clerk, Office of the President

Chicago History Museum | 2010

Advised upper management on contract, copyright, deaccessioning, federal tax, healthcare, IP licensing, e-publishing, and sweepstakes law. Served on a committee tasked with reviewing and updating copyright licensing procedures with twin goals of increasing revenue while expanding public access to and distribution of images.

Rights Manager

The Newark Museum | 2007

Conducted research to determine image rights, copyright ownership, and contacts for negotiation. Created database to track permissions. Input rights information into collections management software.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor; Certificate in Intellectual Property: Art & Museum Law
DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Top 25% of class

Master of Arts with Distinction, Museum Professions

Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ
Thesis: Visualizing the Path Forward: The Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990 and Recommendations for a Response by American Museums. Advisor: Dr. Petra Chu.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Art History

Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy
Thesis: From Form to Body: The Dissolution of the Taboos Concerning the Use of the Human Form in Art and Science. Advisor: Maria Antonia Rinaldi

Bachelor of Arts, Art History & Psychology

Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

TEACHING

Lincoln University

Minor in Museum Studies
Adjunct Instructor, 2022

University of Kentucky

M.A. Arts Administration
Adjunct Assistant Professor, 2021 - Present
Adjunct Instructor, 2018 - 2021

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

M.A. Arts Administration
Program Coordinator, 2022 - Present
Instructor, 2017 - Present

Seton Hall University

M.A. Museum Professions
2013 - 2018

SELECTED RECOGNITION

Commendation, Rutherford Mayor & Council, for my work at the Meadowlands Museum, 2014

DePaul University College of Law, Faculty/Staff
Endowed Scholarship, 2011

Honorable mention, Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation Competition, 2011

CALI Award for Excellence in Senior Research Seminar: Cultural Property, Spring 2011

Art Law Award, DePaul Center for Art, Museum & Cultural Heritage Law, 2010

Bernard B. and Gloria L. Rinella Endowed Scholarship 2010

Leopold Schepp Foundation Scholar, 2008-2011

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Session presentation: "Creative reckoning: The fall and rise of a BIPOC Creative," Collective Liberation: Disrupt, Dismantle, Manifest, June 3, 2021.

Webinar co-presenter: "Deaccessioning in a Recession? Why or Why Not." American Association for State and Local History, May 21, 2020.

Guest lecturer: "Ethical and legal issues related to museum collections." Legal and Ethical Issues in Museums, Seton Hall University, Prof. Greg Stevens. April 2020.

Webinar co-presenter: "The Business of Being an IMP," American Alliance of Museums, Independent Museum Professionals Committee, October 24, 2019.

Panel facilitator: "Rescued or Stolen? Perspectives on Collections," AASLH conference 2019.

Conversation leader: "The Management and Deaccession Toolkit: Making the Right Decisions for Your Institution and Collection," AASLH conference 2019.

Guest lecturer: "Museum Deaccessioning Policies when the Options are 'Sell or Close.'" ARU 591: Methods of Research in the Arts, Kutztown University, Dr. Heather Fountain, Fall 2018.

Panel participant: "Deaccessioning: Challenges for Museums in Ethics and Law," Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums annual meeting, Wilmington, DE, October 21, 2016.

Panel participant: "Deaccessioning 101," New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference, South Orange, NJ, June 9, 2016.

Lecturer: "From Stolen Art to Selling Art: Contemporary Challenges in Museum Ethics," with Sally Yerkovich. Wheaton College, Norton, MA, Fall 2015.

Guest lecturer: "Intellectual Property for the Museum Professional," ARTH230: Introduction to Museum Studies, Prof. Leah Niederstadt., Wheaton College, Norton, MA, Fall 2015.

Presenter: "Walking the Wire: Balancing Moral Rights and the Artist's Vision after VARA," "New Directions in Museum Ethics" Conference, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, November 14, 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

A Legal Dictionary for Museum Professionals (2nd ed. 2021, 1st ed. 2016). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Peer Reviewer: *The Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society*, 2021.

AASLH, Standards & Ethics Committee, "**What's Next? A Guide to Museum Transitions and Closures**," March 2021, writing committee member.

AASLH, Standards & Ethics Committee, "**Valuing History Collections**," May 2020, writing committee member.

Content reviewer: "**Contracts**" chapter in R.A. Buck and J.A. Gilmore, *On the Road Again: Developing and Managing Traveling Exhibitions* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Alliance of Museums.

All in a Day's Work: How Museums may Approach Deaccessioning as a Necessary Collections Management Tool. *Journal of Art, Technology, and Intellectual Property Law* 22(1), 119-181. 2011.

The Art of Taxing and the Encouragement of Giving: The Artist-Museum Partnership Act as a Vehicle to Increase Museum Support, unpublished, 2010.