

Shelly Leavens

Seattle, Washington

shellyleaves@gmail.com

(206) 450-6214

www.shellyleavens.com

Education

Business Certificate **HBX CORE: Harvard University** **2016**

Completed 18-week online business program with coursework in Business Analytics, Financial Accounting and Economics for Managers.

M.A. Museology **University of Washington** **2006 – 2009**

Focused on oral history interpretation through multimedia, exhibition design and web-based media, and examined museums as forums for community dialog.

B.A. Anthropology, B.A. International Studies, Minor in German **1998 – 2002**

1998-2002 Pennsylvania State University

Focused on cultural anthropology, culminating in the realization of an exhibition on the Orinoco and other lowland Native peoples of South America at the Matson Museum of Anthropology.

Penn State Semester Abroad **Christian-Albrechts Universität** **2001**

Kiel, Germany

American Field Service Exchange Student **Aranas Gymnasiet** **1995 – 1996**

Kungbacka, Sweden

Work Experience

Owner **Mason Jar Stories**

2004 – Current

Curatorial, Collections and Oral History Consultant for **Center for Wooden Boats, Arboretum Foundation, National Park Service, NOAA, Virginia V Foundation, Museum of History and Industry, The Boeing Company** and individuals. See details below.

Interviewer **Museum of History and Industry / The Boeing Company**

August 2016 - Current

Interviewing retired Boeing staff and affiliated professionals about their work and expertise in innovation as part of Boeing Centennial celebration. Creating interview indexes and suggesting 90-second video clips for use in museum exhibition.

Interviewer, Writer ***Ghosts of Seattle Past Anthology***

May – September 2016

Interviewed art dealer Francine Seders and artist Roger Shimomura for essays that will be published in the *Ghosts of Seattle Past* anthology, published in April 2017 by Chin Music Press.

Shelly Leavens CV pg 2
Work Experience Continued

Consultant

Virginia V Foundation

March 2014 – March 2015

Worked with staff and key volunteers to develop Phase I of the V5 Oral History Project. Including initial research, narrator selection, questions and topics development, budget, equipment selection and training, comprehensive 2-day workshop with staff and volunteers, follow up consultation and brainstorming for Phase II.

Interviewer

National Sea Grant Law Center and NOAA

October 2014 – March 2015

Conducted research and interview with Gig Harbor City Planner Peter Katich about Maritime Heritage Designation as part of *Voices from the Working Waterfront* initiative.

Dana and Toni Ann Rust Curatorial Fellow

Museum of Northwest Art

April 2014 – January 2015

Awarded curatorial fellowship to develop exhibition with co-curator and artist Emma Levitt. *To Be Alone Together* incorporates eleven works from the MoNA permanent collection and pairs regional contemporary artists with those pieces to promote new work, experimentation and cross-disciplinary dialog.

Curator and Public Events Manager

Gage Academy of Art

January 2012 – September 2014

Curatorial development of 25-30 annual exhibitions in three galleries school-wide and offsite as well as management of all public events and Domestic Art Tours.

- Oversee annual Gage Exhibition Plan, special events and free educational programs, including budgetary and staffing considerations.

- Oversee all facilities maintenance of all gallery spaces and manage all art handling, storage, installation and shipping.

Curator

One Reel, Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival

2012, 2013

Co-curated two large scale exhibitions at Bumbershoot Visual Arts with Jana Brevick for two consecutive years: 2012 *Skyward!* and 2013 *Enigma Machine*. Developed exhibition layout, obtained art from local and international artists, including commissioning new works, fabricated and sourced exhibition props, worked with riggers and lighting professionals for staging, staffed exhibitions with volunteers.

Instructor

University of Washington Professional & Continuing Education

August 2010 – December 2013

Taught two courses in the Museum Studies Certificate Program: *An Introduction to Museum Theory and Practice* (2011-2013), and *Museum Practicum* (2010-2011). Developed curriculum, readings, assignments, discussions, in-class activities and grading rubric. Brought in guest speakers from professional community. Met with students one on one for career mentoring.

Shelly Leavens CV pg 3
Work Experience Continued

Art Collection Consultant

Clavilux.org

Spring 2011

Moved over 500 objects in Clavilux collection (artworks and archives of early light artist Thomas Wilfred (1889-1968)) to new, secure collections storage. Consulted on temperature and humidity controls and tracking.

Collections Manager

Drachen Foundation

July 2009 – February 2011

Managed physical collection of historic and art kites and kite-related archives in multiple locations, managed collections database, digitized collections and adapted this material for the website, interviewed kite personalities and wrote thematic articles for publications.

Copyright and Collections Consultant

Artech / Microsoft Art Collection

February 2011 – June 2011

Researched copyright for 350 priority artworks, updated collections management database with copyright information and current inventory, created accession files for approximately 1,350 artworks.

Museum Specialist 1

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

January 2007 – June 2009, Dec 2011 – January 2012

Assisted in exhibit design, planning, purchasing, fabrication, installation, graphics layout and logistical support for major temporary and traveling exhibitions.

Interviewer

University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Nov 2010 – Nov 2011

Researched the history of the Arboretum, Arboretum Foundation and Center for Urban Horticulture through oral history interviews with 20 narrators, designed access to the collections and curated the interviews to develop both physical and online exhibitions.

Consultant and Interviewer

National Park Service and City of Gig Harbor

June 2009 – Aug 2010

Researched the history of net sheds in Gig Harbor, including ten oral histories with shed owners and community members. Prepared historic reports as a subset of documentation to be submitted to the Historic American Engineering Record and Library of Congress.

Co-Instructor

University of Washington Museology Graduate Program

March – June 2009

Co-taught Museology graduate course: MUS 590 Museum Administration and Theory with Wilson O'Donnell. Developed course lectures, readings, assignments and in-class discussion topics. Graded assignments and provided constructive feedback. Organized voluntary student discussion group around current topics in Museology.

Shelly Leavens CV pg 4
Work Experience Continued

Project Manager and Interviewer
2006 – 2009

The Center for Wooden Boats

Developed oral history archive protocols and conducted two projects: life history interview with founder Dick Wagner and my Master's Thesis project questioning shipwrights on the topic of craft.

Project Manager and Interviewer
2004 – 2006

Pennsylvania State Police Museum

Developed oral history protocols and archive for the PA State Police for Centennial celebration. Conducted research and video interviews with numerous retired State Policemen, established state-wide volunteer corps and conducted training workshops.

Independently Curated Exhibitions, Artist Events (not listed in Work Experience)

- May 2016 Participating Artist in *Ghosts of Seattle Past* Project
- Aug 2015 Solo show at PUNCH Gallery: *MOTHER // HOOD*
- July 2015 Participating artist in *Westward Bound* at the Clymer Museum, Ellensburg
- July 2014 Pianos in the Parks: participating artist representing Seattle Symphony
- Jan 2013 Kirkland Arts Center: Curator for *Urban Lake*: new work from six female artists
- Jan 2011 – 2012 Boathouse Gallery founder and curation of four exhibitions in the space
- Jan 2011 Letterpress artist residency, Penland School of Crafts, North Carolina

Workshop Instruction, Conference Papers

- July 2014 Virginia V: Oral History of the Virginia V, Staff and Volunteer Workshop
- May 2013 MOHAI: DIY History: Oral History II workshop instructor
- Apr 2013 – 2014 MOHAI: DIY History: Oral History I workshop instructor
- Nov 2010 Vessel Documentation Workshop instructor, Center for Wooden Boats
- Sept 2010 NPS Net sheds project: 9th Maritime Heritage Conference presenter
- Oct 2009 Thesis: Oral History Association Annual Conference presenter
- Mar 2009 Humanities WA Oral History Workshop instructor
- June 2006 PA State Police: Oral History Volunteer Corps Training Workshop instructor

Publications / Press

Leavens, Shelly. "The Wah Mee: A Conversation with Roger Shimomura", and "The Francine Seders Gallery: A Conversation with Francine Seders." *Ghosts of Seattle Past Anthology*, Ed. Jaimee Garbacik. Seattle: Chin Music Press. April 2017.

Leavens, Shelly. Spot blog post for Meural.com featuring the work of Iole Alessandrini.

<http://meuralblog.tumblr.com/post/148692028454/deep-cuts-episode-13-a-reflection-of-who-we>

Graves, Jen. "Don't Just Stand There, Go See Shelly Leavens's Mother // Hood at PUNCH." *The Stranger SLOG*, August 17, 2015. Appeared in August 19 Print Edition.

<http://www.thestranger.com/blogs/slog/2015/08/17/22700289/dont-just-stand-there-go-see-shelly-leavens-motherhood-at-punch>

Shelly Leavens CV pg 5
Publications / Press Continued

Leavens, Shelly. "Book Review: Special issue: Oral Histories and Design." *Oral History Review*. Oxford: Oxford Journals. Spring 2009.

Other Qualifications

Experienced working with both Mac and PC, all Microsoft Office applications, Adobe Creative Suite: most capable with InDesign and Photoshop, WordPress and SquareSpace.