



MUSEUM INTERPRETATION WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE & PARTICIPANTS Bear River Heritage Area – 2021

The Museum Interpretation Workshop program is a series of 5 full-day linked workshops that offer participants hands-on learning experiences about museum interpretation and exhibit development. Participants learn how to research, design, and produce their own interpretive exhibits, receive resources and equipment to help them do so, and develop lasting relationships along the way. Participants will work independently on their own exhibit project (3-10+ objects), supported by workshop facilitators as needed. Workshop facilitators will visit each exhibit prototype to give feedback before completion of final project.

Megan van Frank | Utah Humanities | 202 W 300 N, Salt Lake City, UT 84103 | 801.359.9670 x110 | vanfrank@utahhumanities.org

1) WORKSHOP #1 – January 11, 2021 – Telling Our Stories: Introduction to Museum Interpretation

Activities: Participants will:

- Learn about national standards for museum interpretation
- Understand the concepts, elements, and evaluation of interpretive exhibits
- Discover tools to plan and manage their own interpretive exhibit project

2) WORKSHOP #2 – February 8, 2021 – Finding Our Stories: Researching Collections & Communities

Activities: Participants will learn to:

- Locate appropriate published and unpublished sources that yield relevant information
- Evaluate sources to establish their accuracy, authenticity, bias, and significance
- Conduct archival and community research to place objects and stories in context

3) WORKSHOP #3 – March 8, 2021 – Designing Our Stories: Well-Structured Exhibits

Activities: Participants will learn to:

- Hone a theme around which to focus an exhibit, supported by well-selected objects and materials
- Structure and design an interpretive exhibit
- Exhibit objects attractively and safely

4) WORKSHOP #4 – April 5, 2021 – Writing Our Stories: Exhibit Labels

Activities: Participants will learn to:

- Assemble information from various sources to craft compelling and credible narratives
- Write different types of labels and supporting texts that work together to tell a story
- Produce professional-looking, low-tech labels

5) WORKSHOP #5 – May 3, 2021 – Teaching Our Stories: Museum Education

Activities: Participants will learn to:

- Relate current educational philosophy and basic learning theories to their museum
- Apply a variety of tools to educate in their museum (labels, tours, self-guides, public programs, etc.)
- Teach in the museum through informal interactive tours
- Develop self-guides of their exhibit to enhance visitor experiences

SCHEDULE FOR MUSEUM INTERPRETATION WORKSHOPS – BEAR RIVER HERITAGE AREA 2021

DATE	OVERALL TASK	PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS	ASSOCIATED READING
December 2020	Prepare for Workshop Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Orientation on December 17, 2020 via ZOOM 	<i>Familiarize yourself with readings at https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/Center-for-Community-Heritage/museum-interpretation-workshop-resources.html</i>
January 11, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm ZOOM ROOM	Attend Workshop #1 <i>Telling Our Stories: Introduction to Museum Interpretation</i>		
January 2021	Start overall planning for exhibit, including assessment of needs, project team and assignments, thinking about theme, possible objects and props needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 1) Draft a project timeline with role assignments 2/1/2021 @1pm Study group ZOOM 	<u>Readings - Intro Workshop #1</u> Readings introduce interpretation in the museum setting, exhibit planning, and evaluation of visitor experiences.
February 8, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm ZOOM ROOM	Attend Workshop #2 <i>Finding Our Stories: Researching Collections & Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring and hand in or email in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 1) - Project timeline and role assignments 	
February 2021	Research exhibit theme and objects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 2) Work on research survey log Document at least one key object in exhibit using Object Information Worksheet 3/1/2021 @1pm Study group ZOOM 	<u>Readings - Research Workshop #2</u> Readings focus on how-to tips for research of topics and objects.
March 8, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm Hyrum City Museum if possible – otherwise ZOOM ROOM	Attend Workshop #3 <i>Designing Our Stories: Well-Structured Exhibits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring and hand in or email in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 2) - Research survey log - Object Information Worksheet for at least one key object in exhibit 	
March 2021	Start translating research into reality by refining exhibit theme, visualizing how exhibit will look, considering object layout and safe display.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 3) Sketch an exhibit layout plan Considerations for safe object display 3/29/2021 @1pm Study group ZOOM 	<u>Readings - Design Workshop #3</u> Readings focus on elements of exhibit design, plus object conservation considerations (display environment, materials, mounts, etc.)

DATE	OVERALL TASK	PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS	ASSOCIATED READING
April 5, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm Hyrum City Museum if possible – otherwise ZOOM ROOM	Attend Workshop #4 <i>Writing Our Stories:</i> <i>Exhibit Labels</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring and hand in or email in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 3) - Exhibit layout plan (draft) - Considerations for safe object display 	
April 2021	Start translating research into reality by actually drafting exhibit labels and written support materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 4) Compile research into rough exhibit outline Draft exhibit labels using Label Tracker Form (main intro, sub-themes, objects, tombstones) 4/26/2021 @1pm Study group ZOOM 	<u>Readings - Writing Workshop #4</u> Readings detail basic writing do's and don'ts, specific considerations for exhibit labels, and instructions for constructing your own in-house labels.
May 3, 2021 9:00am to 5:00pm Hyrum City Museum if possible – otherwise ZOOM ROOM	Attend Workshop #5 <i>Teaching Our Stories:</i> <i>Museum Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring and hand in or email in advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibit Planning Worksheet (draft 4) - Rough outline - Current exhibit labels in Label Tracker Form 	
May 2021	Incorporate educational materials into your exhibit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Exhibit Planning Worksheet (FINAL) Draft exhibit education plan Draft exhibit self-guide 5/24/2021 @1pm Study group ZOOM 	<u>Readings - Education Workshop #5</u> Readings show how thinking about audience participation can enrich learning experiences for visitors.
June 1, 2021	Assignment Due Date	By June 1, email to Megan at vanfrank@utahhumanities.org : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibit Planning Worksheet (FINAL Version) - Draft education plan - Draft exhibit self-guide 	
June 1-15, 2020 (Dates TBD)	Site visits to individual projects and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install prototype of your exhibit by time of facilitator site visit so we can give you feedback Create your own visitor survey (welcome to use one of the templates provided) Site visits by facilitator(s) to individual museums in early June - dates to be arranged 	
June & July 2021	Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize exhibit as needed based on visitor feedback and facilitator comments from site visit Have your exhibit completed by August 7 when H2O Today opens in BRHA. Exhibit Project FINAL REPORT due to Utah Humanities 4 weeks after your exhibition closes (H2O Today closes 2/5/22 so March 4, 2022). 	

Museum Interpretation Main Teaching Team

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Natural History Museum of Utah
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Virginia Catherall
Curator of Education
Utah Museum of Fine Arts
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Host for In-person Work & Study Group:

Jami Van Huss
Director, Hyrum City Museum
435.245.0208
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Workshop Participants & Projects

Brigham City Museum

Connecting Our Natural Worlds, Waterways

- Alana Blumenthal
- Jennifer Hill

Cache DUP Museum

Cache Valley Snow and Ice

- Sharon Johnson
- Nancy Lincoln
- Pat Stephens
- Roxanne Salisbury

Hyrum City Museum

Boa Ogoi

- Jami Van Huss
- Courtney Cochley

Newton Arts Committee

150 Years of Water Conservation

- Helen Rigby
- Carrie Milligan
- Carol Milligan
- Randi Jorgensen
- Casey Crosby
- Greg Fabricius

Stokes Nature Center

From Snow to Salt Lake

- Patrick Kelly
- Michelle Sagers
- Kendra Penry

AUDITING

- Camille Sleight, BRHA Manager
- Gail Griswold, BRHA Board
- Megan Weiss, Utah Humanities
- Nate Housley, Utah Humanities