

Story of Texas Workshop

CONNECTING EDUCATORS AND AUDIENCES—Speaker Bios

September 21, 2015

10:00 a.m. Opening Panel—Connecting Educators and Students

Beth Hudson is a social studies specialist for the Austin Independent School District where she previously taught U.S and Texas history to 4,5,7 and 8th grades for 10 years. Honored with the Humanities Texas Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award and as the Texas Middle School Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2010, Beth has studied U.S. history through graduate courses, National Endowment for the Humanities Grants and Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History seminars. Currently, she also teaches Social Studies Methods at Huston Tillotson University and is co-editor of the Social Studies Texan, a state-wide magazine for history and social studies teachers.

Kaitlin Lloyd is the School Curriculum Manager at The Bullock Texas State History Museum. Kaitlin works to bring the Story of Texas to life for students and teachers, both at the Museum and in their classrooms. She creates on-site experiences for students, and provides professional development to teachers that encourages the study of multiple viewpoints and a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching at the museum and in the classroom. She also teaches distance learning programs which bring the museum into the classroom regardless of where students live. Prior to coming to the Bullock in 2013, Ms. Lloyd managed the traveling trunk program as the Distance Learning Coordinator at the North Carolina Museum of History. She has a B.A. in History from Texas Christian University and an M.A. in Public History and Museum Studies from North Carolina State University.

Courtney Webster is a social studies specialist for Region 13 ESC. Courtney hails from the small town of Hallsville in East Texas. She started her career in Longview ISD teaching each of the contents in secondary social studies at both middle and high school before moving to Round Rock where she worked as an instructional coach for social studies. Enthusiastically in love with history, Courtney continues to volunteer for churches and cemeteries to record community stories, too often, lost to time.

12:30 p.m. Session—Educator Outreach

Stephen Cure is an Army veteran and 1994 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, who has over nine years of classroom experience teaching at the middle and high school levels. He has instructed and coordinated educational programs for the Texas State History Museum and has sponsored both Junior Historians of Texas and Texas History Day programs at the school level. Stephen joined the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) staff in June of 2004 and has served as Director of Education, Interim Executive Director, and Chief Operating Officer.

Jason Harris holds an BA and MA in History - Museum Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma and is currently pursuing his PhD in Public History at Oklahoma State University. Before joining the Texas State Historical Association in April 2015, he served as the director of education at the Oklahoma History Center where he oversaw all public programming and partnerships including National History Day in Oklahoma. In addition, Jason served as a board member for the Oklahoma Museum Association (2009-2015) and as the Oklahoma Museum Educators chair (2009-2015). Jason coordinates Texas History Day, the Junior Historians of Texas, and Old Stories, New Voices for the TSHA.

12:30 p.m. Session—The Value of Evaluation, Revealed

Barbara Judkins is the Site Manager at the Starr Family Home State Historic Site of the Texas Historical Commission. After earning her BA in history from the University of North Texas, she has worked in history museums. Her first museum job was with Dallas Heritage Village in Dallas, TX. After four years she moved on to be the Museum Educator at the Farmers Branch Historical Park in Farmers Branch, TX. While there she helped create several programs including the Vintage Base Ball program and the Encounters from the Past Cemetery Tours. Eight years later, she decided to take on new challenges and applied as a site manager for the THC. Hired in 2014, she has worked diligently to increase the site's visitation through many different programs including the robust Starrlight Book Club. Barbara currently serves as the chairman of the Texas Association of Museum's Historic Sites and Houses Affinity Group (HSHAG). She volunteers in her "new" hometown of Marshall with the Cypress Basin Master Naturalists and the Harrison County Historical Commission.

Lauren Wilson has a passion for helping museums and informal educators inspire people of all ages through learning. As an evaluation associate at ExposeYourMuseum, she contributes to national scale, multi-institution evaluation projects. She also offers expertise using qualitative and quantitative approaches for her own local clients, including Space Center Houston, the Austin Museum Partnership, and BookAround. Lauren's work is driven by her informal education and research background; she graduated from UT Austin with an M.A. in Educational Psychology and a portfolio in Museum Studies.

12:30 p.m. & 1:45 p.m. Session—Walk-in-Talk

Kate Betz, Head of Education at The Bullock Texas State History Museum, leads a team of educators who seek to tell the continually unfolding story of Texas through meaningful educational experiences. She oversees the development and coordination of programs for adults, families, educators and students and manages the museum's ongoing evaluation efforts. Ms. Betz's programs have at their core the desire to share unique experiences with a diversity of people in an environment that encourages life-long learning and development. Prior to coming to the Bullock in 2009, Ms. Betz managed public programming at The Farmers' Museum and the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York. She has a B.A. in American Studies from Wesleyan University and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

1:45 p.m. Session—Fundraising

Melissa Huber joined Humanities Texas in December 2007. She holds a BA in art history from Arizona State University and an MS in historic preservation from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining Humanities Texas, she worked at the Blanton Museum of Art and in UT's Architectural Conservation Lab. Her combined focus on collections, exhibitions, and historic buildings developed in her previous role as conservation assistant for the Arizona State Museum Preservation Division at The University of Arizona in Tucson. At Humanities Texas, she oversees the traveling exhibitions program, Byrne-Reed House collections, and website.

Eric Lupfer holds a PhD in English (2003) and an MS in information studies (2004) from The University of Texas at Austin and a BA with High Honors in English from Bowdoin College (1991). Before joining the staff of Humanities Texas in 2004, he worked at UT's Harry Ransom Center, where he curated an NEH-funded traveling exhibition on Isaac Bashevis Singer and codirected the center's summer teacher institute. He is a former high school English teacher and has published a number of articles and book reviews on American literature and publishing history, including an essay in the five-volume, collaborative scholarly work, *A History of the Book in America*. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Eric directs the Humanities Texas grants, education, and awards programs.

Laura Wiegand's passions and interests lie at the intersection of art and technology. As Director for Programs & Technology at the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA), Laura works in both of these arenas. As program director, she is responsible for the overall operations of the grant program division of the agency. Laura also serves as the Visual Arts administrator where she is the primary liaison to museums, visual arts organizations, public art programs, and visual artists across Texas. She has organized and coordinated projects statewide in scope and have experience in the museum field in educational programming, exhibition mounting, volunteer coordination, community outreach, special event coordination, public relations, development and fundraising. As technology director, Laura oversees all aspects of the agency's technology infrastructure including security, project management, online grant systems, and the agency website. Laura joined TCA in 1995.

1:45 p.m. Session—Youth & Families

Katie Raney is the Family Programs Manager at The Bullock Texas State History Museum. Focusing on one of the largest audiences to visit the Bullock Museum, Ms. Raney encourages a family-friendly learning environment for intergenerational groups. Through the creation of programs, events and gallery guides, she helps families discover what they love about Texas history and the Bullock Museum. Ms. Raney also programs for niche audiences, including scout groups and homeschool students, expanding their traditional work to include interdisciplinary learning at the museum. Before joining the Bullock team in 2013, Ms. Raney managed interpretive programming and volunteer efforts for two Texas state parks, and holds a B.A. in history and English from George Mason University.

Hannah Zurko joined the staff of The Contemporary Austin in 2010. As Associate Educator for Teen Programs, Zurko is responsible for planning and implementing outreach programs which provide opportunities for Austin area teens to connect with contemporary art and the creative process. These programs include Young Artists and the Teen Artist + Mentor Program, in which teens develop their portfolios, explore Austin's art community, and receive mentorship from professional artists and museum staff. In September 2013, Zurko launched Teen Council, a paid leadership program in which participating teens plan and implement free events at the museum for their peers, as well as, design resources to help teens visiting the museum engage with the art on view. Zurko has served as a juror for several community arts organizations and she is a committed advocate for arts education. As a practicing visual artist, Zurko has exhibited her work at Grinnell College and at MANIFEST Gallery. She received her B.A, with a focus in studio arts, from Grinnell College.

3:00 p.m. Discussion Groups—facilitator bios above and below

Lisa E. Worley is the Youth Education Specialist for the Texas Historical Commission. With a MA in Public History from Colorado State University, Lisa has worked in the museum and history fields as a docent, educator, curator, interpretive specialist and director at museums in Arizona, Colorado, California and Texas, and she spent five years as an historian for a cultural resources management firm. Over her career, Lisa has developed educational programs for youth and adults, including summer camps, heritage events, school tours, traveling trunks, hands-on exhibits, book clubs, classroom materials, and lecture series, as well as training programs to introduce volunteers to working with the public. Lisa currently serves as the co-chair of the Austin Museum Partnership and maintains active memberships in Texas Association of Museums, Texas Living History Association, Texas Council for Social Studies, American Alliance of Museums, and Museum Education Roundtable.



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