

JULIA C. GRAY

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Museum professional with more than twenty years of experience and success in institutional and team leadership, collections management and care, collaborative exhibit and educational program development, facilities management, historical research and writing, and project management. Guided by the desire to actively engage diverse audiences with museum collections, demonstrate the relevance of history, and decolonize museum practice.

Professional Experience

Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, Maine (2019)

Interim Director

- Recruited by the Board of Trustees to provide transitional leadership with a focus on decolonizing museum practice
- Extensive work with Board of Trustees and Native Council, including planning and coordination of a two-day Board-Council joint retreat
- Staff management, with a focus on supporting staff through the transition and identifying future staffing needs
- Financial oversight, addressing a recent history of financial challenges and lack of communication with trustees and stakeholders
- Advancement support, including donor conversations, event support, and making the case for support during a major transition
- Grant management, including tracking, reporting, researching grant histories and status of applications, and addressing recent challenges with accountability
- Community outreach, both in the local community and with Wabanaki communities
- Search committee support

Riverside Museum Solutions, LLC (2018-present)

Founder and principal, providing collaborative and community-based solutions for museum collections, exhibits, and interpretation. Engaging audiences and responsibly and sustainably caring for the material culture and archives that tell the stories of your community's past, present, and future. A detailed list of projects is attached, visit www.riversidemuseumsolutions.com to learn more.

- Develop and project manage exhibits for the Abbe Museum, the Ski Museum of Maine, the Islesford Historical Museum, and the Bar Harbor Inn
- Develop, research, and write content for interpretive panels and publications for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation, and Cobscook Shore
- Project management for grant-funded collections management and access project for the Abbe Museum
- Project management for archaeological advisory committee for the Abbe Museum and Acadia National Park

- Curatorial project manager, Colby College Museum of Art exhibit of Wabanaki contemporary art
- Develop educational material, including lesson plans and toolkits for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation and the Design for Diversity project.
- Facilities planning for the Jesup Memorial Library and the Southwest Harbor Historical Society
- Collections management projects for the Penobscot Nation Museum and the Bucksport Historical Society

Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, Maine (2000-2017)

Director of Collections and Research. Responsible for collections research, management and care, exhibit development and support, tribal relations, community outreach, archaeological research program, internship program, HVAC and other facilities oversight.

- Develop and/or project manage annual exhibits ranging in size from 500-2,000 sq feet and budgets from \$2,000 to \$50,000, including frequent collaboration with guest curators, exhibit designers, and exhibit fabricators.
- Collections management and care of a collection of approximately 25,000 pieces, including archaeological artifacts, historic Wabanaki art, craft and utilitarian objects, contemporary Wabanaki art and craft.
- Develop and manage departmental budgets for collections, exhibits, and facilities, and develop institutional operating budget as member of leadership team
- Leadership team member for the development of the 2015 Strategic Plan (<https://abbemuseum.wordpress.com/>)
- Oversee outgoing loans to museums including the Portland Museum of Art, the Maine Historical Society, the Hudson Museum, and the Farnsworth Museum of Art
- Oversee incoming loans for exhibits from museums including the National Museum of the American Indian, the American Museum of Natural History, the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization.
- Write and receive grants for collections care, collections access, exhibits and facilities, including Maine Community Foundation, Maine State Archives, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service (National NAGPRA), and the Institute of Museum & Library Services, totalling more than \$750,000.
- Organize and oversee annual archaeological field school at sites across Maine, with a focus on the Mount Desert Island region.
- Oversee HVAC evaluation and implementation projects to significantly improve the operation, financial sustainability, and efficiency of building systems, funded by approximately \$300,000 in grants from the NEH, <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/greening-maines-abbe-museum>
- Develop lesson plans, in collaboration with museum educators, Wabanaki knowledge keepers, and Maine K-12 educators, linked to Maine Learning Results, to better meet the requirements of LD291: An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools.

Archaeological Research Consultants, Inc., Ellsworth, Maine (1991-2000)

Research Assistant. Field work, data management, crew supervision, laboratory analysis, report writing, logistical support.

- Conduct fieldwork across Maine to meet the requirements of environmental impact surveys for hydroelectric projects, energy corridors, commercial developments, and subdivisions.
- Process and analyze artifacts and related data in the laboratory.
- Write reports compiling and presenting results of field work and laboratory analysis.
- Provide planning, logistical support, and supervision for field crews.

Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine (1996)

Curatorial Assistant. Conducted collections research and management, correspondence with donors and researchers, exhibit development, supervised students and collections volunteers.

Academic Record

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. M.A. in Anthropology, 1996

Coursework in museum studies.

Masters Thesis: "Whaling Ritual and Symbolism: Historic Accounts and their Archaeological Implications"

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. A.B., Summa Cum Laude, in Anthropology, 1993

Honors Thesis, Department of Anthropology: "The Hilton Site Small-Stemmed Points: Reconsidering a Typology"

University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Semester Abroad. Coursework in Archaeology and Anthropology, 1991

Professional Development & Technical Training:

- Financial Structures and Strategy online course, AASLH, March 2020
- Seminar for Historical Administration/Developing History Leaders, AASLH, 2013
- Project Management for History Professionals, AASLH, 2011
- Care of Leather & Fur, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation, 2008
- "It Can Happen Here" Disaster Preparedness, NEDCC workshop, Abbe Museum, 2006
- Identifying and Handling Photographs, New England Archivists, 2004
- Digital Imaging and Your Database, NEMA Registrars PAG, 2004
- Preventative Maintenance of Exhibition and Museum Collections, College of the Atlantic, 2004
- Library & Museum Archives Institute Archives Camp, 2003

Selected Presentations and Workshops

- Exhibition Development: Basics, Tips, and Tricks, Maine Archives & Museums, 2019
- Sharing Your Bicentennial Story, Maine Archives & Museums, 2018

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- Building Community, Trust and Relevance... Through Digital Storytelling, Maine Archives & Museums Conference, 2017
- Decolonizing Museums: Big Ideas and Practical Solutions for Interpreting Native American History and Culture at New England Museums and Historic Sites, NEMA, 2017
- Wabanaki Studies in Maine Classrooms: Resources and Tools, Maine Council on Social Studies, 2016
- Maine Cultural Emergency Resource Coalition, Maine Prepares EMA Conference 2014, Maine Archives & Museums 2015
- "But We've Always Done It That Way...": Leadership and Change, It's Not as Hard as it Sound, NEMA 2014
- Sustainable Preservation: Balancing Collections, Resources, and the Environment: The Abbe Museum's Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Planning Grant, AASLH 2011
- Collections Care Basics, Midcoast Museums & Historical Societies Spring Conference, April 2006
- Rehousing Collections, Maine Archives & Museums annual conference, October 2005

Volunteer Service:

- Northeast Historic Film, trustee, 2018-present
- History Trust, Mount Desert Island, committee member, Technology & Access and Collections Care committees, 2018-present
- Mount Desert Island Historical Society, trustee, 2018-present; secretary, 2020; finance committee, 2020
- American Association for State & Local History, awards program state representative (2018-present), collections management software working group (2018)
- Orland Fire Department, Assistant Chief, member since 1998
- Hancock County Firefighters Association, President, 2013-2015

Grant Review Service

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant program, 2020 panel review
- Institute of Museum & Library Services, Museums for America grant program, 2020 field review
- Maine Arts Commission, Visual Arts Organizational grant program, 2019 panel review

Fire Service Leadership Training:

- Command and Control of Incident Operations, National Fire Academy, Maryland, June 10-17, 2006
- Fire Officer I & II Academy, Maine Fire Training & Education, October 13-21, 2006
- Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss, Acadia National Park, June 6, 2007
- Instructor Training Certification, Center for Domestic Preparedness, Alabama, December 2007

Professional Memberships

- Maine Archives & Museums
- New England Museum Association
- American Association for State & Local History
- American Alliance of Museums
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums

Publications

“John Snow’s Postcard Basket: A Story of Wabanaki Presence and Persistence on Mount Desert Island,” by Julia Gray, in **Chebacco: The Magazine of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society**, Volume XIX, 2018.

“People of the Dawnland: The Wabanaki and the Mount Desert Island Region before Colonization,” by Julia Clark and George Neptune, Spring 2014 **Friends of Acadia Journal**

“The Abbe Museum: Seeking a Collaborative Future Through Decolonization,” by Darren Ranco, Ph.D., and Julia Clark, in **Interpreting Native American History and Culture**, by Raney Bench, American Association for State and Local History Book Series, Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.

“Do We Really Want That Bust of Jesus, and What Should We Do with the Pump Organ in the Other Room? Or, Why You Want a Good Collections Management Policy,” in **Small Museum Toolkit Book Six Stewardship: Collections and Historic Preservation**, edited by Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko and Stacy Klingler. AltaMira Press, 2011.

Riverside Museum Solutions Recent Projects

- Exhibit and Collections Space Planning**, Southwest Harbor Historical Society, 2020.
Working with the all-volunteer historical society to plan new exhibit hardware and updated collections storage space and furniture for the Manset building.
- Cobscook Shores interpretive writer**, Butler Conservation Fund, 2019-2020. Researching, writing, and locating and selecting images for a series of interpretive panels for a private land trust on Cobscook Bay.
- Decolonizing Collections Management and Access at the Abbe Museum**, 2019-2020.
Project management for implementation of an NEH-funded project to apply TK Labels, using Mukurtu CMS for tribal collaboration, 2019-2020
- Archaeological Advisory Committee Project Manager**, Abbe Museum and Acadia National Park, 2019-2020. Oversight, logistics, budgeting, and facilitation for in-person and virtual meetings with Wabanaki advisors, National Park Service personnel, and Abbe Museum staff to provide guidance for archaeological research, education, and collections management at the Abbe Museum and Acadia National Park.
- Allagash Explorer guidebook interpretive writer**, Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation, 2019. Researching and writing interpretive text for a printed guidebook including cultural and natural history of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.
- Maine Olympians and Mountains of Maine traveling exhibits**, Ski Museum of Maine, 2019. Design and arrange fabrication of traveling banner versions of two exhibits.
- Museum in the Streets**, Bucksport Historical Society and Main Street Bucksport, Ongoing.
Research, write, and identify images for a series of historical panels in downtown Bucksport.
- Collections Inventory project design**, Bucksport Historical Society, ongoing. Design an inventory project and provide training and quality control for the all-volunteer historical society.
- Archives Planning Project**, Jessup Memorial Library, ongoing. Work with library staff, architects, and engineering consultants to refine the design of the archives and special collections space in the library's new addition.
- A Gathering Place interpretive panels**, Maine Coast Heritage Trust Long Point Preserve, 2019. Collaborative content development, research, writing, graphic design work, and arrange for fabrication of three interpretive panels for a MCHT property in Machiasport.
- Wivenikan exhibit (contemporary Wabanaki art)**, Colby College Museum of Art, 2019.
Curatorial project manager, providing support for guest curators and museum's exhibitions manager, curatorial and community advisors, and primary point of contact for more than 30 contemporary Wabanaki artists.
- Risk & Reward exhibit**, Islesford Historical Museum, 2019. Project management; research, writing, and image selection; oversight of graphic designer and fabrication team.

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- Bar Harbor Inn**, historic photo exhibit overhaul, 2019. Research and image selection, arrange for framing both locally and online, and work with contractors on installation of more than 30 historic images.
- Maine Olympians exhibit**, Ski Museum of Maine, 2018. Research, write, implement graphic design, design exhibit layout and temporary wall system, and install a temporary exhibit.
- Boats & Buoys exhibit booklet and website**, Islesford Historical Museum, 2018. Create print and web versions of a past exhibit.
- Emergence: Root Clubs of the Penobscot Nation** exhibit, Abbe Museum, 2018. Project management, loans, curatorial support for guest curators, and oversight of contractors for fabrication and installation.
- Storied Lands & Waters of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway**, sample lesson plans, 2018. Develop sample lesson plans on Wabanaki content for interpretive plan.
- Collections disaster recovery and cleaning project**, Penobscot Nation Museum, 2018. Clean and reinstall collections following a furnace malfunction.
- Design for Diversity Learning Toolkit**, Core Design Group and Study Path author, 2016-2018. IMLS-funded project at Northeastern University to develop a teaching and learning toolkit for librarians, archivists, museum specialists, and other cultural heritage practitioners.