

Brigid Laurie

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exhibit Developer/Writer Smithsonian Exhibits, Smithsonian Institution June 2014–Present

I provide content development, exhibition and interpretive planning, editorial support, and scriptwriting for both Smithsonian exhibitions and projects in which the Smithsonian partners with other federal agencies.

Recent work includes exhibition development and scriptwriting for The FBI Experience, the museum at FBI Headquarters. I developed the exhibition narrative for this 14,000+ square foot space and wrote all label copy. To gain insight into the way the FBI functions, I interviewed special agents, intelligence analysts, laboratory personnel, and professional staff and used that information to create the content. I partnered with the exhibit designers as well as outside contractors to ensure a unified and cohesive museum experience that included audio-visual elements, and electro-mechanical and augmented reality interactives. I have remained the lead exhibit developer and writer throughout all updates and expansions to the museum.

Other notable projects with Smithsonian Exhibits include exhibition development and script writing for Mission: DIA, the museum at the Defense Intelligence Agency headquarters; interpretive master plans for Ford's Theatre, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Latino Center; exhibition development and editing for *Documenting Diversity* at the National Museum of Natural History; editing for *Ragnar Kjartansson* at the Hirshhorn Museum; and numerous other projects of various sizes throughout the Smithsonian.

Freelance Museum Professional May 2009–June 2014

As an independent contractor, I provided clients with services that included exhibition development, project coordination, scriptwriting, image and copyright research, proofreading, editing, and the creation of collateral materials.

Clients included an exhibition design firm, a publishing company, an iOS applications company, a law firm, and a New York Times best-selling author.

Exhibitions Educator Coordinator – Two Year In-House Contract Position National Building Museum May 2007–April 2009

As the National Building Museum's first Exhibitions Educator Coordinator, I specialized in integrating interactive elements and collateral materials into exhibitions in order to create a holistic experience for visitors.

I served as the liaison between the Curatorial and Education Departments. In this capacity I developed mechanical and computerized interactives for the exhibitions and worked with curators to coordinate in-gallery media and develop exhibition concepts, floor plans, and related materials. I also worked with the Museum's education staff to develop curricula, lesson plans, and activities that supported the educational mission of the exhibitions. I worked with both departments to create engaging print materials, collaborating with curators on the content and educators to ensure that the materials are appropriate for the intended age group.

Additionally, I worked with other departments within the museum to ensure that the messages in each exhibition are reflected appropriately in press materials, the museum's website, and even in the selection of items for sale in the museum's store.

Exhibit Developer
The Design Minds, Inc.
December 2003–April 2007

As an exhibit developer my responsibility was to drive and create the content of clients' exhibitions.

Creative duties included developing the exhibit topics, conducting research using both primary and secondary sources, interviewing subject area experts, and writing the exhibit script. I also selected the photographs and other images best suited to the graphic panels and developed the concepts for any interactives used within the exhibit.

I negotiated the usage rights for photographs and images as well as located and acquired objects and props for the exhibitions. Additionally, I tracked the items and tasks necessary for the completion of the exhibit, allowing others on my team to understand the project's workflow.

I worked directly with the design staff to ensure that the graphics and exhibit designers had the materials and information needed to create an exhibit appropriate for the subject matter. I also maintained contact with clients and conducted presentations throughout the exhibit development process.

Curator
National Women's History Museum
January 2002–December 2003

At the non-profit National Women's History Museum, I split my time between curatorial and fundraising responsibilities. My curatorial duties included exhibition work and educational outreach. I was a curator for the organization's inaugural Washington, DC area exhibit *Clandestine Women*. I also curated virtual exhibits, including a series of self-guided tours of women's history sites.

I wrote articles, edited, and designed the non-profit's quarterly newsletter. In addition, I arranged for its printing and distribution to over 20,000 members. I also answered any inquiries that were submitted to the organization. My fundraising duties included authoring appeals to members, organizing receptions and other events.

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS I have given numerous presentations on a variety of topics related to exhibition development and writing. In 2019 I co-led a week-long exhibition development seminar in Buenos Aires. This seminar was sponsored by the Smithsonian Office of International Relations and the U.S. Embassy.

EDUCATION The George Washington University, Washington, DC
Master of Arts awarded May 2001
Museum Studies, with an American Studies Academic Core
Internship: *The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden*, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA
Bachelor of Arts awarded May 1999
Major: Anthropology
Minor: The Growth and Structure of Cities

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS American Association of Museums
National Association for Museum Exhibition