

Leslie Bedford

- 1999 - Bank Street College Graduate School of Education, faculty and director, Leadership in Museum Education Program, a master's program for mid-level professionals working in museums and other cultural organizations.
- 1997 - Principal, Leslie Bedford Associates. Member of The Museum Group, an association of independent senior museum professionals. Exhibition and program planning and development; and staff development.

Representative recent projects

- Joined Smithsonian team consulting to Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) on museum professional development and training
- Worked with senior management team at Old Sturbridge Village to identify new visions and strategies for programming (2006 - 07)
- Co-taught a multi-session course on exhibition development for Philadelphia area history museum staff sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts (2004, 2005)
- Advised Minnesota Historical Society on new exhibition, "Open House: If These Walls Could Talk" (2003 - 04)
- Managed process of developing a new Family Discovery Center for the American Museum of Natural History (2002)
- Developed traveling exhibition, "Choosing to Participate," for national organization, Facing History and Ourselves, including new component in 2008.

Positions In Museums

- 1994 - 97 Deputy Director for Programs, Brooklyn Historical Society, New York
- 1981 - 94 The Children's Museum, Boston
- 1993 - 94 Director, Exhibitions Research and Development
- 1988 - 92 Developer, "Teen Tokyo" exhibition
- 1981 - 94 Director and Senior Developer-Curator, The Japan Program

Education

- 2008 Ph.D. in Museum Studies. Union Institute and University. Thesis: *Working in the Subjunctive Mood: Exhibitions as Education, Imagination and Aesthetic Experience*
- 1993 Museum Management Institute

1986 - 87 Senior Fulbright Research Fellow in Japan
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Masters in Teaching
Vassar College, B.A., *magna cum laude* in History, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Publications And Presentations

- 2008 - 09 Forthcoming chapter on the Japan Program at the Boston Children's Museum for Michael Spock, ed. *Boston Stories*
- Forthcoming chapter on narrative for McRaney and Russick, eds. *History Exhibits for Kids*
- "Being There: Dioramas and the Visitor Experience." Presentation, American Association of Museums Annual Meeting (2008)
- 2007 "Imaginative Thinking for People with Imaginations." Keynote address, Museum Association of New York-Upstate History Alliance Annual Meeting
- "Imagining the Possibilities." Presentation, American Association of Museums Annual Meeting, subsequently published In *Exhibitionist*. Spring 2007
- "Talking about Cultural Exhibitions." Presentation, Association of Children's Museums Annual Meeting
- "A Toolbox for Creative Thinking." Presentation, Mid-Atlantic Museum Association Annual Meeting
- 2006 "Metaphorically Speaking: Museums and Imagination," Presentation, American Association of Museums Annual Meeting
- 2005 "Lost Cases: Recovered Lives: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic," Exhibition review, *Curator: The Museum Journal*. 48.2
- 2004 "Working in the Subjunctive Mood: Imagination and Museums," *Curator: The Museum Journal* 47.1
- 2003 "Growing Our Own: Developing and Inspiring Leaders Within the Field." Presentation, Association of Children's Museums Annual Meeting
- 2002 "Storytelling: The Real Work of Museums", *Curator* 44(1).

“Identifying and Sharing Promising Practices in Professional Development.”
Presentation, American Association of Museums Annual Meeting

Teaching and Professional Development

- 1999 - Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Courses in museum learning theory, exhibition development, adult development and learning, and the history and theory of museums
- 2004 - The Children’s Museum, Boston: consultant on development of the TCM Institute, a new kind of “teaching museum”.
Upstate History Alliance, Museum Institute at Sagamore: workshops on interpretive planning and museum education
Courses on storytelling in exhibitions for New York University’s Graduate Program in Interactive Telecommunications and the Fashion Institute of Technology’s Graduate Program in Exhibition Design
Presentations to staff at Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Neuberger Museum of Art and others.
- 2002 - 05 Facilitator, “Seminar for Emerging Leaders”, sponsored by the National Association of Performing Arts Presenters

Other

- 2004 - 08 Trustee, Lower Hudson Conference
- 1999, 2000 Selection Committee for Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Children’s Museums’ Promising Practices Award
- 1992 Japan Society of Boston, John D. Thayer III Award for Significant Contribution to the Advancement of US-Japan Friendship, for the "Teen Tokyo" project