

TIMOTHY J. CHESTER

EDUCATION

1974-1980 University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.A. American Culture; Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice;
B.A. History/Art History Honors
16 credit hours beyond Master's Degree including one year graduate
residency at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal **Timothy J. Chester & Associates, LLC** Grand Rapids,
Michigan 2006 - present

Founder of consulting firm providing institutional assessment, strategic
planning, project planning, grant writing, exhibition planning and
development services to museums and non-profit cultural organizations.
The consulting business was inducted into The Museum Group in 2008.

Director **Public Museum of Grand Rapids** Grand Rapids, Michigan
1988 – 2006

Creative Director and Chief Fiscal Officer of program-driven municipal
museum of cultural, social and natural history founded in 1854.
Administered fulltime staff of 35 and hourly staff of 140- with \$6,000,000
annual budget, membership auxiliary and support foundation. Oversaw
period of institutional growth with planning, fund raising, construction and
operation of new \$42 million Van Andel Museum Center (opened 1994)
and created support foundation with \$6,000,000 endowment. Completed
\$20 million collections research and storage facility, expanded program to
embrace traveling exhibitions, and finalized plan for transition to
governance by a single non-profit board with \$50 million endowment fund.

Assistant Director **Public Museum of Grand Rapids**
1986 – 1988

Direction and administration of all functions of a general museum with
accompanying ten interpretive properties. Managed and operated physical
plant, budgeted trust funds, and with Director undertook long range
strategic planning for institutional advancement, collections management
and program development in a new physical plant.

Asso. Director for Collections **Louisiana State Museum,** New Orleans, LA.
1984 – 1986

Led direction and administration of curatorial and exhibition activity with professional staff of eight at major state history museum with eight historic structures in New Orleans' Vieux Carre and satellite museums in Baton Rouge and Shreveport.

Chief Curator & Curator of Decorative Arts **Louisiana State Museum**
1982 – 1984, and 1980 – 1982, respectively

Directed all acquisitions, conservation and display of permanent collections; managed changing exhibition program. Supervision of professional staff of ten with collections ranging from clothing & textiles to historic jazz archives. Developed and maintained departmental development program and established curatorial volunteer program. Oversaw decorative arts collections displayed in galleries and two period house museums: Madame John's Legacy (1789) and the Lower Pontalba Apartments (1851).

Curator **City of St. Clair Shores, MI Historical Commission**
1977 - 1980

Established education and collections management program for municipal archives and material culture collections. Plotted preservation and created strategic plan for development of the Selinsky-Green House. an 1868 log-constructed saltbox farm house as "learning lab" museum of local history.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Michigan Humanities Council, Board of Directors, 2005 – 2009, Vice Chair
2007-2009

Visiting Committee Lead Reviewer, American Association of Museums
Accreditation Program, 1990 – Present

Institute of Museum & Library Services, Grant Review Panelist, 1988 –
Present

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Grant Reviewer, 2005 –
present

Association of Midwest Museums Board of Directors, 2003 – 2008

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Review Panelist, 1984 –
Present

American Association of Museums, Museum Assessment Program
Consultant, 1987 – present

Advisory Board, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation NonProfit Leadership Institute, Johnson Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI 2004 – present; Philanthropy Archives Task Force, 2008.

Michigan Museums Association, Board of Directors, 1988-1999 and President, 1995-1997. Development Committee 2007-2008

American Association for State & Local History, Federal Funding Grant Coalition Volunteer 2007-2008

American Museum of Magic, Marshall, MI Board of Directors 2008-2010

Advisory Board, Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI 2006 – Present.

State of Michigan Cultural Tourism Advisory Council, 1997-2001

Louisiana State Folklife Commission Board of Directors 1982-1986

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Museums

American Association for State & Local History

Association of Midwest Museums

Michigan Museums Association

Torch Club International, Grand Rapids Chapter, President 2000-2001

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Fountain Street Church Governing Board 1999-2001, 2004 – 2008
President 2006-2007

Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, 1993 – 2005, Treasurer, 1999, Vice President, 2001, President 2002

Grand Rapids Water Fluoridation Commemorative Sculpture Committee
2005 - 2007

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS- RESTORATION/RESEARCH

Norton Mounds National Historic Landmark, Wyoming, MI 500 B.C.

Voigt House Museum, Grand Rapids, MI, 1895

Old U.S. Mint, New Orleans, LA, 1835

1850 House, Lower Pontalba Apartments, New Orleans, LA 1851

Madame John's Legacy, New Orleans, LA 1789

Sam Daggett House, Andover, CT (now exhibited in Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI), ca. 1750

Selinsky-Green House, St. Clair Shores, MI 1868-1874

FACILITIES PLANNED & CONSTRUCTED

Van Andel Museum Center, Grand Rapids, MI 1994 150,000 sq. ft.
Budget \$42.5 million

Community Archives & Research Center Grand Rapids, MI 2002
80,000 sq. ft. Budget \$20 million

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Distinguished Service Award, Association of Midwest Museums, 2008

President's Award for Distinguished Service, Michigan Museums Association 2006

International Forum on City & Social History Museums, Economic & Social History Foundation of Istanbul, Turkey, Guest: Lecturer, 1995

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. G.R. Alumnae Chapter Outstanding Service Award, 1991.

Museum Management Seminar, University of Colorado, 1990

Kellogg Museum Professionals at the Smithsonian Fellowship, 1987

Interpretive Conservation Fellowship/Kellogg Foundation, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA 1985

Field Museum Kellogg Foundation Fellow in Exhibition Planning, 1983

Smithsonian/Kellogg Foundation Museum Education Project Colloquium I Participant

Attingham Trust Summer School in British Architecture & Decorative Art, Maverick Scholar Award, 1982

Winterthur Summer Institute in American Decorative Arts, 1981

Edison Institute of Technology Simmons Senior Intern Grant, 1979-1980

National Trust for Historic Preservation Maritime Internship, 1979

Rackham School of Graduate Studies Fellowship, U of Michigan, 1978-79

Phi Beta Kappa, 1978

Avery Hopwood Writing Award, University of Michigan, 1975

PRINCIPAL EXHIBITIONS PLANNED/ORGANIZED

Herman Miller: Art With A Purpose, 2500 sq. ft. exhibition traveling 2009-2013 for the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI

Newcomers Opened January 2008 3500 sq. ft. interactive permanent ethnic history exhibition – permanent installation for Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, MI

Collecting A-Z 2005, Twenty-six distinct exhibitions inc .introductory gallery of humanities & science collections organized into a family friendly alphabet-based “game” on three levels of Van Andel Museum Center.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, 2003-5. 8000 sq. ft. Organized for the Public Museum of Grand Rapids in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority. Exhibited in Grand Rapids, Mobile & Houston. Catalog with Essays.

Anishinabek: The People of This Place 3500 sq. ft. permanent humanities installation exploring Michigan’s Native American History in Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, 1996

The Furniture City 10,000 sq. ft. permanent urban history humanities installation with published illustrated book with scholarly essays, Grand Rapids Furniture at Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, 1994

Streets of Old Grand Rapids 12,000 sq. ft. permanent urban history diorama installation at Van Andel Museum Center, Public Museum of Grand Rapids 1995

CLIENT LIST FOR TIMOTHY J. CHESTER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Michigan Museums Association, Lansing

ExhibiTour, LLC Bingham Farms, MI

Cultural Trust of the Palm Beaches, Wellington, FL

Elmhurst Historical Museum, Elmhurst IL

MK Communications, Shawnee Mission, KS

The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI

Walt Disney Imagineering, Burbank, CA

Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI

Grand Valley State University Art Gallery, Allendale, MI

Provost's Office, GVSU, Allendale, MI

Holland Historical Trust, Holland, Michigan