



Exhibition Associates

James W. Volkert
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Jim Volkert has overseen major institutional design processes, facilitated architectural and exhibition design and nurtured institutional changes on a large scale. He has developed and installed more than 360 exhibitions on the arts, science, and history. His experience is broad in understanding issues of institutional growth, new construction and architecture, exhibition development, staffing, resources, budgets & schedules, and program development.

Experience

2008 *Senior Consultant, King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture, (Ithra) Dhahran, Saudi Arabia*

Coordination of architectural, exhibition and program development.
Advisor to director and senior management

2008 *Senior Consultant, National Children's Museum, Washington, DC*

Coordination of architectural, exhibition and program development.
Advisor to director and senior management

2006 – 2007 *Interim Director, Cradle of Aviation Museum, Garden City, New York*

Management of all aspects of an institution in transition

2001-2005 *Associate Director, National Museum of the American Indian Smithsonian Institution.*

Oversight of all aspects of the completion of NMAI on the National Mall, Washington, DC. Responsibilities included:

- The coordination of construction; oversight of the design, fabrication, and installation of 60,000 square feet of exhibition space
- Development of programs; coordination of business ventures and food service; production of three films
- Management of exhibition and program budget; and integration of staff efforts to accomplish a successful opening of the museum.
- Implementing new budget and management strategies that include the coordination of a master calendar; development of an image bank for

publications, public relations, and marketing, staff. Established the Transition Team.

1992-2001 Assistant Director for Exhibitions, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

Development of exhibitions for the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City; completion of architectural planning, design, and construction of the Museum on the National Mall; and planning and development of the inaugural exhibition efforts.

1991-1992 Acting Assistant Director for Public Programs, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

Broad responsibilities for the development and management of public programs, and senior management responsibilities for planning, direction, and supervision of public program initiatives during the formative stages of the museum's development.

1990-1991 Program Manager, Exhibitions and Facilities Planning, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

Served as senior management facilities and exhibition planner, including development of consultations with Native people and early institutional organization.

1985-1989 Chief, Exhibitions and Publications, National Museum of American Art

Directed and managed 51 exhibitions and numerous publications for three Smithsonian Institution facilities: the National Museum of American Art, the Renwick Gallery, and the Barney Studio House.

1985-2008 Principal

Exhibition Associates, exhibition development, program planning, and project review firm. Conway, Arkansas

Selected client list of Exhibition Associates (in alphabetical order):

Arizona Museum for Youth, Mesa, Arizona
Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Palm Springs, California
California Indian Museum, Santa Rosa, California
Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamerica, Guatemala
Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois
Cradle of Aviation Museum, Garden City, New York
Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, Arkansas
Illinois Holocaust Museum, Skokie, Ill
Jewish Museum, Berlin, Germany
Kansas City Museum, Kansas City, Missouri
Kidspace Museum, Pasadena, California

King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture (Ithra), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, California
San Ignacio Visitor's Center, Ministry of Museums and Cultural Patrimony, Buenos Aires,
Argentina
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
National Children's Museum, Washington, DC
National Museum of the United States Army, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia
Park City Historical Society and Museum, Park City, Utah
King Abdulaziz Center for Knowledge and Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Time Warner, Inc, New York, New York
The World Bank, Washington, D.C.
University of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.
Warner Bros. Museum, Burbank, California

Executive Producer

A Thousand Roads produced for the National Museum of the American Indian in association with Seven Arrows/Telenova Productions and Mandalay Media Arts. Directed by Chris Eyre. Accepted Sundance Film Festival, 2005

Who We Are produced for the National Museum of the American Indian in association with Batwin + Robin. A 13 minute multi-media object theater to introduce the exhibitions.

Professional Activities

Senior Consultant

- Twenty-six national and international exhibit design workshops/lectures.
- Panel Member, American Association of Museums annual conference, 1976, 1981, 1990 through 1992, 1994 through 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009

Instructor

- University of Victoria, Museums and Communities, Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2006
- The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., Adjunct Professor, Museum Studies, 1990 - 2003
- University of California, Los Angeles, California, Exhibition Design, 1980

Education

Bachelor of Arts, University of California, Davis, CA, 1970
Master of Fine Arts, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA, 1977
Museum Management Institute, 1981

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