

Speaker Biographies



Clark Bernat (*Culture & Museums Manager, City of Niagara Falls*) @clarkbernat

Clark has a History degree from Brock University, and while working one summer at the St. Catharines Museum, he developed an appreciation for the challenges facing museums in Ontario.

He continued his studies at the University of Leicester, completing an MA in Museum Studies which included a placement at Belgrave Hall and participation in a Museums Association initiative to improve Cultural Diversity in Museums.

Clark has worked at Battlefield House Museum, Backus Heritage Village, the Niagara Historical Society & Museum and Chaired Doors Open Niagara, the Museums of Niagara Association and the OMA. He has been with the Niagara Falls Museums since September 2010, where he is the Culture & Museums Manager. He oversees operations of the City's three museums and the \$12 million expansion of the Niagara Falls History Museum. He lives in St. Catharines with his wife and two children.

Cheryl Blackman (*Assistant Vice-President, Audience Development, Royal Ontario Museum*)

Biography coming soon



Christina Blake (*Education Programmer, York Region District School Board Museum & Archives*) @artcran79

After studying Fine Arts at the University of Windsor, Christina Blake attended the University of Leicester's Museum Studies program focussing on arts education and contemporary collecting. Since 2006, she has been Education Programmer at the York Region District School Board Museum & Archives where she is responsible for all aspects of educational programming. Her job has enabled her to work with teachers, students and other museum educators on a variety of exciting programs for the diverse community of York Region.



Kate Butler (*Museum Director, Haliburton Highlands Museum*) @HHL_Museum

Kate Butler has been Director of the Haliburton Highlands Museum since February 2013. Prior to that, she worked in the heritage sector in a variety of locations across Ireland and Canada. A folklorist by training, she has conducted research throughout Europe, North America and the Caribbean, as well as teaching at both Memorial University of Newfoundland and Cape Breton University.



Arlene Chan (*Tour Guide, Toronto Ward Museum*) @ArleneChan1

Arlene Chan, a third-generation Chinese Canadian and retired librarian, spent her childhood years in the heart of The Ward, Toronto's first immigrant neighbourhood. Having grown up there in Chinatown, she brings a unique perspective whenever she speaks about her seven books on the history, culture, and traditions of the Chinese in Canada, including *The Chinese in Toronto from 1878* (2011) and *Righting Canada's Wrongs: The Chinese Head Tax* (2014). Arlene is the president of the Jean Lumb Foundation that supports a scholarship program for high school students of Chinese heritage and director of Little Pear Garden Dance Company. When she is not leading tours of Chinatown during the summer, she is paddling in a dragon boat on Lake Ontario.



Charlie Costain (*Director, Canadian Heritage Information Network*)

Charlie Costain is the Director of the Canadian Heritage Information Institute (CHIN) and the Director of Heritage Information Services at the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI). He has a M.Sc in Chemistry from Queen's University, taken in collaboration with the Masters of Art Conservation program. He has worked at with CHIN for the past 2 years, and with CCI for 32 years as a scientist and the manager of preventive conservation before spending 20 years overseeing the work of the conservation and conservation science laboratories. Specific areas of interest include linked open data, sustainable collections in museums, and risk assessment of heritage collections.



Ashley Creed (*Exhibition Project Manager, Victoria County Historical Society*) @1wwcomestolife

Ashley Creed graduated with her Master of Museum Studies degree from the University of Toronto after also having a graduate and undergraduate degree in History. She has spent the past five years working within the museum field and has had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of collections and exhibition projects.



Bonnie Devine (*Founding Chair, OCAD U's Indigenous Visual Culture Program*) @nenobi_nenobi

Bonnie Devine is an Associate Professor at OCAD University and the Founding Chair of OCAD U's Indigenous Visual Culture program. She is an installation artist, curator, writer, and educator, and a member of the Serpent River First Nation of Northern Ontario (Anishinaabe/Ojibwa). Devine has been a full-time Professor at OCAD University in the Faculties of Art, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies since 2008. In her role as the Founding Chair of OCAD U's Indigenous Visual Culture program, she has developed curriculum, taught classes, and built ancillary programming to provide a critical Indigenous perspective within the art and design academy, and initiated culturally appropriate student services to support OCAD's growing population of Indigenous students. Devine's installation and video works have been shown in Canada, the USA, Russia and Europe. Recent exhibitions include "Battle for the Woodlands" at the Art Gallery of Ontario, "The Tecumseh Papers" at the Art Gallery of Windsor, "Changing Hands 3" at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and the McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinburg Ontario, and "We Are Here" at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.



Lucy Di Pietro (*Project Manager, Ontario Museum Association*)

Project Manager, Lucy Di Pietro, has over 15 years of experience in the museum and heritage field. Recently, she was the Project Director at the Columbus Centre, where she managed a \$1.6 million dollar, 3-year project on the Italian Canadian WW2 experience, comprising the creation of an oral history collection, a permanent and travelling exhibition, a website and online archive, and the commission and installation of a public art work.



Jan Emonson (*Curator, York Region District School Board Museum & Archives*)

Jan Emonson is a graduate of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Toronto and has worked for a variety of museums and historical organizations both large and small. She has been the curator of the York Region District School Board Museum & Archives for the past 10 years where she has enjoyed collaborating on innovative programs and caring for the growing collection of artefacts that document the history of education in York Region.



Nathan Etherington (*Program Coordinator, Brant Museum and Archives*)

Nathan Etherington received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Waterloo with minors in Earth Science and Geography. He subsequently attended Western University for a Bachelor in Education focusing on equity and social justice issues in education. With both of these experiences, he entered the museum sector as a Young Canada Works student focusing on adult education programming. He then started as a volunteer with the Brant Historical Society before being offered the position of Program Coordinator. Since May 2015, he has taken a more active role overseeing the day-to-day operations for the Brant Museum and Archives location.



Lyndsey Friesen (*Exhibition Project Manager, Victoria County Historical Society*) @1wwcomestolife

Lyndsey Friesen graduated with a degree in History from Trent University and an Ontario College Graduate Certificate Museum Management and Curatorship at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Lyndsey has been responsible for the design and fabrication of various exhibits, and has developed interpretive and curriculum-based programming for museum and travelling exhibitions

Cathy Gallagher-Louisy (*Director, Knowledge Services, Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion*)

Biography coming soon



Heather George (*Research Coordinator, Indigenous Research Office of Vice-President Research, McMaster University*)

Heather George is a researcher and public historian focused on Indigenous issues in museums and public education. Currently Heather is working at McMaster University as Research Assistant and serving as a member of the Chiefswood National Historic Site Board of Trustees. Heather's research and work has been influenced by her mixed Mohawk and European ancestry and she finds great fulfillment in fostering greater understanding of Indigenous history and culture for non-Indigenous audiences. Heather holds an undergraduate degree in History and Indigenous Studies from Trent University, a diploma in Museum Management and Curatorship from Fleming College and a Masters Degree in Public History from the University of Western Ontario.



Laura Gibbs (*Museum Coordinator, Gibson House Museum*)
@_Laura_Gibbs_

Laura Gibbs is the Museum Coordinator with Gibson House Museum and Historic Zion Schoolhouse, City of Toronto. Former roles include Executive Director of the Ottawa Museum Network and Project Manager of Australia's First University Sporting Hall of Fame. She has an MBA from Carleton University, an MSc in Museum Studies from Macquarie University, Australia, and an Hon.BA in Classics from Western University, London. Laura is a former EMPAC member and is interested in alternative career paths for emerging museum professionals, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.



Christine Girardi (*Assistant Curator, City of Niagara Falls Museums*)

Christine Girardi B.A., B. Ed., is the Assistant Curator of the City of Niagara Falls Museums. Prior to joining the team in Niagara Falls in 2012, Christine worked for THEMUSEUM in Kitchener. Her love of education and history has been the driving force behind her career in museums. With the museum as her classroom, you'll find her leading hands-on primary source based learning for students of all ages. When not exploring museums, you'll find Christine playing Settlers of Catan with her husband.



Anja Hamilton (*Programming Coordinator, Toronto Ward Museum*) @TOWardMuseum

Anja Hamilton is currently a student at the University of Toronto, working on her MA in Museum Studies, and is interested in public programming and community engagement within museums. She will be interning at the Toronto Ward Museum for the summer as the Programming Coordinator. Anja holds a BA in Anthropology, and has worked at a university library, at an IT desk, and the Brandon General Museum and Archives, a community museum in Brandon, MB. Anja has spent the past year volunteering at her faculty to help plan their annual student conference, and is currently the representative for the Alumni Association Committee within the Museum Studies Student Association.



Tanis Hill (*Assistant Project Coordinator, Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic*)

Tanis Hill is a member of the Mohawk nation, Turtle clan, born and raised at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ontario. She is the Assistant Project Coordinator managing projects and the overall office administration and care of the collections at the Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic. She has an Honours Bachelor of Commerce with a specialization in Accounting and is a graduate of the two-year Ogwehoweh Language Diploma Program – Mohawk, a collaborative program of Six Nations Polytechnic and McMaster University.



Claire Hopkinson (*Director & CEO, Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation*)

Claire Hopkinson is recognized across the arts sector for her notable leadership skills, her abilities to forge collaborations and consensus and her inspiring vision to connect communities to the arts across Toronto.

As Director & CEO of Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation since 2005, she has led these sister organizations into a phase of transformative growth in funding and impact, innovation in strategy and delivery, and has brought about a greater understanding of art and artists' roles in Toronto. Under her leadership the *Neighbourhood Arts Network* has grown to include over 1,500 community engaged arts members. Claire has developed partnerships with Toronto's Library, School and Museum systems to further the reach of the arts into underserved neighbourhoods and introduced *Arts in the Parks* to over 50 parks across Toronto. To foster leadership development, she initiated a pioneering partnership with the Banff Centre to launch the *TAC Cultural Leaders Lab*. Recent initiatives such as *Arts Facts* and *Arts Stats*, and the *Creative Champions Network* are helping board volunteers become more effective advocates.

Linda Irwin (*Manager, Museums, City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services*) @lindairwin

Linda Irwin has worked in the museum field in Toronto for 30 years. As the Manager, Museums for the City of Toronto's Museums & Heritage Services, Linda oversees eight of the City's ten historic site museums. These include:

Montgomery's Inn, Colborne Lodge, Mackenzie House, Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens, Gibson House, Historic Zion Schoolhouse, Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Scarborough Museum.

Linda has also worked with the Toronto Historical Board and Heritage Toronto. She has extensive experience in developing and implementing partnerships with a wide range of traditional and non-traditional organizations, individuals and artists. Her background in communications combined with extensive experience in various areas of museum and heritage businesses has led to a wide range of success museum programs, events and partnerships including the "Animating Historic Sites" partnership program with the Toronto Arts Council.



Michelle Johnson (*Researcher, Aurora Museum & Archives, and Exhibition Coordinator, Aurora Sports Hall of Fame*)
@mich_faye

Michelle Johnson is a recent graduate of the Master of Museum Studies Program at the University of Toronto and holds a BA in Anthropology from Athabasca University. Throughout her academic career, Michelle has taken an interest in culture and its various interpretations. During her time in the Museum Studies program she became interested in the process of making local museums relevant for their diverse publics and activating underused collections. As part of the team that developed a museum-based intercultural learning program Michelle continues to focus on the role of the museum in mediating and facilitating discussions about cultural difference.



Allen Kaeja (Co-Artistic Director, Kaeja d'Dance)
@kaejaddance (#kaeja)

Allen Kaeja, Co-Artistic Director, Choreographer, Cinematographer, Dancer and Educator is an internationally recognized and award winning choreographer and filmmaker. He is Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with his wife Karen Kaeja. He entered the field of dance after 9 years of competitive wrestling and Judo. Allen has created over 100 professional stage works, 60 dances for youth and directed/choreographed 26 films. He has and continues to receive numerous commissions from companies in UK, Mexico, USA, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, India and across Canada. Allen co-founded the CanAsian Dance Festival (1996-present) and the Fringe Festival of Independent Artists (FFIDA 1991-2000). His films have toured internationally and are in the permanent collections of many Universities, the Jewish Museum and MoMA (NY) and Yad Vashem (Israel).

He teaches Kaeja Elevations (KE) and Dance Film master classes worldwide and is on faculty at STDT, Brock U and Ryerson University as well for teachers and professional dance artists worldwide. His second book is entitled Transcending Media: Adapting the Dance Production Asylum of Spoons, from Stage to Film. Allen is currently working on his third book, Kaeja Elevations.

Allen has recently received the Kathryn Ash Award 2016 for Choreography and was nominated for the: 2015 Ontario Arts Foundation Artist Educator Award; as well Kaeja d'Dance have been nominated as Now Magazines "Best Local company 2015". They are preparing for their newest production: DEFIANT/CRAVE at the Theatre Centre for May 2017.

Allen has been included in Canada's Who's Who since 2001. Allen developed many site-specific and audience interactive engagement performance events including: Animating Historic Spaces – Montgomery's Inn (2014 & 2016), ROGUE show (2015), and ffIDA 1991 and co-developed strategies with Karen Kaeja: Porch View Dances (2012 – present (originally conceived by Karen), Downtown Dances: Moncton (2016 – conceived by Karen, myself and Atlantic Ballet), Fools Paradise – Open Doors Ontario (2015), and Savage Garden (1989).



Stuart Keeler (*Chief Curator, Manager, Museums of Mississauga*) @stutzart

A cultural producer with broad international experience in curating, programming, writing about and commissioning contemporary artists, public art and socially based interventions in the public realm. Keeler's research interests include contemporary art and its critical context in relation to communities; embodiment, diaspora issues and performativity, socially based art actions in gallery and urban space contexts as well as cultural and artistic forms of sculptural practices and thinking. Educated and trained to work in museums and galleries, Stuart is currently appointed as Chief Curator | Manager, Museums & Traditions – Arts & Culture, City of Mississauga. Previous roles have been Executive Director | Curator at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, Director of Programmes and Curator; Art Gallery of Mississauga, founding Director and co-producer of Le Flash – Atlanta, Artistic Director Art 44|46 – Chicago – among others.



Marta Keller-Hernandez (*Administrator, Sur Gallery, and Programming Coordinator, Paralia Newcomer Arts Network*) @martakellerh

Originally from Spain, Marta moved to Toronto in 2012 and became an international student of the Culture and Heritage Site Management program at Centennial College a year later. Her background is in Culture and Tourism. Previously, she was the owner of her own tour guiding company in Spain, where she also worked as a Visitor Information Counsellor for five years.

Since moving to Toronto, she has worked with a range of arts and culture organizations who serve communities of different ethnic backgrounds. She has also worked with Heritage Toronto, leading the “Immigration Stories: Making a Home in Old Toronto” tours for the organization. Currently, she is the administrator at Sur Gallery and has recently incorporated a non-profit to support and promote newcomer artists in Toronto, Paralia Newcomer Arts Network.

Cara Krmpotich (*Associate Museum Studies Professor, University of Toronto*) @MuseumAnth

Cara Krmpotich is an associate professor in the Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto. Her research and teaching explore the importance of object handling and repatriation for aboriginal communities; the role of the catalogue and collections management in decolonizing museum practice; and collective memory and material heritage. Cara is the author of *The Force of Family: kinship, repatriation and memory on Haida Gwaii* and co-author of *This Is Our Life: Haida material heritage and changing museum practice*. Her work also appears in the journals *Museum Management and Curatorship*, *Museum Anthropology*, the *Journal of Material Culture* and *Curator*. She tweets for the Council for Museum Anthropology @MuseumAnth



Nadia Kurd (*Curator, Thunder Bay Art Gallery*) @nadia_kurd

Nadia Kurd, PhD is an art historian with a specialization on mosque architecture in North America. Her work has appeared in publications such as *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, *Journal of Canadian Art History* and *Proteus: A Journal of Ideas* as well as a number of exhibition catalogues on contemporary art. She is currently the Curator of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.



Daniel Kwan (*Studio Instructor, Royal Ontario Museum*)
@danielhkwan

Daniel H. Kwan (HBSc, MSc) is a Toronto-based educator, SSHRC-funded archaeologist, blogger, photographer, and co-creator of Curiosity in Focus. As a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, his work has taken him to Turkey, London, Paris, Jordan, and China. The primary focus of his doctoral research is the relationship between the early subsistence practices and pottery technology of the Shangshan culture (11,400 - 8600 BP) in Zhejiang Province, China. He is a member of an international research team researching the Shangshan and the origins of rice agriculture in the lower Yangtze Valley.

In addition to his studies, Daniel is a Canadian Weblog Award nominated blogger (2013 & 2014), museum consultant, photographer, and Toronto-based educator – working as a Studio Instructor at the Royal Ontario Museum. Specifically, his work strives to make meaningful and engaging educational content through the use of alternative mediums such as analog gaming. His writing and photography has been featured in The National Post, Guardian, Guardian Witness, Royal Ontario Museum blog, FutuReale Magazine, Roar Magazine, Savage Minds, and the Royal Ontario Museum ROMKids blog.



Marie Lalonde (*Executive Director /Directrice générale, Ontario Museum Association/Association des musées de l'Ontario*)

Marie Lalonde has extensive experience in the areas of cultural and non-profit organization management, fundraising, marketing, public relations, and communications. She served in a variety of organizations, currently the Ontario Museum Association, and in previous years the Canadian Opera Company, the Canadian Cancer Society, TVOntario, and was founding Executive Director of BRAVO!FACT, a Foundation to assist Canadian Talent, for the BRAVO! Arts channel. She is currently Vice-President of ICOM Canada, a past chair of the FORUM of the Associations of Museums of Canada, and previously served on the boards of the Cultural Human Resources Council and Workinculture. As Executive Director of the Ontario Museum Association, she continues to lead Ontario museums' sector organization encouraging public support for Ontario's museums, art galleries and historic sites.



Josh Lichty (*Project Assistant, Ontario Museum Association*)

Project Assistant, Joshua Lichty, has been involved in the museum/heritage sector since graduating in 2011. Many of his projects have been research-based undertakings; the first leading to a co-authored publication, *Captured in the War of 1812*. Joshua has also done research projects for the Friends of Laura Secord and the Niagara Historical Society & Museum. In addition, he coordinated a digitization project resulting in 10,000+ digital records and an expansive online database for the previously mentioned museum.



Amber Lloydlangston (*Curator of Regional History, Museum London*)

Amber Lloydlangston has been the curator of regional history at Museum London, London, Ontario, since August 2014. Before that, she spent 10 years at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Further, Amber has taught the OMA's "Museums in Context" for the past two years as well as Western University's "Introduction to Museology," one of the courses offered through the Public History program. As curator, Amber is keen to raise the profile of Museum London in the community, especially that of the material culture collection. She feels that one way to do this is to increase diversity in both the exhibitions and the collections.



Robin McPherson (*Partner, Janice and Robin Digital Communications*) @uglyshirt

I'm a learner at heart and a research nerd who keeps tabs on digital technology, while voraciously reading today's thought leaders. I love going to work every morning because there's always something new to learn.

As a fearlessly creative digital communications consultant, I believe in the power of story, and that the best person to share yours is you. For 20 years, I've helped leading non-profit, corporate and B2C clients discover the relevant, compelling parts of their business that help them turn engaged supporters into loyal ambassadors.



Emily Meikle (*Recent Master of Museum Studies Graduate, University of Toronto*) @emmeikle

Emily Meikle recently completed her Master of Museum Studies degree at the University of Toronto (2016). Before pursuing museum studies, she received her Bachelor of Arts from McGill University, with a double major in Anthropology and English Literature (2013). She is currently employed as a Research Assistant to Dr. Lynne Howarth at the University of Toronto. Emily's research interests include accessibility in indigenous museum collections and the role of material heritage in building community. Beginning with an avid interest in collections, she has enjoyed exploring how objects from the past can help us tell stories and draw connections in the present.



Yasmine Mohamed (*Manager, Cultural Access Pass, Institute for Canadian Citizenship*) @ICCICC

Yasmine Mohamed is the Manager of the Cultural Access Pass program (CAP) at the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), where she is committed to engaging new Canadians in active citizenship and engendering meaningful conversations about inclusion and belonging. Yasmine has a bachelor's degree and a master's in human geography and environmental studies from York University. Passionate about social equity issues, she researched the intersection of environmental conditions, social marginalization and housing policy in the City of Toronto. Yasmine lives in Toronto where she enjoys cycling to work and exploring interesting neighbourhoods and the city's cultural and natural heritage.



Cathy Molloy (*Director, Markham Museum*) @CathyMolloy2

Cathy Molloy has been the Director of Markham Museum since August 2008. She began her work career as an accountant at the head office of Peoples Jewellers in Toronto. In 1992 she started her curatorial career, holding positions at Oshawa and then Markham, Ontario. Her first major museum management project was in Aurora, where Church Street School was saved and transformed into a Cultural Centre in 2008. Cathy returned to Markham Museum as Director later that same year. Together with staff, the Friends foundation, stakeholders and the community, Markham Museum has been transformed into a dynamic community resource.



Leah Moncada (*Founder, Historic Kitchen Web-blog*)
@LeahMoncada

Leah received her MMSt in 2016 and is founder of “Historic Kitchen”, a website that explores the dilemmas (and flavours) of historic food interpretation. Leah decided to apply her experience in archaeology and historical interpretation to the pursuit of a career in making the museum experience relevant and interesting for everyone. Her interests lie in making museums intellectually accessible, and exploring new opportunities of engagement, and critically analyzing the best practices of these new methods. She is extremely excited to show you all why it is important and beneficial to build intercultural competency in your own museum audiences.



Braden Murray (*Curator/Educator, Lake of the Woods Museum*) @bradenmurray

Braden Murray is the Curator/Educator the Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora. He is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick and Western University. He has been involved with the Ontario Museum Association as a member of the Emerging Museum Professionals Advisory Committee since 2013 and OMA Council since 2014. He is particularly interested in getting young people involved in museums and training up EMPs to be the museum administrators and executives of the future.



Glenn Ogden (*Creative Development Specialist, Canadian Museum of History*)

Glenn Ogden joined the Canadian Museum of History in 2002, having previously worked at the City of Oxford Museum, England and the Peterborough Museum & Archives, Ontario. He is responsible for conceiving and developing exhibition experiences and interpretive products, and is part of the core team currently developing the new Canadian History Hall at the Museum. Selected exhibition credits include the permanent Canadian Experience Galleries at the Canadian War Museum (2005), and, respectively, the Canadian Museums Association and Ontario Museums Association award-winning exhibitions *Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War* (2007) and *1812* (2012). Glenn is a graduate of Modern History from the University of Oxford and the Museum Management and Curatorship Program at Sir Sandford Fleming College, Ontario



Pailagi Pandya (*Program Officer, Scarborough Museum*)
@pragnyaa

Pailagi Pandya is a Program Officer with Scarborough Museum, City of Toronto as well as a member of the EMPAC at OMA. Pandya has worked in the museum field for over ten years in a variety of capacities, including South Asia Intern at the Royal Ontario Museum, a WIAProjects Curatorial Assistant and Program Media Outreach Co-coordinator at the Centre for Women Studies in Education, University of Toronto. She was also Curatorial Assistant at the Meharangrah Museum Trust, a UNESCO heritage site in Jodhpur India. Her area of expertise is in community development, partnership building and audience engagement programs that support the needs of diverse communities and people of all ages. Recently Pailagi was instrumental in the multifaceted national Canadian Museums and Youth Diversity Experience project. Pailagi holds a Master of Arts degree in Heritage Management from University of Birmingham, and an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in a Specialist Program in Arts and Culture from University of Toronto.



Jim Parrott (*President of the Board, SPECTRUM – Waterloo Region’s Rainbow Community Space*)

Jim Parrott, a professional librarian, has been an LGBTQ activist in Waterloo Region since 1971 when the Waterloo Universities’ Gay Liberation Movement started. He was involved in that group and several other local groups over the past four decades, during which time he collected ephemeral documents created by the local rainbow community. In March 2011, he initiated the Grand River Rainbow Historical Project with the goal of celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country (primarily Waterloo-Wellington). Over the next year he acquired copyright permissions that allowed the digitization and display of publications and posters at the Project website. The Project was also involved in an oral history project that resulted in a film, “Rainbow Reflections.”



Lindsay Parsons

Lindsay Parsons is a recent graduate of the Master of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto and has a BA in History from Simon Fraser University. Lindsay has a deep passion for the preservation of built heritage and how the analysis of the built environment can help shine light on under-told histories. Lindsay was fortunate enough to intern at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City over the summer of 2015. During her time at the Tenement Museum, she was able to see first-hand the impact of intercultural dialogue in a museum space and how to successfully develop intercultural competency.



Bethea Penny @officialbethea

As a TCK (“third-culture kid”) herself, Bethea has always been fascinated by the diversity of cultures the world has to offer. During her Bachelor’s in History in Art, focusing on film studies and archaeology, she wrote her honours thesis on cross-cultural influences in world heritage. Through the Master of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto she was able to take that research further and explore the more nuanced concept of intercultural dialogue and the role that institutions can play in cultivating a population equipped for globalization. She hopes to continue working with cultural institutions, stimulating creative economies by providing platforms for artists and other influencing voices.



Jade Pichette (*Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives*)
@CLGArchives

Jade serves as the Volunteer + Community Outreach Coordinator at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. Jade is an anti-oppressive educator, who has worked as an advocate in LGBTQ+ communities for over ten years. She has previously worked at Kind (formerly Pink Triangle Services) in Ottawa as the Education Programs Coordinator, and has worked with over 50 different organizations across Ontario to develop queer and trans inclusive policies. Jade is an avid lover of history and in particular has interest in trans and bi erasure in LGBTQ+ communities, LGBTQ+ Interfaith work, and continuing to challenge her own position of white-privilege.



Kathleen Powell (*Supervisor of Historical Services/Curator, St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre*) @katpowell

Kathleen Powell has worked as the Supervisor of Historical Services / Curator for the City of St. Catharines at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and the Morningstar Mill, a position she has held for the past 6 years. Prior to coming to the City of St. Catharines, she has worked in the heritage field for more than 25 years and has worked at a number of museums and historic sites in the Niagara Region. Kathleen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Brock University and a Certificate in Museum Studies through the Ontario Museum Association. A life-long resident of Niagara, she is a keen advocate of public history and of making history accessible to all.



Jaclyn Qua-Hiansen (*Audience Coordinator, Royal Ontario Museum*) @jacqua83

Jaclyn Qua-Hiansen is the Audience Coordinator at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), where she coordinates the Museum's Community Access Network (ROMCAN), accessible tours and other inclusion initiatives. She also coordinates projects such as visitor journey mapping and the customer feedback management system, which supports incorporating visitor voice into improving the Museum experience. For more information on the ROM's accessibility and inclusion initiatives, please visit www.rom.on.ca/access or email accessibility@rom.on.ca.



Liana Radvak (*Manager, Collections Information & Image Resources, Art Gallery of Ontario*)

Liana Radvak is the Manager, Collections Information & Image Resources at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Her career at the AGO spans 25 years of related collection stewardship roles and has overseen the management and implementation of three collections systems. In her current role, she oversees the management of the AGO's intellectual property assets, the TMS collections management system, the Digital Asset System Portfolio and the Rights & Reproductions & Copyright department. She plays the lead role in cataloguing the collection, documentation standards, ensuring the collection's intellectual and technical integrity and supports core collection activities and principles of the AGO: Art, Access & Learning. Under her guidance, the AGO launched its first online collections catalog, the Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross, *A Collection of Holocaust Photographs*, <http://www.agolodzghetto.com> and supports the publishing of the museum's collections information in an online environment through various collection initiatives. She was a member of the AGO Staff task Force on the Spoliation of Art in Europe (1933-45) and currently sits on the Time Based Media advisory group at the AGO.



Lisa Randall (*Program Manager, Settlement Workers in Schools*) @LisaRandall16

Lisa Randall has worked in health promotion, community development and settlement services for 20 years. In her current role as program manager for Settlement Workers in Schools, Lisa works with a multilingual team to assist newcomer families and youth settle into local schools. Lisa has actively formed a range of community partnerships that build upon the capacities of women, families, youth, mental health communities and marginalized adults. A passion of Lisa's is integrating the arts in community work as she has a diploma in theatre arts and worked in the arts for many years. Other formal education includes a degree in Social Development Studies and a certificate in Social Work from Renison College, University of Waterloo from the University of Waterloo. She is one course away from a Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies with a dual focus in Organization, Work and Leadership and Cultural Studies from Athabasca University. As Vice Chair of the Board at Parkdale Community Information Centre and member of the George Herman House board Lisa is involved in numerous community initiatives which integrate community members and enhance lives.



Lindsay Marlies Small (*PhD Student, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto*) @lindsaymarlies

Lindsay is a PhD student at the University of Toronto. She has a masters degree in Museum Studies as well as Science and Technology Studies. Her research interests include heritage management in outer space and the neoliberalization of the American space program.



Madeline Smolarz (*Museum Assistant, Craigeleath Heritage Depot*) @MadelineSmolarz

Madeline is an emerging museum professional who graduated from the Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) program at the University of Toronto (2016) and obtained an Honours BA with a Specialization in Classical Studies from the University of Ottawa (2014). As a second-generation Polish-Danish Canadian, she is deeply interested in multiculturalism and museums. Her focus has become education and public programs as she loves planning for and interacting with museum visitors. Madeline served as the 2015-2016 Editor-in-Chief of Musings, the MMSt student blog, and she looks forward to continuing to blog with TO Historic Sites. Her future plans revolve around furthering her work promoting intercultural learning in museums.



Penelope Stewart (*Artist*)

Penelope Stewart is an installation artist working across the varied media of sculpture, photography, works on paper and architectural interventions. Central to her practice is an engagement with space and place; its architecture, history, politics, ideology and environment. Stewart has had a long history working in collectives and in 2014-15 along with Yael Brotman, Libby Hague and Dr. Mathew Brower formed the Gifts+Occupations Collective. The main trajectory was to inquire into the links between early education, architecture and modernism. Through the Toronto Arts Council's *Artists Animating Historic sites* programme, the collective developed a year-long project with *Zion Schoolhouse*, a one room schoolhouse now a Toronto Museum.

Penelope Stewart was born in Montréal, Québec. She received an MFA from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and in 2010 she was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts (RCA). Her work has been exhibited at such notable institutions as The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo New York; Musée d'Art de Joliette, Québec; Lotusland, Montecito, California; Musée Barthélemy, Boussan, France; Koffler Gallery, Toronto; Oakville Galleries, Ontario; Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Ontario; The Military Museums, Alberta; ACT Design Museum Canberra, Australia; Poimena Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia. Most recently she completed a private commission in Paris, France at Maison Alexander Stern.



Sean Stoughton (*Village Coordinator, Waterloo Region Museum*)

Sean Stoughton is the Village Coordinator with the Waterloo Region Museum. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, and of the OMA's Certificate in Museum Studies program. In his work with living history sites, he has often needed to tease small details out of historic photographs in order to research material culture. Sean is also a blacksmith, a painter, and a terrible banjo player.



Emma Tennier-Stuart (*Master's Student, Folklore Department, Memorial University of Newfoundland*)
@EmmaTenStu

Emma's love of museums began at the age of seven, when she started volunteering as a costumed interpreter at Scarborough Museum. This clearly made an impression, as since that time, she has volunteered and worked in education and public programming at a number of historic house museums in Canada and England, in addition to completing her BA in Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto. This past summer, Emma completed a YCW internship at the Ontario Museum Association, and she is now working to complete her thesis on heritage landscapes in Cornwall, England, for her Master's degree in Folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Emma strongly believes in the power of the imagination to help people connect with the past, and is an avid fan of historical cooking and costuming. She frequently finds herself wishing time travel were possible.



Camille Turner (*Artist-in-Residence, Museums Mississauga*)
@afrofuturist

Explores home and belonging in many forms spanning a variety of media such as photography, video, performance and social practice art. Currently a Ph.D fellow at York University researching Canadian Memory and Black History in the Heritage House Museums sector. She is the founder of Outerregion, a research lab researching Black memory and creating the afro future. Her beauty queen persona Miss Canadiana, is an "official" symbol of Canada that challenges perceptions of "Canadianness" and troubles the unspoken binary of "real Canadian" and "diverse other". Camille's most recent works respond to the erasure of 400 years of Black history from the Canadian landscape. Her sonic walks HUSH HARBOUR and The Resistance of Peggy Pompadour use digital media to reimagine sites of Black memory. WANTED, a collaboration with Camal Pirbhai is an embodied archive of performances of Black freedom in Canada's past.

Trevor Twining (*President, Cowork Niagara Co-operative Inc.*)

Trevor Twining is a Niagara co-op champion. He brings a startup mindset to co-operative values as he helps lead the local Coworking, Open Data, Co-operative, and Social Enterprise communities.

He's the founder of Cowork Niagara Co-operative Inc., home of Niagara's independent workforce. As president, he's led the fledgling group to more than 70 members and break-even in its first 15 months of operation.

Trevor is running a campaign of tactical, low-cost, high-impact open data projects designed to raise awareness of the impact open data can have in engaging citizens and showing its value to various stakeholders.



Mary Kate Whibbs (*Aqua-Links Coordinator, Toronto Zoo*)

Mary Kate is a recent graduate of the Master of Museum Studies program and the University of Toronto. Her research explores questions about value and what makes some species more appealing than others in zoo and aquarium settings, both in the public eye and in conservation.