



# Steve Boyd-Smith

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## Select Projects

### **Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest** | VA

Team lead, exhibit development, and community engagement for a Thomas Jefferson plantation; Interpretive Plan through comprehensive Schematic Design to completed exhibits focusing on the enslaved population

### **Old North Church** | MA

Concept for an exhibit at the site of the revolution-era "one if by land, two if by sea" lanterns from Paul Revere's ride, expanding the story and encouraging visitors to be active in their communities

### **Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail** | MN

Team lead for a Visitor Experience Plan, working with city staff, the county historical society, and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community to distribute stories and experiences along a newly-planned trail

### **Water Works Park** | MN

Interpretive planning and concepting for a new park at *Owamniyamni*, the falls at the heart of Minneapolis

### **African American Resources, Cultural and Heritage Society (AARCH)** | MD

Team lead, interpretive and exhibit planner for new museum by an established group of elders and young adults

### **George & Chloe Daniels Project** | MN

Team lead and exhibit planner with artist Seitu Jones for a new exhibit about Minnesota's postbellum African American population and continuing legacy

### **Experience Akwesasne** | NY, QB, ON\*

Lead planner, Tourism Interpretive Plan for a Mohawk homeland

### **Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium (AAACRHSC)** | AL

Team lead and exhibit planner for a collaboration among 20 historic places of worship, lodging, and civic engagement that played significant roles in the African American struggle for freedom

### **Poindexter Village** | OH

Team lead, interpretive planner for new community-driven museum of African American heritage, in partnership with the Ohio History Connection

### **Flying Cloud Drive** | MN\*

Interpretive lead, working with four consulting Dakota tribes to interpret the results of significant recent archaeological discoveries along the Minnesota River

### **Hickory Run State Park** | PA\*

Team lead, exhibit development, generating wonder that "Nature Did This"

### **Ohiopyle State Park** | PA\*

Team lead and exhibit development from concept through installation of indoor and outdoor exhibits connecting visitors to history and the landscape, exploration and conservation

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## Work Experience

**Principal/Lead Amplifier** | Amplifier Experience Design, St. Paul, MN (2022-)

Strengthening communities by helping them reveal their own stories. Assessments, Interpretive Planning, and Exhibit Design for museums, cultural centers, and historic sites, with a focus on community-driven stories.

**Interpretation & Exhibit Design Group Manager, Creative Director** | 106 Group, St. Paul, MN (2011-2022)

Built an exhibit design group from the ground up. Developed vision for the group, standards to support them, and staff to carry it out while also directing, writing, researching, and managing projects.

**Interpretive Projects Lead** | Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley, MN (2005-2011)

Led teams of content specialists, contract artists, volunteers, and others in the creation of engaging exhibitry supporting animals and their habitats. Managed processes, inter-departmental collaborations, budgets, and overall messaging.

**Curator of Online Interpretive Projects** | Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN (2001-2003)

Led a grant-funded team to research and experiment around the question “what can an exhibit be on the web?” Vision-development, vision-keeping, staff supervision, budget management, project management, content direction, writing, and collaborative design were included.

**Senior Exhibit Developer/Project Manager** | Gerard Hilferty & Associates, Athens, OH (1994-2001)

Content direction, collaborative design, project management, facilitation, production observation, database development, proposal writing, copy writing, and specification writing as a member of a nationally-recognized exhibition design firm. Developed more than 30 galleries totaling over 100,000 square feet in six states.

**Assistant Curator & Researcher** | Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN (1991-1994)

## Select Publications & Presentations

- Lessons from Culturally-Specific Museums: History is Essential | **AASLH conference** (2021)
- “What if reimagining museums begins by asking ‘Who do we serve?’” | **Superhelpful Letters** (2020)
- When is Historic Preservation Radical? | **AASLH conference** (2020)
- Seeking Absent Voices: Inclusion and Relevance | **AASLH conference** (2017)
- Who Is We? Authorship, Authority, and Voice | **AASLH conference** (2016)
- The Mobile Bandwagon: What Works & What Doesn't | **AAM conference** (2014)
- Learning from Zoos and Aquariums | **AAM conference** (2012)
- “Psychedelic Art (Denver Art Museum)” **Exhibition Review** | **Journal of American History** (2011)

## Education

**M.A. American History** | Northwestern University (1990)

**B.A. History** | Carleton College (1989)

## Select Awards & Honors

- History Leadership Institute, American Association for State and Local History (2022)

\* award-winning

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- Master Interpretive Manager, National Association for Interpretation (2018)
  - Ohiopyle State Park, AAM Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition (2016)
  - Russia's Grizzly Coast, Association of Zoos and Aquariums Award (2009)