

RON M. POTVIN

Assistant Director and Curator
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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Master of Arts, 1992

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
Bachelor of Arts, 1990

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University

Adjunct Lecturer, American Studies 2010 –
Assistant Director & Curator 2004 –
Historic Site Administrator 2002 – 2004

Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI

Director of Historic Sites 2000 – 2002
Editor, *Newport History* 1993 – 2002
Curator of Special Collections 1993 – 2000
Assistant Curator 1992 – 1993

William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, CT

Fine Arts Handler 1991 – 1992

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator, RhodeTour.org, 2013 -

American Association for State and Local History, Awards Committee, 2011 – 2020; Historic House Museum Committee, 2016 – 2021.

Tiverton Library Foundation, Board of Directors, 2012 – 2014

New England Museum Association, Board of Directors, 2007 – 2016

Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum, Strategic Planning Committee, 2011 – 2012; Lippitt House Council, 2011 – 2015

Chair, American Association of Museums Curators Program Committee, 2008 – 2013

Rhode Island Coalition of Historic Sites, Steering Committee, 2007 – 2014

American Association of Museums Curators' Committee, Board of Directors, 2003 – 2012

Co-chair, New England Museum Association Curators Professional Affinity Group, 2003 – 2007

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

“Hyperlocal History: Linking People to the Past through Class, Race, and Memory,” with Marjory Gomez O’Toole, in *Doing Public Humanities*, Susan Smulyan, ed., (New York: Routledge, 2021).

“Finding Numen at Historic Sites,” in *Reimagining Historic House Museums: New Approaches and Proven Solutions*, 125–33, American Association for State and Local History Book Series, (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).

“Chasing the White Whale? Flexible Use of Museum Collections,” *History News*, autumn 2014.

“Washington Slept Here? Reinterpreting the Stephen Hopkins House,” *History News*, spring 2011.

"House or Home? Rethinking the House Museum Paradigm" in "The Power and Predicament of Historic Sites," *History News*, spring 2010.

COURSES TAUGHT

“Shrine, House, or Home: Rethinking the House Museum Paradigm,” Brown University

“Museum Collections and Collecting,” Brown University

“Power & Water: Material Culture & Environmental Consequences,” Brown University

“Pursuit of Happiness: Environmental Justice and Indigenous Rights,” co-taught with Loren Spears, Brown University