

# Rebecca E. Bush

---

## EDUCATION

---

M.A. in Public History, emphasis in museum studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2011.  
Thesis: "Owning Home: African-American Agriculture in Lower Richland County, South Carolina, 1868-1890."

Graduate Certificate in Museum Management, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2011.

B.A. in History *summa cum laude*, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, 2009.  
Minors: Leadership Studies, Music, Political Science.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

Curator of History, The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA, November 2011 – present.  
Exhibitions Manager, The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA, January 2016 – present.

Curatorial Assistant, Historic Columbia, Columbia, SC, August 2010 – November 2011.

Elizabeth Perkins Fellow in Museum Practice and Research, Museums of Old York, York, ME, May – August 2011.

Exhibitions/Collections Intern, Riley County Historical Museum, Manhattan, KS, June – August 2010.

Archival Assistant, First Infantry Division Museum, Fort Riley, KS, summers of 2007, 2008, and 2009.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS CURATED

---

### The Columbus Museum

*Fort Benning at 100*. May 26, 2018 – March 17, 2019.

*Civic Spirit*. August 12, 2017 – January 21, 2018.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2017.

*Common Grounds*. July 1 – November 5, 2017. Co-curator.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2017.

*Close Up: Cinema Along the River*. May 6, 2017 – April 22, 2018.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2017.

*From Flying Aces to Army Boots: World War I and the Chattahoochee Valley*. March 15 – August 27, 2017.  
Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Exhibition Award (Honorable Mention), 2018.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2017.

*The We of Me: The Chosen Families of Carson McCullers*. January 31 – May 21, 2017. Co-curator.  
Southeastern Museums Conference Gold Exhibition Award, 2017.

*Field of Play: Sports in the Chattahoochee Valley*. March 26, 2016 – March 19, 2017.

*We Tattooed Your Father: The Global Art of Tattoos*. February 21 – June 26, 2016.

*Once Collected, Always Cherished: Highlights from the George Greene and J. Kyle Spencer Collections*. August 16, 2015 – January 10, 2016.

Roger K. Warlick Local History Achievement Award, Georgia Historical Society, 2016.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2015.

*Chattahoochee Cookin'*. March 22 – September 20, 2015.

*Troublemakers and Trailblazers*. February 6, 2015 – February 7, 2016.

*Memory's Cabinets or An Exhibition of Fascinating Gadgets*. July 1, 2014 – June 7, 2015. Co-curator.

*Shalom Y'All: The Valley's Jewish Heritage*. February 20 – July 13, 2014.

Southeastern Museums Conference Exhibition Award of Excellence, 2014.  
Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2014.

*Greetings from Midtown: Historic Postcard Vignettes*. December 22, 2013 – June 15, 2014.

Historic Columbus Preservation Award, 2014.

*Center for Culture: The Bradley Property and the Olmsted Garden*. April 7, 2013 – January 5, 2014.

*Purses, Parasols, and Petticoats: Accessories from the Permanent Collection*. February 10 – June 2, 2013. Co-curator.

*Growing Up in the Valley: Stories of Childhood from the Permanent Collection*. November 4, 2012 – March 3, 2013.

### **Historic Columbia**

*People, Places, and Progress: 50 Years of Historic Columbia*. November 13, 2011 – May 12, 2012. Co-curator.

*Dark Fashion: Victorian Mourning to Today's Gothic Style*. October 1 – 31, 2010. Co-curator.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

---

#### **Refereed**

“Woman, Southern, Bisexual: Interpreting Ma Rainey and Carson McCullers in Columbus, Georgia.” *The Public Historian*, under review.

“‘The Art Museum Does History?’: Building Connections and Relevancy within Multidisciplinary Museums.” Chapter in co-edited volume: *Art and Public History: Approaches, Opportunities, and Challenges*, edited by Rebecca Bush and K. Tawny Paul. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

#### **Other Scholarly Articles**

“‘An Ultimate Higher Duty’: Patriotism and Service on the Columbus Home Front during World War I.” *Muscogiana* 28, no. 1 (2017): 1-15.

“Civil War, Mournful Peace: Highlights from the George Greene Collection at the Columbus Museum.” *Muscogiana* 26, no. 2 (2015): 1-12.

“The Bradley Olmsted Garden: A Wynnton Oasis.” *Muscogiana* 24, no. 2 (2013): 1-15.

“Landscape of Faith: Black Churches in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, 1881-1981 and the Black Baptist Church in Eskridge, Kansas, 1887-1963.” K-State Research Exchange, <http://krex.k-state.edu>, 2010.

### **Public History Publications and Digital Projects**

“The We of Me in a scrapbook: Exploring Carson McCullers’ sexuality through material culture.” *History@Work* (blog), National Council on Public History, February 12, 2018, <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/scrapbook-exploring-carson-mccullers-sexuality>.

*Once Collected, Always Cherished: Highlights from the George Greene and J. Kyle Spencer Collections.* Exhibition catalogue, August 2015.

“The Legacy of America’s ‘Other’ Columbus.” *Broadside – The AASLH Blog*, American Association for State and Local History, June 1, 2015, <http://blogs.aaslh.org/the-legacy-of-americas-other-columbus>.

*Chattahoochee Cookin’: The Cookbook.* Annotated cookbook of historic recipes, March 2015.

*Shalom Y’All: The Valley’s Jewish Heritage* oral history film, July 2014. Co-producer.

“Farm families beyond ‘Farmer Bob.’” *History at the Table* (blog), April 2, 2013, <http://historyatthetable.blogspot.com/2013/04/rebecca-bush-farm-families-beyond.html>.

“Efird’s Department Store, Columbia, South Carolina.” National Register of Historic Places nomination. Listed October 9, 2012.

*Congaree Vista* walking tour brochure, Historic Columbia, October 2011. Co-author.

Slavery at South Carolina College, 1801-1865: The Foundations of the University of South Carolina. Website, <http://library.sc.edu/digital/slaveryscc/>, May 2011. Co-author.

“Sam Hill Cemetery, Hampton Plantation State Historic Site.” Report prepared for South Carolina State Park Service, offers preservation and interpretation recommendations for African-American cemetery, April 2010.

### **INVITED TALKS**

---

“Storytelling by Design in Public Art.” University of Kentucky Historic Preservation Symposium, Lexington, KY, March 30, 2018.

“Trading Post, Mill Town, Metropolis,” Keynote, Southeastern Region of the Costume Society of America Symposium, Columbus, GA, September 30, 2016.

“Frederick Law Olmsted in the South,” Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 20, 2016.

“Turning Art and Archaeology into Exhibitions,” Ivey Center for the Cultural Approach to History, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA, September 21, 2015.

“Farmer, Nurse, Wife, Mother: Chattahoochee Valley Women during the Civil War,” Ivey Center for the Cultural Approach to History, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA, April 23, 2015.

### **Public Lectures at The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA**

“The Orphans of G. Gunby Jordan and Other Tales from Columbus’ World War I Home Front,” July 25, 2017. Presented with David Owings, Columbus State University Archivist.

“Julian and Julia Harris: Journalistic Troublemakers,” June 24, 2015.

“The W.C. Bradley Family and the Bradley Olmsted Garden.” May 2, 2013.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

---

“Interpreting Controversial Histories through Community Collaboration.” Chair and panelist. American Association for State and Local History, Kansas City, MO, September 2018.

“Proactive Public History in New Interdisciplinary Arenas.” Roundtable participant. National Council on Public History, Las Vegas, NV, April 19, 2018.

“New Interdisciplinary Approaches: Exhibiting Art and History Together.” Chair and panelist. Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, Rome, GA, January 18, 2018.

“Seize the Tarantula! Weaving Webs of Collaboration.” Panelist. Society of Georgia Archivists, Columbus, GA, October 23, 2015.

“Leveraging Community Collaborations.” Roundtable participant. Southeastern Museums Conference, Jacksonville, FL, October 13, 2015.

“Art+History=Limitless Interdisciplinary Potential.” Chair. American Alliance of Museums, Atlanta, GA, April 28, 2015.

“Bringing Art into Public History: Opportunities, Challenges and Interdisciplinary Approaches.” Co-chair. National Council on Public History, Nashville, TN, April 16, 2015.

“Escaping ‘Great Men’ History on a Budget: DIY Gallery Renovations.” Chair and panelist. American Association for State and Local History, Birmingham, AL, September 21, 2013.

“Public History and the Local Food Movement.” Working group discussant. National Council on Public History, Ottawa, Ontario, April 18, 2013.

“Interpreting Urban Slavery in Columbia, South Carolina.” Paper presentation. National Council on Public History, Milwaukee, WI, April 22, 2012.

“Owning Home: Interpreting Reconstruction in Rural African-American Communities.” Paper presentation. National Council on Public History, Pensacola, FL, April 7, 2011.

“Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Students in Exhibition Development.” Panelist. South Carolina Federation of Museums, Columbia, SC, March 10, 2011.

“Letting History’s Villains Have Their Say: Presenting Multiple Perspectives on the Underground Railroad in the West.” Paper presentation. National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Topeka, KS, July 29, 2010.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

Editorial Board member, *The Public Historian*, 2018-present.

Board member, Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, 2017-present.

Member and historical consultant, Fort Benning Centennial Work Group, 2017-present.

Board member, Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association, 2013-2015.

Participant, Museums Advocacy Day, coordinated by the American Alliance of Museums, 2011.  
Archival processing volunteer, Kiplin Hall, North Yorkshire, England, May-June 2010.

---

### SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

*Making Conversation* neighborhood oral history and exhibition project, \$20,000. Knight Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, October 2017 – June 2019. Project Director.

*The We of Me: The Chosen Families of Carson McCullers* exhibition, \$2,000. Georgia Humanities, January – May 2017. Project Director.

*Shalom Y'All: The Valley's Jewish Heritage* exhibition gallery guide, \$700. Southern Jewish Historical Society, October 2013. Project Director.

New Professional Workshop Scholarship, American Association for State and Local History, 2012.  
Christopher T. Loeblein Scholarship, South Carolina Federation of Museums, 2011.  
Gilder Lehrman Institute History Scholars Finalist (One-Week Scholar), 2008.  
Phi Beta Kappa, 2008.  
Phi Kappa Phi, 2007.

---

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Museums, 2011-present.  
American Association for State and Local History, 2012-present.  
Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, 2017-present.  
National Council on Public History, 2009-present.  
Southeastern Museums Conference, 2013-present.

---

### REFERENCES

Jonathan Frederick Walz, PhD  
Director of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of American Art  
The Columbus Museum  
1251 Wynnton Road  
Columbus, GA 31906  
706.748.2562 ext. 320  
jwalz@columbusmuseum.com

Christy Crisp  
Marilyn Memory McMullan Director of Programs  
Georgia Historical Society  
104 West Gaston Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
912.651.2125, ext. 117  
ccrisp@georgiahistory.com