

Sharon E. Shaffer

sharonshaffer.consulting@gmail.com

ses7n@virginia.edu

www.earlylearninginmuseums.com

675 Four Seasons Drive
Ruckersville, VA 22968

(cell) 540-497-3467

Education

Bachelor of Science

Pennsylvania State University

Master of Education

Arcadia University

PhD Social Foundations of Education (2004)

University of Virginia

Professional Experience

2018 – present

Series Editor, *Global Perspectives on Children in Museums*
Routledge, Taylor & Francis

2012 – present

Education Consultant, Principal
Early Learning in Museums, LLC

2004 – present

Instructor, School of Education and Human Development,
University of Virginia

2004 – 2008

Guest Lecturer
George Washington University, Graduate Program in Museum
Education

1988 – 2012

Executive Director / Founding Director
Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, Smithsonian Institution

Publications

Shaffer, S.E. (October 2020). *International thinking on children in museums: A sociocultural view of practice*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Shaffer, S.E. (July 2018). *Object lessons and early learning*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Shaffer, S. E. (May – June 2015). *Interpretation for young children: Making museums relevant*. *InterpNEWS*, Vol.4(3).

- Shaffer, S. E. (2015). Making museums relevant for our children. *Hadeeth ad-Dar [20th Cultural Season]*. State of Kuwait: Dar al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah.
- Shaffer, S. E. (2015). *Early learning in museums: Theory and practice*. Chinese Museum Magazine.
- Shaffer, S.E. (2015). *Engaging young children in museums*. Walnut Creek: CA: Left Coast Press.
- Shaffer, S.E. (Guest Editor). (Spring 2012). Early learning: A national conversation. *Journal of Museum Education*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, Vol 37 (1).
- Shaffer, S.E. (Nov 2011). Opening the doors: Engaging young children in the art museum. *The Journal of Art Education*. Reston, VA.
- Shaffer, S. E.(2011). Weather. *Science and Technology Concepts*. National Science Resources Center. Washington, DC: The National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution.
- McRaine, D. L. & Russick, J. (Editors). (2010). *Connecting kids to history with museum exhibitions*. Never too young to connect to history: Cognitive development and learning (Shaffer, S.) Walnut Creek, CA: Leftcoast Press.
- Shaffer, S. E. (2009). *The museum connection: A field guide for educators of children 3-7*. Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- Shaffer, S. E. & Danko-McGhee, K. (2004, Fall). *Looking at art with toddlers, NAEA Advisory*. Reston, VA: National Art Education Association.
- Shaffer, S. E. (Ed.). (2004). *Imagine! Introducing your child to the arts*. Washington, DC: National Endowment for the Arts.
- Shaffer, S. E. (1996). Born to collect: Helping children find their treasures. *Parent and Preschooler*, 13(6). (Available from The Lindner Early Childhood Training Institute)
- Shaffer, S. E. (1996). Young children in museums today. *Center for Museum Studies Bulletin*, Smithsonian Institution, 4(2).

Papers and Presentations

The Power of Objects ... New Ways of Engaging Students in Museums
Hong Kong Palace Museum, November 2020 [webinar]

Children and Museums: Making Meaning through Objects
Beijing Normal University [CMRC], September 16, 2020 [webinar]

A New Era for Children in Museums
Smithsonian Institution Symposium, December 2019

Object-Based Learning ... Engaging Young Children in Museums
Beijing, China, November 2018 [Three-Day Training]

Making Museums Relevant for Young Children
Chinese Museum Association, Fuzhou, China, November 2018

Creating Relevant Museum Experiences for Children
Science & Technology Museum, Shanghai, China, July 2018

Innovation in Traditional Museums ... Engaging Young Children
Beijing, China, July 2018

Innovation in Traditional Museums ... Engaging Young Children
Guangzhou, China, July 2018

National Conversations on Rights and Justice: Education Access and Equity
National Archives, Dallas, Texas, March 2017

Early Learning and Museums: A Natural Partnership
National Archives Museum & Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Mar 2017

Features of the Museum Preschool ...Creating a Vision
Hohhot, China, September 2016

Exploring Art with Children
The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, November 2016

Shaping Learning Experiences in the Children's Museum
Beijing, China, June 2016

Curiosity and Museums: Engaging Young Children
Guangdong Province Museums Association, Guangzhou, China, Sept 2016

Theory to Practice: Building Learning Experiences for Children in Museums
Children's Museum Research Center, Beijing, China, December 2015

Touching the Lives of Young Children: Building a Foundation
American Alliance of Museums, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2015

Early Learning in Museums: Theory and Practice
Chinese Museum Association, Xiamen, China, November 2014

Early Learning in Museums: Theory and Practice
Guong Dong Museum, Guangzhou, China, November 2014

Educational Theory & Practice in Museums
Kuwait, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, January 2014

Thinking Critically through Art and Objects
Los Angeles, VOALA, January 2014

Early Math Matters, LAUP Teacher Institute
Los Angeles Universal Preschool, California, Oct-Nov-Dec 2013

Object-Based Learning for Young Children, Keynote
Florida Kindergarten Council, October 2013

Crossing Boundaries: Defining a Research Agenda
Association of Children's Museums Symposium, September, 2013

Object-Based Learning: A Link to Critical Thinking
The Cushman School, Miami, Florida, September 2013

Object-Based Learning and Critical Thinking
Palm Beach Day Academy, West Palm Beach, Florida, August 2013

Beyond the Obvious: Teaching with the Arts [Summer Institute]
Miami-Dade Public Schools, Miami, Florida, June 2013

Building Capacity for Thinking Critically through Objects and Arts
VOALA [Volunteers of America Los Angeles], LA, CA, Apr – June 2013

Engaging Children in the Process of Learning
Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro, NC, January 2013

Chinese Museum Education Symposium ... Lessons for Tomorrow
Chinese Museum Association, Guangzhou, China, December 2012

Building Capacity for Thinking Critically Through Objects and Art
VOALA HS, Los Angeles, CA, November 2012

Museum Methodologies: Shaping Gallery Experiences for Young Children
Nacional Museo Conference. Bogota, Columbia, October 2012

Building Knowledge Through Object-Based Learning
Palm Beach Day Academy, West Palm Beach, Florida, August 2012

Building Understanding for the Youngest Visitors in Museums
Association of Midwest Museums, Indianapolis, July 2012

Object-Based Teaching & Learning: A Museum Approach
Ohr O'Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi, MS, June 2012

Growing the Wonder of Learning
Association of Children's Museums Conference
Portland, Oregon, May 2012

Young Children in Museums
Western Museum Association, Oahu, Hawaii, Sept 2011

Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children Seminar
The Bishop Museum, Hawaii, Sept 23-24, 2011

Engaging Young Children in Understanding and Remembering the Past
Through Objects and Storytelling. AASLH Conference, Richmond, Sept 2011

Inside Museums: Telling Stories with Objects
DC Tour Guides, Washington, DC, Sept 2011

A Museum-Based Approach to Teaching with Objects for the Very Young
The Beauvoir School, Washington, DC, August 2011

Engaging Young Children in Museums
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, July 2011

Creating Collections with Young Children
Washington, DC, July 19, 2011

Shaping Learning through Arts Integration
Miami-Dade Museum Magnet Schools, Summer Institute, June 2011
U.S. Department of Education Grant

Engaging Children in Objects and Art Using High Tech to No Tech Tools
American Association of Museums, Houston, TX , May 2011

Making Connections to History through Art and Objects
Teaching American History Grant, Fairfax County, VA; March 2011

Teaching and Learning with Objects: A Museum Perspective
St. Augustine Lighthouse Museum, St. Augustine, FL, January 2011

Young Children in the Art Gallery: Making Meaningful Connections to Art
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, November 2010

HeArts & Minds: Enriching Learning through Arts Integration
Miami-Dade Schools of Choice, RR Moton Magnet School
U.S. Department of Education Grant, November 2010

Learning to Look ... Enriching Early Learning Through Museums and the Arts
HAEYC, Hawaii, October 2010

Museum-Based Learning for Young Children
The Beauvoir School, Washington, DC, August 2010

The Power of Objects ... Making Connections to the Past [6-12]
Civil War Preservation Trust Teacher Institute, Gettysburg [PA], July 2010

Science & Preschoolers: Learning through Objects & Collections
National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, June 2010

Shaping Learning in the Museum: A Focus on Young Children
B&O Railroad Museum, Docent Training, February 2010

Talking About Art & Artists with Young Children
University of New Orleans Charter Network, December 2009

Young Children & Art: Making Meaningful Connections
Flint Institute of Arts [MI], November 2009

Early Childhood Learning in Science Centers
NSTC National Conference, October 2009

Teaching History to Young Children in Museums
Miami Historical Museum, September 2009

Exploring African Art with Young Children
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution
Docent Training, September 2009

Learning Through Objects and Collections: A Science Focus
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama, September 2009

Promoting Creativity in Museum Experiences for Preschoolers
European Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, July 2009

Connecting Children to History Through Objects [K-5]
Mount Vernon, Virginia, June 2009

Object-Based Learning and Young Children in Museums
Morgan State University Art Museum, June, 2009

Teaching with Objects in the Museum, Docent Training
Center for Latino History & Culture, SI, March 2009

Object-Based Learning and Preschoolers, Educator Training
The Postal Museum, SI, March 2009

Object-Based Learning and Young Children
The Bishop Museum, Hawaii, January 2009

Museums and Young Children in Cultural Heritage Museums
The Swedish Arts Council, Sweden, December 2008

Blessings of Liberty: Understanding History Through Objects [K-3]
Teaching American History Grant, Fairfax County, VA; June 2008

Object-Based Learning in Education ... The Power of Objects [K-12]
Miami-Dade Museum Magnet Schools, Summer Institute, June 2008
U.S. Department of Education Grant II

Early Learning in Museums: Building Understanding Through Art and
Objects; Museo de Art de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Nov 2007

Critical Thinking in Early Childhood
Museum Education Roundtable, Washington, DC Sept 2007

Learning with Objects, Summer Institute [K-12]
Delaware Department of Education, July 2007

Blessings of Liberty: Understanding History Through Objects [K-3]
Teaching American History Grant, Fairfax County, VA; June 2007

Building Bridges Through ArtSmart ... Object-Based Learning [K-5]
Johnstown, Pennsylvania, June 2007

A Constructivist Approach to Teaching and Learning [K-8]
Miami-Dade Museum Magnet Schools, Summer Institute, June 2007

Object-Based Learning and Arts Integration in Education [K-8]
Miami-Dade Elementary Demonstration Schools, June 2007
U.S. Department of Education Grant I

Teaching with Objects: History, Art, and Literature
Littleton Historical Museum, Colorado, May 2007

Shaping Powerful Learning Experiences for Children through the Arts
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, March 2007

Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children
Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History
Kennesaw, Georgia, February 2007

Teaching Young Children in the Museum Setting: A Focus on Object-Based
Learning; African American Museum of Philadelphia, Nov 2006

Object-Based Learning: Making Meaningful Connections with Objects [K-12]
Contemporary Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea, October 2006

Teaching with Objects: Multiple Perspectives {K-8}
Miami-Dade Museum Magnet Schools, Oct 2006

Student Exhibits as a Means of Demonstrating Knowledge [K-5]
Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts; Iowa, October 2006

Blessings of Liberty: Understanding History Through Objects [K-3]
Teaching American History Grant, Fairfax County, VA; June 2006

Object-Based Learning in Education ... The Power of Objects [K-8]
Miami-Dade Museum Magnet Schools, Summer Institute, June 2006

Change Over Time: Seeing History in Art
National Art Education Association National Conference, Mar 2006

Young Children and the Traditional Art Museum
Yale Center for British Art, Feb 2006

Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children
McNay Art Museum; San Antonio, Texas; Feb 2006

Teaching Literacy Through Fine Art
National Art Education Association, March 2005

Learning in Museums
National Association of Episcopal Schools conference, November 2004

Object-Based Learning in Early Childhood Settings
Cincinnati Art Museum, October 2004

Introducing Young Children to Museums
Pennsylvania State University & Palmer Museum of Art, August 2003

Introducing Children to the World of Museums
Fairfax County Office for Children, July 2003

The Preschool Experience in the Traditional Art Museum
Baltimore Museum of Art, May 2003

Children's Literature and Fine Art; Exploring Global Concepts
ECIS Early Childhood Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, March 2003

Understanding the World Through An Object-Based Approach to Learning,
ECIS, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, March 2003

The Arts and Young Children: The Link Between Literacy and Visual Arts,
National Association of State Boards of Education, January 2003

Integrating Perspectives: New Environments for Early Learners
New York Hall of Science/Brooklyn Children's Museum, February 2003

Establishing Criteria for Quality Early Childhood Programming
National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC, May 2002

Children's Literature and Art ... Making the Connection
The Art Institute of Chicago, March 2002

Experiential Learning in the Art Museum
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 2002

Expanding a Preschooler's World Through the Arts
Chicago Public Schools, Keynote Address, September 2001

Learning Through Museums
Carroll Community College, Maryland, April 2001

Expanding Your Child's World Through Museums
The Art Institute of Chicago, January 2001

Teaching Young Children in Museums
Bank Street College, Graduate School, Guest Lecturer, 2000

Museums and Young Children: Integrating the Arts into Early Childhood Programs, European Council of International Schools, Brussels, Belgium, March 2000 [K-5]

Classroom Collections
Smithsonian Institution, 2000 through present (Bi-annual Seminar)

Creative Strategies for Addressing Art and Literacy Standards [K-3]
Adams State College, Alamosa. Colorado; June 1999.

Enhancing the Learning of Young Children with Experiences in Museums and Other Cultural Institutions, AAM, April 1999

An Imaginative Approach to Developing Themes for Young Children
National Art Education Association, April 1999

Young Children and the Arts ... Making Creative Connections
Maryland State Department of Education; April 1999

Creative Planning Through the Arts
National Art Education Association, March 1999

Young Children and the Arts
Arts Education Partnership, National Meeting, Washington, D.C. June 1998

Learning Through Objects... Museums and Young Children
Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado; July 1997

A Model Program in Museum-Based Education for Young Children
University Circle Incorporated, seminar for museum and education professionals, February 1997

The State of the Young Child in Museums Today
AAM, April 1996

Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children
Smithsonian Institution, 1995 through present (Bi-Annual Seminar)

Solving the Puzzle of Effective Infant and Toddler Care
NAEYC, November 1995

Is There A Place for Young Children in the Art Gallery?
Walsall Museum & Art Gallery, Walsall, England, June 1995

Museum Education for Young Children at the Smithsonian
Presentation to the Secretary's Policy Committee, April 1995

Using Museums: A Multicultural Education Resource
NAME, Los Angeles, 1993

Selected Consulting Partnerships [ELM Consulting]

Hong Kong Palace Museum	2020 - 2021
CMRC, Beijing University, China [Senior Advisor]	2016 - present
The High Museum of Art	2015 - 2016
UNDP, Kuwait [DAR]	2014 - 2015
The Barnes Foundation	2013 - 2017
VOALA [Volunteers of America, LA]	2012 - 2014
LAUP [Los Angeles Universal Preschool]	2013 - 2014
Greensboro Children's Museum	2013
Palm Beach Day Academy	2012 - 2014

Selected Consulting Partnerships [SEEC Consulting]

The Ohr O'Keefe Museum of Art	2010 - 2012
The Bishop Museum, Hawaii	2008 - 2011
The Swedish Arts Council	2008 - 2010
The B&O Railroad Museum	2008 - 2010
The University of New Orleans	2008 - 2011
The Ogden Museum of Southern Art	2008 - 2011
Delaware Department of Education	2007 - 2008
Miami-Dade County Public Schools	2006 - 2015
McNay Art Museum	2005
Fairfax County Public Schools	2003 - 2012
Gallaudet University	2003 - 2005
Cincinnati Museum of Art	2003 - 2005
Warren County Public Schools	2001 - 2006

Art Institute of Chicago	2001
Chicago Public School District	2001 - 2005
Brooklyn Children's Museum	2000

Awards

Secretary's Gold Medal, Smithsonian Institution (1998); the only educator ever to receive this distinction
 Zonta Award, Academic Excellence, Service & Leadership Graduate School, (1988)
 Graduated with High Honors, M. Ed. (4.0)
 Magna Cum Laude graduate, B. S.
 Alpha Lambda Delta, National Scholastic Honorary, President

Professional Associations / Advisory Boards

ACM - Association of Children's Museums
 Head Start Science Advisory Board
 National Law Enforcement Museum Edvisory Committee
 ETA/Cuisenaire Early Childhood National Advisory Board
 NAEA – President of national NAEA Early Childhood Special Interest Group 2006 - 2008
 The Kentucky Television Network /Art to Heart National Advisory Panel
 Council of Museum Education Directors, Smithsonian Institution
 AAM, American Association of Museums
 NAEYC, National Association for the Education of Young Children
 Advisory Board - Brooklyn Children's Museum
 NAEA - The National Art Education Association
 MER - Museum Education Roundtable
 ASCD – Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
 Phi Delta Kappan – Professional Education Association