

writing & editing
rights management
content & image research



Martha Davidson

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QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in writing and editing for exhibitions, publications, and websites
- Experience in researching content, still images, and artifacts
- Experience in concept and content development for exhibitions
- Extensive knowledge of archives, libraries, and other image and artifact sources
- Understanding of copyright issues and experience in licensing intellectual property
- Languages: English, Spanish (oral, reading), French (reading)
- Outstanding organizational and research skills
- Flexibility in working independently or as a member of a team
- Diligence in meeting deadlines
- Current SAM registration with DUNS number

EXPERIENCE

CONTRACT POSITIONS

Writer/Editor, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC, and New York
Contract position: 2016–present
Provide writing and editing services for educational publications and the website of *Native Knowledge 360°*, the museum's national initiative to promote teaching and learning about American Indians.

Research Associate, Cultural Programs, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC
Contract position, 2008–2022
Researched content and images for a website featuring biographies of notable African American scientists, engineers, and medical professionals (www.africanamericanhistoryprogram.org). Developed a traveling exhibition on black scientists and medical professionals, including content and image research, rights clearances, and writing/editing of all text. Researched and edited an online exhibition on women scientists (www.wsemexhibit.org). Copyedited exhibition catalogs and other publications.

Writer/Researcher, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC
Contract position, 2002–2021
In consultation with historians of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and with specialists at the Library of Congress and the National Archives, developed themes and concepts for temporary exhibitions on the role of Congress in United States history. Researched content, images, documents, and artifacts; developed case exhibits; and wrote and edited exhibit scripts. Wrote and copyedited brochures and other documents as needed.

STAFF POSITIONS

Media Researcher/Rights Manager, Newseum, Washington, DC
Full time, 2005–2008
Researched and licensed still images, newspapers, and historical documents for exhibitions, videos, publications, and the website of an interactive museum of news history. Contributed to the conceptual design of proprietary software for rights management.

Grants Manager, Harvard University Art Museums/Center for Conservation, Cambridge, MA
Part time, 1986–1993

Wrote and edited grant proposals, interim and final reports, exhibition fact sheets, press releases, marketing materials, and newsletter articles. Researched sources of funding and maintained files. Helped raise over \$2 million in grants and endowment to support conservation, training, and exhibitions.

FREELANCE RESEARCH (REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS)

- Georgetown Design Group (2022): Image research and editing for video biography of Syrian artist Whabi al-Hariri
- Bush Presidential Center (2015): content, image, and artifact research for an interactive exhibition on the history of presidential elections
- Lemelson Center, Smithsonian Institution (2013–2014): permissions clearances for *Places of Invention* book and exhibition
- National Civil Rights Museum (2010–2012): artifact research for renovations of the permanent exhibition tracing African American and civil rights history from the 17th century to 1968
- Glen Echo Park, National Park Service (2012): concept development, content and photo research, and writing of exhibition script for exhibit on a historic amusement park
- Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum (2008–2009): image research for a long-term exhibition
- Newseum (1995–2005): image research for exhibitions on the history of news reporting
- National Building Museum (2003–004): content research for an exhibition on Washington, DC
- National Park Service (1995–2003): historical research, concept development, and image, artifact and content research for visitors center exhibits at the Jefferson Memorial, Independence Hall, Harpers Ferry, the Salinas Pueblos, and other sites
- White House Historical Association (2000–2002): image research for a historical journal and books
- National Library of Medicine (2002): image and artifact research and content development for an exhibition on American women physicians
- American Heritage (1998–2001): image research for a magazine and website on U.S. history
- American Legacy (1998–2001): image research for a magazine of African American history
- Smithsonian Institution/Douglas Gallagher (1994–1996): image research for reinstallation of the National Gem Collection at the National Museum of Natural History
- Charles Scribner's Sons (1994–1995): image research/editing for the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*, a five-volume reference work with over 600 illustrations
- Smithsonian Institution/MFM (1989–1991): image research/editing for *Seeds of Change*, a Columbus Quincentennial exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History, and for its companion book
- Image research for approximately 90 text and trade books by major publishers

FREELANCE WRITING AND EDITING (REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS)

- Contracted copyeditor of online member biographies for the National Academy of Sciences (2012–2013)
- Contracted writer and researcher for the American Heritage Picture of the Day website (2005–2006): Researched public-domain images and wrote bylined 250-word caption stories for more than 200 photos, prints, drawings, posters, and other graphic works
- Contracted writer/editor for the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center (1997–2004)
- Contributor to Smithsonian Institution's *American Indian* magazine (2000–2004)
- Contributed biographies to *North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century* (1995)
- Copyedited English text of *The Monotypes of Sam Francis*, published in Germany (1994)

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

MA, English
BA, Art History