

Laura A. Macaluso

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Laura A. Macaluso is a cultural heritage professional and grant writer specializing in public art and public history projects. Using museums, monuments, murals, and material culture, her work celebrates the value of art, culture, and history to community.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Humanities/Cultural & Historic Preservation Departments (2016)
Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in the Humanities (2014)
Salve Regina University
Dissertation: *Art for the Elm City: Public Art in New Haven, Connecticut*

Coursework completed, American and European Art & Architectural History, 1750-1900, Graduate Center, City University of New York (2001-05)

M.A., Art History, The Florence Program in Italian Renaissance Art
Syracuse University in Italy (2000)
Paper: *A Gallery of Peculiar Worth: The Jarves Collection at the Yale University Art Gallery*

B.A., Art History and English, Honors College
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT (1994)
Thesis: *The Rise and Fall of Heins & LaFarge, Architects of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Public Art & Public History Projects

Curator / Planner / Designer:

“Closing Holy Cross Regional Catholic School: Reflections on the Roman Catholic History of the Hill City,” online exhibit, Lynchburg Museum, April 2020.

“We the Women: Commemorating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment,” An exhibit and public art installation in four parts, Lynchburg Museum, March 2020-2021.

“Green Book Locations in Lynchburg, Virginia: Safety, Hospitality, and Service for African American Travelers during Jim Crow,” Lynchburg Museum, February 2020.

“Five Forks [Confederate] Battle Flag: A Community Platform,” Lynchburg Museum, January 2020.

“Interpretation Intervention: Crafting History and a Place of Honor for Mary Brice,” ongoing effort to integrate the enslaved community story at Point of Honor, a 19th century historic house museum.

“Celebrating CETA: A Look Back at New Haven’s Community Mural Program,” Ives Gallery, New Haven Free Public Library, July—September 2019.

“An Artist at War: Deane Keller, New Haven’s Monuments Man” New Haven Museum, December 2014—2016. Exhibit highlighted in the *New Haven Register*; *Connecticut Magazine*; *Report from Newport*; *New York Times*; and the *National Endowment for the Humanities Magazine*. Wrote accompanying article in the Winter 2014/2015 issue of *Connecticut Explored* magazine and gave exhibit talk during the International Festivals of Arts & Ideas, June 2015.

Grant Writing

Georgetown Heritage (2020—present)

Awarded funds for programming and capital projects, including awards from the National Park Trust.

Lynchburg Museum Foundation / Lynchburg Museum System (2019—2020).

Awarded funds for programming and capital campaign, including awards from the Gwathmey Memorial Trust; The Al Stroobants Foundation; The Sam and Marion Golden Helping Hands Foundation; Walmart Foundation; Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation; James River Arts & Cultural District Program and Virginia Humanities; the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Association of Museums and the Smithsonian Institution’s Workshop in Interpreting African American History and Culture.

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (2017—2019). Awarded funds for programming and capital projects, including funds from the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation; Henry A. Jordan Fund, M.D., Preservation Excellence Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Berkeley Foundation; Richard S. Reynolds Foundation; The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation; The Morgan Trust; The Al Stroobants Foundation and the Schewel Foundation.

Riverviews Artspace (2016—2018). Awarded funds for programming and capital projects, including funds from the James River Arts & Cultural District Program; Virginia Humanities; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Greater Lynchburg Community Trust Appalachian Electric Power; Areva; Puffin Foundation, Easley Foundation; winner of the national OVATION award for the creative economy, 2017-2018; Best Buy Foundation; and the Al Stroobants Foundation.

Other Grant-Writing Clients from 2016—2019 were the Bower Center for the Arts in Bedford, Virginia (received funds from Virginia Humanities, and the Virginia Commission on the Arts); Strawtown Art Studio in Nyack, New York (received funds from the National Endowment for the Arts); and Site Projects, Inc., in New Haven, Connecticut (received funds from the New Alliance Foundation; the Langrock Foundation; Connecticut Office of the Arts; and the Could Be Fund).

PUBLICATIONS: ESSAYS & BOOKS

Book, *A History Lover's Guide to Alexandria and Northern Virginia*, The History Press, forthcoming 2021.

Book, *Hartford's Public Art*, Wesleyan University Press, forthcoming 2021.

Essay, "A Digital Reading of the Sengbe Pieh Portrait in the Covid-19 Era" *The Muslim World Journal*, Summer 2020.

Essay, "An Independent Scholar of Art History Outside the Academy and Museum," *Independent Scholars Meet the World, Expanding Academia Beyond the Academy*, University Press of Kansas, 2020.

Essay, "The Spirit of 1776/1917: Town and Gown Go to War," *Bulletin of the Auckland Museum* (New Zealand), Fall 2020.

Book, *Historic Virginia: A Tour of More than 75 of the State's National Landmarks*, Globe Pequot Press, 2019.

Book (children's), *Colonial Klaus in Thomas Jefferson's House*, Blackwell Press (softcover, 2018) with Mascot Press (hardcover, 2019).

Co-Editor, *Nineteenth Century*, the Journal of the Victorian Society in America, focus on monuments, memorials, and sculpture of the long

nineteenth century (1785-1917). Also includes authoring essay on sculptor Paul Wayland Bartlett and *Lafayette on Horseback* Monument, Fall 2019.

Book (editor), *Monument Culture: International Perspectives on the Future of Monuments in a Changing World*, American Association for State and Local History/Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

Essay, "Public Art Inside & Outside the Museum" (The Evolution of a Cultural Practice in Hartford, Connecticut) *The State of Museums: Voices from the Field*, MuseumsEtc Ltd., 2018.

Book, *A Guide to Thomas Jefferson's Virginia*, The History Press, 2018.

Book, *The Public Artscape of New Haven: Themes in the Creation of a City Image*, McFarland Publishing, 2018.

Book, *New Haven's Columbus Day Parade & Monument*, Arcadia Publishing, September 2017.

Article, "The 102nd Regiment in World War I," *Connecticut Explored*, Volume 15, Number 2 (Spring 2017): 42-47.

Book, *New Haven in World War I*, The History Press, 2017. Endorsed by the

World War One Centennial Commission, Washington, D.C.

Article, “New Haven’s Second Centennial Medal and the Origins of City Identity,” *Material Culture, the Journal of the International Society for Landscape, Place & Material Culture* (Volume 48, Number 2, Fall 2016): 1-15.

Book, *Art of the Amistad and the Portrait of Cinqué*, American Association for State and Local History/Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

Article, “New Haven’s Monuments Man,” *Connecticut Explored* 13, no. 1 (Winter Issue 2014/15), 26-31, <http://ctexplored.org/sample-article-winter-1415-new-havens-monuments-man/>.

Book, *Historic Treasures of New Haven, Celebrating 375 Years of the Elm City*, The History Press, 2013.

PUBLICATIONS: BLOG POSTS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website, “Connecticut Doughboys Remember the Battle of Seicheprey,” New England Historical Society, <http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/connecticut-doughboys-remember-the-battle-of-seicheprey/>, Published June 6, 2017.

Social Media Post, “Benedict Arnold’s Hair,” Artifact / NY, Published February 1, 2017 (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and Tumblr).

Blog Post, “The Archaeology of a Rebellion: Reframing the Story of Nat Turner and American Society,” <https://preservationjourney.wordpress.com/2017/03/26/the-archaeology-of-a-rebellion-reframing-the-story-of-nat-turner-and-american-society/>, *Preservation Journey*, Published March 26, 2017.

Blog Post, “Strange Bedfellows: Indigenous People’s History and American Presidential Portraits,” *Preservation Journey*, <https://preservationjourney.wordpress.c>

[om/2017/01/20/strange-bedfellows-indigenous-peoples-history-and-american-presidential-portraits/](http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/2017/01/20/strange-bedfellows-indigenous-peoples-history-and-american-presidential-portraits/). Published January 20, 2017.

Blog Post, “Timothy Ahearn Memorial—Part 3 of the Series,” World War One Centennial Commission, 100 Cities/100 Memorials, <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog/111-the-ahearn-memorial%E2%80%99s-backstory.html>, Published January 18, 2017.

Blog Post, “Commissioning the Timothy Ahearn Memorial—Part 2 of the Series,” World War I Centennial Commission, 100 Cities/100 Memorials, <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog/109-commissioning-the-timothy-ahearn-memorial-part-ii-of-the-series.html>, Published January 2, 2017.

Blog Post, “The Timothy Ahearn Memorial in New Haven, Connecticut—Part 1,” World War I Centennial Commission, 100 Cities/100 Memorials,

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog/105-the-timothy-ahearn-memorial-in-new-haven,-connecticut-part-i.html>, Published December 25, 2016.

Blog Post, “Everyone Eats: Food, History, and Cultural Preservation at the National Museum of African American History and Culture,” *Preservation Journey*, *Adventures in Preservation*, <https://preservationjourney.wordpress.com/2016/11/14/everyone-eats-food-history-cultural-preservation-at-the-national-museum-of-african-american-history-culture/>, Published November 14, 2016.

Blog Post, “Branding a Man, Branding a New Country: Abel Buell’s New and Correct Map of the United States, 1784” *Preservation Journey*, <https://preservationjourney.wordpress.com/2016/10/21/branding-a-man-branding-a-new-country-abel-buells-new-and-correct-map-of-the-united-states-of-america-1784/>, Published October 21, 2016.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presentation, “Historically Situated: History, Memory, and Place,” Fort Ticonderoga (October 2021).

Co-presentation, “Crafting History and a Place of Honor for Mary Brice at Point of Honor,” with Leslie King at the Virginia Forum, Virginia War Memorial (March 2020).

Presentation, “Creating the Illusion of a Pure Colonial Past in 20th Century Connecticut,” *The Place of the Urban Past before ‘Public History,’ 1850-1960*, University of Antwerp (September 2021).

Panel, “Philanthropy and Public History,” Working Group at the National Council on Public History, Atlanta, GA (March 2020). *Canceled Covid-19*.

Presentation, “Paul Wayland Bartlett’s Lafayette on Horseback and World War I,” at the Preservation and Memory,

Cultural and Historic Preservation Conference, Salve Regina University (October 2019).

Presentation, “The Panther and the Bulldog: The Visual and Material Culture of Solidarity in New Haven, Connecticut,” at *The Radical Sixties: Aesthetics, Politics, and the Histories of Solidarity*, University of Brighton, UK (June 2019).

Co-presentation, “Commemorating the Past, Healing the Present, Working for the Future: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama,” with Dr. Tanja Schult (Stockholm University) at the *Monuments, Museums, and Murals: Preservation, Commemoration, and American Identity*, Çanakkale, Turkey (May 2019).

Co-facilitator, “Monuments in Play,” National Council on Public History, Hartford, CT (March 2019).

Presentation, “Benedict Arnold’s House: The Making and Unmaking of an American,” Biannual Meeting of the European Early American Studies Association, London, UK (December 2018).

Panel Organizer, “The Outsiders: Makers & Creatives Working with History Outside the Museum,” 100th Annual Conference, New England Museum Association, Stamford, CT (November 2018).

Presentation, “Benedict Arnold’s House: The Making and Unmaking of an American,” for the Pennsylvania Historical Association meeting, Lancaster, PA (October 2018).

Panel Organizer, “Crumbling Pedestals and Monumental Follies: Truth and/or Consequences after Charlottesville,” American Association for State and Local History, Kansas City, MO (September 2018).

Presentation, “The Politics of Public Art in Jefferson Country,” for the opening of the Manchester Centre for Public History and Heritage, conference “Moving Monuments: History, Memory and the Politics of Public Sculpture,” Manchester, England (April 2018).

Presentation during “Stubby Weekend” at the World War I: Beyond the Front Lines exhibit, Knights of Columbus Museum (April 2018).

Presentation, “What to do about Columbus?” Monumental Narratives: Revisiting New England’s Public Memorials Sponsored by the Grace Slack McNeil Program for Studies in

American Art at Wellesley College and Historic Deerfield, Inc. (March 2018).

Panel, World War I Forum, Southern Connecticut State University (November 2017).

Presentation, “The Politics of Public Art in Jefferson Country,” Troubling Histories: Public Art and Prejudice, University of Johannesburg, South Africa (November 2017).

Presentation, “Monumental Stories of the 102nd Regiment,” West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center (October 2017).

Presentation, “Breaking Bad (Glass): Yale University, the City of New Haven, and the Painting of Public Memory of Enslavement,” Universities, Slavery, Public Memory, & The Built Landscape, University of Virginia and the Slave Dwelling Project (October 2017).

Presentation, “The Spirit of 1776/1917: Town and Gown Prepares for War,” The Myriad Faces of War: 1917 and Its Legacy, Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, NZ (April 2017). “The Spirit of 1776/1917” presentation was also given at the New Haven Museum and the Connecticut State Library (May 2017).

Presentation, “The ‘Cile Turner and Luke Jordan Historical Markers: A Case Study in Public History in Lynchburg,” The Virginia Forum (March 2017).

Presentation, “Monuments to the Vultures: Examining the Story of Benedict Arnold and John André in New York,” Researching New York Conference, Albany, NY; also given as a

poster at the North American Conference on British Studies, Washington, D.C. (November 2016)

Panel Presentation, “Benedict Arnold’s House: The Making and Unmaking of an American Home,” American Studies Association, Denver (November 2016)

Presentation, “Monuments for the Vultures: Benedict Arnold and John André in Anglo-American Visual and Material Culture,” Britain and the World conference, King’s College, London (June 2016)

Presentation, “‘Ruins in Ruin:’ Art, Heritage, and Preservation in Wartime,” Waterford Public Library, Connecticut (June 2016)

Round Table, “Objectify Benedict Arnold: Making Memory of America’s Traitor,” Teaching with a Material World/Cool Stuff + Pedagogy of Public Humanities, NE Modern Language Association, Hartford (March 2016).

Presentation, “Connecticut’s Monuments Men: Saving Cultural Heritage during World War II,” Jabez Smith House, Groton, Connecticut (October 2015).

Exhibit Walk & Talk, “Deane Keller: New Haven’s Portrait Artist, Muralist and Monuments Man,” International Festival of Arts & Ideas (June 2015).

FURTHER STUDIES / WORKSHOPS

Summer School (Chicago), The Victorian Society in America (2020—postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19)

Summer School (London), The Victorian Society in America (2017) *Fellowship

London House Course, Attingham Trust (2016) *Fellowship from the American Friends of Attingham Trust

Tangible Things, MOOC led by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Sarah Carter and Ivan Gaskell, Harvard Ed Ex, certificate (2015)

Mapping the Humanities, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities with Google Earth Outreach (2015)

The Digital City: New Approaches in the Digital Humanities, New York Metro American Studies Association (2015)

Public Art & Placemaking Preconference, Americans for the Arts, Nashville, TN (July 2014) *Fellowship

Reading Artifacts Summer Institute, Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation, Ottawa (2012) *Fellowship

Local Arts Classroom, Americans for the Arts webinar on developing leadership, management and fundraising skills in the arts (2012)

Culture as Resource: Cultural Practices and Policies after '89, Central European University, Budapest (2010) *Fellowship

Interpreting Historical Images for Teaching and Research, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts (2010)

Group Study Exchange, Honduras and Guatemala, Rotary International Foundation (2009) *Fellowship

Gona Paleoanthropological Research Project, Great Rift Valley, Ethiopia (2008)

Attingham Summer School on the English Country House, England (2008) *Fellowship

Fulbright Scholar Award, Swaziland National Museum, Eswatini, 2008—2010.

Mounds, Earthworks, and the Prehistory of the Ohio Valley, NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop, Columbus, Ohio (2006) *Fellowship

The American Artist in Yellowstone, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Wyoming (2005) *Fellowship

Attingham Study Week on the English Country House, England (2001) *Fellowship

Summer School in 19th century American Architecture, Victorian Society, Newport (1999) *Fellowship

Perspectives on the Decorative Arts in Early America, Winterthur, Delaware (1998) *Fellowship

Student Conservation Association (SCA) Resource Assistant internship, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado (1995)

Archaeology Field School, Rogers Island, Fort Edward, New York, Adirondack Community College (1994)