

# AMANDA ROPER

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## EDUCATION

### B.A. History

College of Charleston

2011

*Magna Cum Laude*

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## CERTIFICATIONS

### Certified Interpretive Guide

National Association for Interpretation

2024

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## LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

### National Trust for Historic Preservation

40 Under 40: People Saving Places

2018

### Historic House Museum Consortium of Washington, D.C.

Board Member

2022 - 2024

## EXPERIENCE

### Public Historian

Freelance

May 2024 - Present

- Offer in-person and virtual talks and customized tours on a wide variety of historical topics, including architectural history, women's history, African American history, and religious history.
- Provide research and consultation services for museums and historic sites going through the interpretive planning process or implementing interpretive programs and exhibits.
- Research and write articles and books about history, museums, and historic preservation.

### Senior Manager of Public Programs & Interpretation

Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House

National Trust for Historic Preservation

January 2023 - May 2024

- Researched and developed interpretive plans for Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House that advanced the site's mission of telling the full American story and implemented a wide variety of interpretive tours, programs, and exhibits.
- Built trust and fostered ongoing relationships with descendants, local community groups, and organizations and collaborated with them in the development and delivery of interpretation at the site.
- Recruited, hired, trained, and supervised volunteers, guides, interpreters, and educators.
- Through expanded interpretation and public programs engaged new and repeat visitors and built support.

### Museum Director

Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden

Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation

February 2022 - January 2023

- Responsible for the operations and management of the museum which included overseeing budgeting, development, partnerships, programming, marketing, and the preservation of the site and its collection.
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- Identified and secured funding from private donors and grant organizations to support the site's programs and preservation. This included raising \$100,000 to complete a Historic Structures Report.
- Executed new interpretive and furnishings plans to tell a more complete history of the site.
- Revitalized the museum's membership program and implemented a new data management platform to better communicate with and retain members.
- Worked closely with the museum's Board of Directors on strategic planning, fundraising, community outreach, and preservation initiatives.
- Served as the primary spokesperson for the museum to stakeholders, the media, and the public.

## **Manager of Interpretation**

April 2017 - February 2022

- Managed daily tours and museum operations.
- Recruited, trained, and supervised volunteers, interns, and part-time staff.
- Created educational programs and exhibits based around the site's history and collections.
- Cared for the museum's archives and collections.
- Marketed the museum through traditional and social media.
- Collaborated with other regional historic sites and community partners to create educational and community-enhancing programming.

## **Visitor Services Assistant**

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Smithsonian Institution

October 2016 - April 2017

- Assisted large numbers of public visitors at the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- Worked to provide orientation and access to all visitors to the museum and resolve visitor problems and complaints.
- Facilitated dialogue around topics in African American history and culture, including difficult content, in the museum's exhibitions.
- Supervised visitor services volunteers, by preparing ongoing volunteer training and daily communications, and providing performance feedback.

## **Park Ranger (Interpretation)**

National Mall and Memorial Parks

National Park Service

June - September 2016

- Researched and created interpretive tours highlighting the diverse stories of America's past found at the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.
- Engaged with the visiting public, providing site orientation and historical information.
- Ensured visitor safety and compliance with park rules and regulations.
- Protected and monitored park resources and reported maintenance and repair issues.

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## **Museum Interpreter**

Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House

National Trust for Historic Preservation

April - June 2016

- Created and led interpretive tours at two architecturally and historically significant houses, Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House.

## **Lead Cultural History Interpretive Aide**

### **Cultural History Intepretive Aide**

McLeod Plantation Historic Site

Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission

March 2015 - March 2016

- Developed and led educational tours and programs at McLeod Plantation Historic Site.
- Conducted research, using oral histories and written sources, to tell the story of the site and its place within Southern U.S., African American, and women's history.
- Presented at a workshop about interpretive techniques with an emphasis on interpreting the history of slavery and race in America.
- Registered, catalogued, and inventoried the site's collection of archaeological materials, books, decorative arts, and agricultural tools.

## **Lead Historic House Interpreter**

### **Historic House Interpreter**

Heyward-Washington House and Joseph Manigault House

The Charleston Museum

February 2011 - August 2014

- Researched and wrote tours of both historic houses that explored Charleston's eighteenth and nineteenth century history, architecture, and decorative arts.
- Responsible for opening and closing the sites, securing the houses and their collections, supervising and training other staff, and accounting for daily ticket and museum shop sales.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS**

- **Frank Lloyd Wright: Patrons & Stewards** (Presentation), National Building Museum, June 2024
- **Woodlawn: People and Perspectives** (Exhibit), Woodlawn Plantation, 2024
- **Hosting the President: Presidential Connections to Lee-Fendall House** (Exhibit), Lee-Fendall House Museum, 2022
- **Love & Death: Victorian Hair Keepsakes** (Exhibit), Lee-Fendall House Museum, 2021
- **The New Woman: Life in Progressive Era Alexandria** (Exhibit), Lee-Fendall House Museum, 2019-2020
- **John L. Lewis: Public Figure, Private Man** (Exhibit), Lee-Fendall House Museum, 2017-2023
- **A Matter of Mind and Heart: Remembering the Japanese American Internment** (Presentation), National Mall & Memorial Parks, August 2016