

Geoffrey Alan Alger

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McAllen, Texas 78504

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Summary:

A highly motivated, skilled and experienced museum professional with over thirty-five years of experience in a variety of positions, including Executive Director, Assistant Director, Chief Curator, Curator of Exhibits and Collections, Exhibits Coordinator, Registrar and Research Librarian. Primary experience in collections management, exhibit design and preparation, and museum administration. Experience working with boards, staff, volunteers, the public, educators, designers and engineers. Strong communication skills. Solid background and experience in museum operations, current standards and practices, basic preservation methods, record keeping, historical and cultural interpretation, and training and evaluation of staff, volunteers and docents. Additional training and experience in public education, design, advertising and marketing, photography and writing. Strong interests in aviation history, natural history, art, music, design and 20th-century material culture. Experience working in world-class aviation museums, (civil and military), and regional/local history museums. Active on social media since mid-2000s. Member of several local history groups; personally responsible for creating hundreds of interesting, educational and well-received history and culture-related posts. Responsible, creative, energetic and dependable. Hard-worker with a solid work ethic. Excellent health with no physical restrictions.

Education:

Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

BFA Studio Art.

Minored in Museum Studies and Art History.

Graduated Cum Laude 1996.

Alternative Certification for Teachers Program (ACT-RGV), McAllen, Texas

Completed all coursework and passed state exams, 2007.

Pre-certified to teach All-Level Art (Early Childhood through 12th Grade Art) and Early Childhood through 4th Grade (EC-4 Generalist)

Austin Community College, Austin, Texas, 1991.

Completed Private Pilot Ground School.

Included coursework on airplane systems, aerodynamics, airport environments, communications, meteorology, flight regulations, aircraft performance, navigation, weight and balance and human factors.

Armstrong Aviation, Harlingen, Texas, 1987-1988
Attended General Aviation Flight School.
Successfully completed Solo, Solo Cross-Country and Basic Ground School.
65 flight hours completed, majority as Pilot-In-Command.

Professional Experience:

2019-2024

Exhibits Coordinator, Mission Historical Museum.

- Responsible for developing long-term and short-term exhibits for two historic buildings comprising the museum complex, including the John Shary Building (1939) and the United States Post Office Building (1940).
- Responsible for developing rotating exhibits for three satellite exhibit cases; one at Mission City Hall and two at the Speer Memorial Library.
- Responsible for researching, planning, production, installation and maintenance of all in-house exhibits.
- Researched, developed and implemented the first fully comprehensive, timeline-based exhibits plan for the museum.
- Researched, developed and implemented interpretive exhibits for the 1940 Post Office Building.
- Researched the history of both buildings and compiled historic documentation for use in interpretation, restoration and future establishment of historical designation.
- Created, developed and maintained large research database of historical photos, documents, newspaper articles, personal accounts, etc. for use by the public, museum staff and researchers.
- Assisted museum staff with annual special events including history tours, movie screenings, cultural observations, quilt show, sister city celebrations, and citrus fiesta.
- Part of award-winning team that earned the City of Mission one of two 2021 Municipal Excellence Awards in City Spirit and Communication Programs for cities over 25,000 in population. The award recognized the City for its Discover Historic Mission virtual interactive map. (Produced by Mission Historical Museum staff)
- Participated in museum and preservation-related webinars, continued museum education and staying current on museum trends and best practices.
- Used PastPerfect museum collections database software to perform research on various items from collection and archives.
- Institutional membership with Texas Association of Museums. (TAM)

2016-2017

Authored book "McAllen Architecture: A Visual Journey" with photographer Pino Shah.

2014-2015

Executive Director, Weslaco Museum, Weslaco, Texas

- Responsible for overseeing daily museum operations, responsible for opening/closing, submitting bills to CPA, mailing out bills, making bank deposits, preparing and following annual budget, balancing cash drawer for admissions and gift shop sales, coding all receipts for CPA, tracking on volunteer hours, tracking and submitting reports on daily/monthly/yearly museum attendance numbers.
- Responsible for hiring, training, supervising and evaluating volunteers, docents and interns.
- Worked with a variety of museum stakeholders, including Weslaco City Manager, Mayor, library, Parks and Recreation Department, Chamber of Commerce, EDC, and other local non-profits.
- Responsible for successfully planning museum programs and educational activities, school tours, art openings and various fund-raising events.
- Responsible for overseeing museum collections and research library.
- Substantially improved collection organization, including proper storage, classification and nomenclature.
- Worked diligently to learn the unique history and culture of Weslaco and the surrounding area.
- Forged positive relationships with the public, city officials, boards, real and potential donors.
- Served as ambassador and chief spokesperson for the museum.
- Created and disseminated press releases and museum newsletter, created social media posts on a regular basis to educate, inform and raise public awareness of the museum's existence, purposes and goals.
- Responsible for changing out the museum art gallery on a quarterly basis.
- Utilized the museum collection to plan and create new and future exhibits.
- Responsible for ensuring museum building was properly maintained and made repairs as necessary in a timely manner.
- Created and implemented disaster-management plan.
- \Worked with Weslaco ISD to expand school tours and interactive activities.
- Restored the museum to good standing with the public and city officials.

2008-2013

Director, McAllen Heritage Center, McAllen, Texas.

- Responsible for opening and closing the museum on a daily basis.
- Responsible for exhibit research, design, preparation, installation and maintenance.
- Responsible for registration and accessioning of incoming donations.
- Responsible for recording and tracking incoming/outgoing loans.
- Responsible for collections management, creating and implementing educational, historical and cultural programs, historical research, public relations, staff, volunteer

and intern management, and assisting with planning and implementation of fund-raising events.

- Developed good working relationships with various stakeholders, including board members, volunteers, city officials, and members of the community.
- Worked on a variety of projects including special exhibits, lecture series, public service announcements (PSA's), and artist showings.
- Responsible for strategic planning. Created and successfully implemented short and medium-term goals, and developed long-term plans and strategic goals.
- Responsible for implementation and adherence to museum policies, goals and budget.
- Stayed current on museum best practices, standards and trends regarding museum operations, ethics and historic interpretation.
- Performed preventative maintenance and light conservation on museum collections as needed.
- Worked effectively to cultivate new museum donors, supporters and volunteers.
- Maintained positive relationships with various stakeholders, including volunteers, board members, past and current donors and city officials.
- Worked effectively to market and promote the museum by using museum website, social media, print media, radio and television.
- Worked effectively to increase museum membership and volunteer numbers.
- Actively worked to identify, document and preserve buildings, homes and sites of historic and cultural significance in the city of McAllen.
- Created database for museums photo collection, established publicly-accessible research library.
- Member of creative team that produced the hardback coffee-table style book, "McAllen: Leading the Way-The First 100 Years." (Responsible for historic research, fact-checking and curation of photographs and documents)

2008-2009

Chief Curator, Archivist, Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, McMinnville, Oregon.

- Responsible for organizing, maintaining and utilizing museum collection, including military, civilian and commercial aircraft, space vehicles, test planes, aviation-related artifacts, the Howard Hughes H-4 archive (documents, blueprints, models, etc., pertaining to Hughes H-4, commonly known as the "Spruce Goose" and research library.
- Planned, designed and installed exhibits, artifact stands, mounts and bases.
- Worked with education, communications and public relations departments to coordinate special events, produce text for new guidebook and bi-monthly newsletters, and provided information and material for various educational programs and marketing initiatives.
- Worked with Operations Director, Head of Restoration and Corporate Liaison to oversee and facilitate new Space Museum building design, construction and exhibit

installation. (Including macro artifacts like full-size Saturn V rocket, cable-suspended space capsule, cable-suspended Sikorski Sea King helicopter, etc.)

- Worked with designers and fabricators at Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center on design, fabrication and installation plans for new Space Building.
- Worked with National Air & Space Museum, National Museum of Naval Aviation, and all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and NASA to facilitate and maintain inter-museum loans, including military aircraft, spacecraft, engines, artifacts and educational materials.
- Developed and implemented logistical plans for museum department move into new Space Building. (A duplicate building to the one that houses the H-4 Hercules, SR-71, etc.)
- Worked with staff, designers and engineers to plan logistics for move of macro-artifacts into new Space Building. (Including possibility of Space Shuttle)
- Arranged for, and coordinated traveling exhibits, including shipping and receiving, press releases, media communications, and set-up/break-down of exhibits.
- Represented the museum at special events, weekly meetings, IMAX premiers, and daily museum operations. (Donations, VIP tours, etc.)
- Actively worked to identify gaps in the museums aviation collection and made recommendations on purchases.
- Member of museum acquisitions team that travelled to survey potential donations or purchases of various aircraft, artifacts, etc.

2007-2008

Museum Curator, Museum Safety Officer, Tillamook Air Museum, Tillamook, Oregon.

- Responsible for organization, preservation, interpretation and registration of museums aviation-related artifact collection.
- Responsible for accepting and accessioning incoming donations.
- Responsible for researching, designing and installing all museum exhibits.
- Responsible for research and interpretation of historic site-former WW2 U.S. Naval Air Station Tillamook (NAS Tillamook).
- Responsible for interpretation of historic blimp hangar (Hanger B, one of the largest free-span, arched wooden structures in the world)
- Responsible for interpretation of WW2 history, history of Pacific Northwest during WW2, and history of the men and women who served during WW2, either in the military or on the Home Front.
- Assisted with planning and implementation of annual special events, ("Planes, Trains and Automobiles", Veteran's Day observances, etc.)
- Served as public and media relations contact for museum. Appeared on KOIN-TV's "Good Morning Portland", and in local newspaper.
- Assisted with movement of aircraft, opened/closed hanger doors, operated aircraft tugs, museum vehicles.
- Created informative, educational and entertaining posts on social media to promote the museum and its mission.

- Performed daily, monthly and quarterly safety inspections on museum building, hanger, and equipment, including fire extinguishers, fire-suppression systems, heating and cooling systems, and security systems.
- Responsible for new employee safety orientation and training, and for maintaining and implementing disaster management plan.
- Conducted periodic fire, earthquake and tsunami drills.
- Member, Western Oregon Museum Association.
- Member, American Association of State and Local History. (AASLH)

2002-2006

Owner/Proprietor Blue Angel Antiques & Vintage, Mission, Tx and McAllen, Tx.

- Owned and operated small antique and vintage business.
- Responsible for daily store operations. Opened/closed. Bought & sold a variety of antiques and vintage items.
- Responsible for creating and maintaining interesting and visually-appealing store displays.
- Created and maintained social media pages, webpage, and E-commerce sites.
- Founding member of McAllen Artwalk program, which sought to promote art and artists to the wider community by hosting monthly open-houses.

1998-2002

Store Inventory Manager (SIM), Assistant Night Manager, Bookseller, Half-Price Books, Austin, Texas.

- Responsible for assisting manager with daily store operations in one of the top stores in the chain. (Top 3 in sales per square feet)
- Assisted with scheduling, training and supervision of 12-plus employees.
- Responsible for maintaining store inventory, buying/selling books, records, etc., making daily bank deposits, closing store at night.
- Excellent customer service skills, consistently described as “an exemplary employee” on annual performance evaluations.

1991-1996

Student, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Major: Studio Art (drawing, painting)

Additional upper-level coursework in printmaking, photography, graphic design, 3D design, color theory, and sculpture.

Minors: Museum Studies and Art History.

Deans List, Council of Scholars, Gallery Assistant, Teachers Assistant.

Graduated Cum Laude 1996.

1981-1991

Assistant Museum Director, Curator of Collections and Exhibits.

Commemorative Air Force (CAF) American Airpower Heritage Museum, Harlingen, Texas.

- Responsible for organization, preservation and interpretation of a large, world-class World War Two military aviation collection, including vintage military aircraft, vehicles, artifacts, uniforms, equipment, textiles, paper ephemera, and historic building and hanger.
- Responsible for overseeing daily museum operations, including opening/closing building, maintaining museum exhibits and artifacts, overseeing staff and volunteers, initiating and answering museum correspondence, performing historical research as needed, conducting tours as needed.
- Created docent training program and educational outreach programs.
- Created Oral History program.
- Researched, planned, designed and installed all exhibits, including short-term special exhibits and long-term exhibits.
- Contributed to award-winning museum magazine ("CAF Dispatch") and museum newsletter as writer and photographer. (Produced in-house)
- Participated in two American Association of Museums (AAM) sponsored Museum Assessment Programs. (MAPs 1 & 2), successfully resulting in national accreditation.
- (Worked closely with Jack Hilliard, Head of National Air & Space Museum)
- Created and implemented Disaster Management Plan.
- Assisted Museum Director with daily museum operations, special events, air shows, budget preparation, and donor outreach.
- Member, Long-Range Planning Committee.
- Worked to identify areas of need in museum collection and exhibits and actively made acquisitions to fill those gaps.
- Visited other aviation/military/transportation museums in my professional capacity to observe, learn and network. These included National Air & Space Museum, United States Air Force Museum, Castle Air Museum, Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Texas Air Museum.
- Selected to attend Winedale Museum Seminar, an intensive, two-week program designed for museum professionals, sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Association of Museums. (I was the first, second-generation museum professional to ever attend-My mother having gone through the program years earlier)

Member, Texas Association of Museums. (TAM)

Member, American Association for State and Local History. (AASLH)

Member, American Association of Museums (AAM)

Member, International Association of Transportation Museums (IATM)