

LAUREN JOHNSON

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Museum professional with 10+ years' experience in Natural History and Fine Art Collections. Freelance artist and amateur gardener with a deep appreciation for the natural world. Team player with a strong work ethic that seeks creative, strategic solutions to promote growth and collaboration.

EDUCATION

MAY 2021

MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSEUM STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

- **Relevant Coursework:** Museum Education, Collection Management, Federal Laws & Museums, Museums: Cultures & Communities, Museums and Native Cultures

MAY 2011

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

- **Relevant Coursework:** Scientific Illustration, Natural History Illustration, Advanced Painting Techniques

FIELD MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

JAN 2021 - PRESENT

ASSISTANT COLLECTIONS MANAGER, MAMMALS DEPARTMENT

Works with Collection Manager to oversee use of 250,000+ mammal specimens and associated archives. Catalogs and manages biological database, updates digital records across all aggregates (including GBIF, Morphosource, etc.), maintains up to date federal and local permits, supervises interns and volunteers, and manages extensive international loan program. Prepares invoices, financial documents, and budgets for the department. Supervises every step of specimen preparation from field to drawer.

JAN 2016 – DEC 2020

COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT, MAMMALS DEPARTMENT

Digitized specimen data into KeEmu, managed inventories of incoming specimens, prepared mammal specimens for permanent housing, reimagined the FMNH Integrative Pest Management protocol, and was responsible for the dermestid beetle colonies. Standardized research workflows and coordinated research visits to collection.

JAN 2014 – DEC 2015

DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST, BOTANY & ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENTS

Trained as a digital media specialist with a focus in Microscopy and Microscope Slide Photography. Hired for 2 year grant through Grainger Digital Initiative to manage the Olympus BX51 Motorized Microscope Slide Scanner. Photographed over 5,000 high-resolution histological and resin mounted slides across botanical and zoological collections. Maintained photo labs for insects, botany, and fish collections. Trained staff and students on Olympus Microscope Slide Scanner.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

JAN 2014 – PRESENT

EDUCATOR, FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Contractor for education department. Coordinates public outreach events and regularly leads nature based educational programs including: Boy and Girl Scout badge days, Summer camps, Family Day programs, 'Meet a Scientist,' Member's events, behind the scenes tours, and off-site events.

WINTER 2017

SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS, KENOSHA PUBLIC MUSEUM

Developed curriculum for scientific illustration workshops and led classes in 2D drawing, stippling, pen & ink, and watercolor techniques

2014 – 2016

INSECT PINNING DEMONSTRATIONS, FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Led multiple insect pinning workshops with undergraduate students using rehydrated Lepidoptera specimens. Streamlined workflows for sorting and cataloging backlog material.

2014 – 2016

PAINTING INSTRUCTOR, PAINT NITE, LLC

Lead teacher for beginners acrylic painting workshops. Trained and supervised all incoming instructors. Managed inventory and ordered all classroom supplies.

FIELD WORK

2022-PRESENT

BIOACOUSTIC WALKING TRANSECTS, CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT & COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

Ongoing collection of bioacoustic and bioinformatic data from Chicago parks and forest preserves in collaboration with Lincoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute. Walking transects and camera trapping done in various wooded areas to track urban wildlife across Chicago.

2021-PRESENT

CALUMET ANIMAL AND PATHOGEN TRAINING URBAN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (C.A.P.T.U.R.E), CHICAGO, IL

Small mammal surveys across Chicago south side parks funded from the Walder Foundation Biota Award. Trapping grids utilizing 'capture-mark-recapture' technique to collect specimens and their parasites across both industrial and urban corridors. This study aims to estimate small mammal diversity, vector abundance, and pathogen prevalence across different landscapes as well as to understand the implications of these issues for human health and wellbeing.

JANUARY 2020

MAMMAL TRAPPING AND SPOTLIGHTING, CANDELARIA, TX

Collaborated with Angelo State Natural History Collection faculty to conduct field work in remote, montane deserts of West Texas. Captured and prepared small to mid-sized mammals in the field for both FMNH and ASNHC permanent collections.

OUTREACH

JANUARY 2020

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE, 'ON THE TRAIL OF BIG CATS WITH STEVE WINTER'

Showcased large felid specimens at opening night of National Geographic Live's documentary series at Auditorium Theater, Chicago.

JUNE 2018

TWEEN SUMMER CAMP – 'ALL ABOUT MAMMALS'

Lead scientist for weeklong summer camp for ages 11-13. 'Twins' from across Chicago learned about all about mammals and synthesized this knowledge by creating unique interactive stories through *Scratch*, a block based coding program. Twins also participated in hands-on live trap and release techniques of small mammals in the museum gardens.

OCTOBER 18-21 2018

'WEDIGBIO: WORLDWIDE ENGAGEMENT FOR DIGITIZING BIOCOLLECTIONS' EVENT

Hosted over 600 community scientists and students in a 4 day 'transcription party.' These volunteers helped digitize over 16,247 historic museum objects and specimens into an open, globally accessible, digital resource

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

THE BRAIN SCOOP – LIVESTREAM DISSECTION: NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXfir7UaPwU>

2016 – PRESENT

DOZIN' WITH THE DINOS

Facilitates museum overnight program including behind-the-scenes tours, scientific illustration, science tables and leads overnight teams when needed

2014- PRESENT

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS (SPNHC) & AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS (AAM), MEMBER

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

2023

FIELD DREAMS, FIELD MUSEUM WOMEN'S BOARD

Secured donations for upgrades and repairs to the dermestid beetle colony including the integration of new technology and infrastructure – \$8,000

2023

IN THE FIELD, FMNH MEMBER MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Johnson, Lauren. "Things that Shriek in the Night." In The Field, Vol. 4, Issue 3, Fall 2023, p.8.

2022

JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IDEAS AND OUTCOMES, PHOTO CREDITS

Pivarski, Melanie, et al. "People-Powered Research and Experiential Learning: Unraveling

Hidden Biodiversity," *Journal of Research Ideas and Outcomes* 8, (2022)

2018

WOMEN IN SCIENCE COLLABORATION, FMNH WOMEN IN SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Funding and support for the bat house project in the Rice Native Gardens. Worked with Education employees to fundraise for and install a bat house with Chicago local school group and summer camp program

2017

SKULLS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCOIS ROBERT, FORWARD

Robert, Francois. *Skulls: Photographs by Francois Robert, From the Collection of the Field Museum Chicago* (Printed by the author), 2017.

2015

THE ROYAL SOCIETY PUBLISHING: BIOLOGY LETTERS, PHOTO CREDIT

Stewart, Thomas A. (2015). "The origin of a new fin skeleton through tinkering." *The Royal Society Publishing: Biology Letters*. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2015.0415>.

2013, 2014, 2017

'FIELD WORK' FRAME WAREHOUSE, IAN SHERWIN GALLERY, CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE

Curated and fundraised for three separate gallery exhibitions across Chicago that showcased artwork from over 50 Field Museum employees and community members

MUSEUM EXHIBITION EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 2021

'WILD COLOR'

Identified mounted, taxidermy mammals for display in 'Wild Color.' Prepared invoices and permits for mammals travelling internationally. Installed and reinstalled specimens from specialty cases.

FEBRUARY 2020

'A NATURAL TALENT: THE TAXIDERMY OF CARL COTTON'

Identified provenance data for orangutan death mask and drafted conservation reports for specimen. Worked with conservation team to clean mask and repair damaged cellulose and plaster.

MARCH 2017

'SPECIMENS: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF LIFE'

Reassembled *Elephas maximus indicus* skeleton for display. Assessed osteological damage with conservation reports and applied B72 to damaged skeletal material. Created mounts to showcase metatarsal and sesamoid bones

FINE ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

2017 **Field Work III**, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

2015 **Uprising**, Beverly Arts Alliance, Chicago, IL

2014 **FieldWork II**, Ian Sherwin Gallery, Chicago, IL

2013 **Field Work I**, Frame Warehouse Gallery, Evanston, IL

2012 **Resurrection**, Dispatch Gallery, Chicago, IL

2012 **Hang It Up**, Pop Up Gallery, Evanston, IL
2012 **BLUE**, Dispatch Gallery, Chicago, IL
2012 **Emerging Artists Exhibition**, Morpho Gallery, Chicago, IL
2011 **Art Stripped Down**, National Pastime Gallery, Chicago, IL
2011 **SAIC Spring BFA Show**, Sullivan Gallery. Chicago, IL
2011 **Fire and Ice**, Water Street Gallery, Benton Harbor, MI
2010 **Influx**, Wellington Couch House, Chicago, IL
2008 **SAIC Art Bash**, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL

PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 6, 2023

WOMEN'S BOARD FIELD DREAMS, FMNH

'Bloody Work: Bug Room Makeover' fundraising lunch presentation

JUNE 3, 2022

EARTH FORCE SUMMIT, FMNH

Keynote speaker for approx. 60 students from Chicago Public Schools on Museum Management and Career Growth

JUNE 2020

'THE ROLE OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS IN GLOBAL CHALLENGES: MANAGING COLLECTIONS IN CRAZY TIMES,' SPNHC & ICOM MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the International Council of Museums Committee joint meeting. Attendee.

JUNE 2019

'MAKING THE CASE FOR NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS,' SPNHC MEETING, CHICAGO, IL

Helped organize the 2019 SPNHC meeting, held at the Field Museum in Chicago. Led behind the scenes tours and worked various aspects of the meeting (Registration, time keeping in seminars, coordinating with the Chicago Hilton staff, etc.)

APRIL 3, 2018

WOMEN IN SCIENCE LUNCHEON W/ SPECIAL GUEST JANE GOODALL, FMNH

Selected as a Women in Science collections candidate to represent Gantz Family Collections Center. Attended WIS luncheon and evening lecture with Dr. Goodall

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

'THE AGE OF DIGITIZATION,' BOARD OF TRUSTEES LECTURE

Worked with Institutional Advancement to present on the Grainger Digital Initiative and showcased innovative tech including the Olympus BX51 Motorized Microscope Slide Scanner

**Adult and Pediatrics First Aid/CPR/AED with Life Threatening Bleeding and Tourniquet
Certified 16 May 2023**

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST