



Dana L. Saylor

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Professional Experience

Artist-in-Residence, *Officina Lieve, Borgo San Lorenzo, Firenze* *January-Feb 2016*

About: Art and creative placemaking residency with grassroots coworking and cross-disciplinary space, located in Borgo San Lorenzo 30 miles north of Firenze, Italy. Worked with team of artists, architects, and organizers to create a plan of historic grist mills in the Mugello Valley region, heritage grains, and to promote them and the old lifestyle using a number of techniques: a coloring book, a regional tour, website, etc.

Principal, *Old Time Roots Historic Research Services* *2008- Present*

About: Historical research and preservation consulting firm, specializing in Western New York and statewide history. Architectural and family histories provided to private, governmental and non-profit clients.

Duties: Performed over 50 in-depth architectural and public history projects for private citizens and organizations, wrote local landmark applications, contributed to National Register nominations, and performed research toward new historic districts, and for films.

Event Coordinator, *CITY of NIGHT Arts Festival* *April 2012- August 2015*

About: Multi-disciplinary event held at a derelict grain elevator complex in Buffalo, NY, with art installations, live music, art fair and more, free to the public. 16,000 attendees at 2014 iteration.

Duties: Founded event, led team of 26 coordinators; responsible for grant writing, historical interpretation, sustainability, logistics and promotion. Shepherded expansive growth, which led to the organizing body, ELAB, receiving a \$30,000 unsolicited SEED Grant from Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

Buffalo Project Manager, *SS Columbia Project* *Spring 2015-16*

About: A New York City-based non-profit which has purchased the SS Columbia for restoration and eventual educational/excursion service on the Hudson River, with a year-long stop in Buffalo.

Duties: Served as connector to Buffalo network of waterfront, history and cultural organizations, planned innovative events for the public, promoted and marketed the ship's arrival for fundraising and education.

Programming Director, *Friends of the Buffalo Story* *February 2013-September 2014*

About: Citizen non-profit organization that provides heritage programming at the historic waterfront, as well as community and education involvements.

Duties: Creative ideation, travel and research, facilitated on-the-ground work at the site, program and organizational evaluation.

Co-Founder, *Emerging Leaders in the Arts Buffalo* *January 2010-present*

About: Non-profit created to support the work and the growth of the region's emerging artists. Provides public art events, art critique, education, and connection to mentors for the benefit of the arts community as a whole.

Duties: Co-founder and first secretary; CITY of NIGHT Event Coordinator, currently Vice President.

Research & Advocacy, *Buffalo's Young Preservationists* *2011-present*

About: Grassroots group who advocate for preservation and building stabilization projects, as well as activism and education around regional preservation issues.

Duties: Offer historical research services to the group as needed, for the purpose of telling the story of place. Was present for governmental meetings and public sessions; advocated for regional issues.

Co-Organizer, *"I'm Steel Standing"* *May 2010-March 2011*

About: The effort to preserve and rehabilitate the Bethlehem Steel North Administration Building in Lackawanna, New York.

Duties: With four colleagues, organized rallies and panel discussions, appearances on the news, door-to-door canvassing, wrote blog posts, editorials and historical web content, and collaborated with numerous other activists and local residents.

Lectures and Talks

A sampling of lectures and talks delivered from 2011 to the present:

Keynote Address, Roycroft Conference, East Aurora NY *October 2015*

Addressed Roycroft members about transformation, placemaking and success at any scale.

Keynote Address, Savannah Preservation Week, Savannah GA *May 2015*

Discussed the power of creative placemaking before an audience of SCAD students, faculty, advocates and members of the public.

Student Preservation Association, Savannah GA *January 2015*

Led a "practical preservation" intensive workshop for students in Savannah College of Art & Design's Preservation program.

National Preservation Conference, Savannah GA *Fall 2014*

Shared "DIY Preservation" and public engagement success stories with attendees at the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual gathering.

Emerging Leaders Institute, Buffalo NY *July 2014*

"Advocating for Emotional Experiences with Place" during Young Audiences of Western New York Emerging Leaders conference, held at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center.

Statewide Preservation Conference, Rochester NY *April 2014*

Presented on CITY of NIGHT's work to effect change through creative placemaking and "sneaky preservation".

Villa Maria College *April 2014*

"Creative Placemaking", discussion of my role in Buffalo's revitalization through creative means, with students and faculty.

Explore Buffalo Speaker Series *March 2014*

Discussed the power of emotional connections with place, and how to make advocates for historic architecture through unconventional (and creative) means.

National Preservation Conference *November 2013*

"Case Studies in Social Media", as part of panel discussion, leveraging of social media in historic preservation situations and events

Six Minute Building Stories *March 2013*

Presentation on my relationship with the built environment, as part of bi-annual Buffalo Architecture Foundation event.

National Preservation Conference *November 2012*

One of three presenters to the National Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Advisors on the subject of "DIY Preservation" and perspectives of my generation on how to make historic preservation more accessible and relevant to emerging professionals and citizens in general.

Preservation Plus Conference

September 2012

"Saving our City through Historic Research", education session.

Buffalo Unscripted

November 2011

Introduced "Arts & Culture" segment of film produced by National Trust for Historic Preservation during premiere in Buffalo.

Publications

A sampling of my published writing (most appeared in print; web links provided for reference):

"Revitalizing Legacy Cities: Placemaking, Rightsizing and Beyond." *Preservation Leadership Forum Blog*, 27 March 2014.
<<http://blog.preservationleadershipforum.org/2014/03/27/placemaking-revitalizing-legacy-cities/#.VCBs3hYWE20>>

"Local Lore: Illuminating Holiday Traditions." *Buffalo Spree Magazine*, December 2013.
<<http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/December-2013/Local-Lore-Illuminating-holiday-traditions/>>

"Linking Past to Present and Beyond at Silo City." *Buffalo Spree Magazine*, March 2013.
<<http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/March-2013/Preservation-Ready/>>

"Creative Placemaking: Revitalizing Through the Arts." *Forever Young*, October 2013.
<<http://www.foreveryoungwny.com/Forever-Young/October-2013/Creative-Placemaking-Revitalizing-through-the-arts/>>

"10 Tips for Introducing the Public to Preservation." *PreservationNation Blog*. 4 September 2012.
<<http://blog.preservationnation.org/2012/09/04/10-on-tuesday-10-tips-for-introducing-the-public-to-preservation/>>

"Perspective on Prospect." *Western New York Heritage*. Fall 2011. Print.

Research

A sampling of historical research I've performed over the past five years.

Elmwood East Historic District

2015

Extensive property and neighborhood-level research for architectural firm establishing a new historic district.

Wells Fargo Family History Research Center

2014

Ongoing genealogical and local Buffalo history research for the San Francisco-based firm.

Buffalo Homeopathic Hospital

2014

Completed local landmark nomination for historic property.

Grant-Amherst Historic District

Summer 2013

Property ownership and architectural research completed on over 50 properties in a proposed historic district. Contract work for local preservation architecture firm.

America's Best-Designed City, Paget Films

Summer 2013

Filmmaker John Paget, originally of Olympia, Washington, produced a film about the urban planning legacy in Buffalo and Western New York. I performed background research and provided access to historic imagery for use in the film.

Oliver's Restaurant

Spring 2013

Complete property, family and business history provided to then-owner of the restaurant, Henry Gorino.

Megan Smolenyak 2013
Hired to perform contract genealogical research for Smolenyak, one of the country's best-known family historians, who has her own firm but is also familiar to Americans through her work on the network television show *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Bethlehem Steel Administration Building 2012-2013
Researched history of the steel company and its predecessors in Pennsylvania, genealogy and works of architect Lansing Colton Holden, as well as present-day corporate information on current site owner.

Private Property Histories 2009-present
Researched over 50 neighborhood and individual property histories, published 20 histories

Awards and Recognition

Baird Foundation Travel Grant 2014
Scholarship to travel to National Preservation Conference in Savannah, GA

Congress for the New Urbanism "Local Activist" 2014
Scholarship to attend urbanism conference and events in Buffalo.

Oishei 20 Leaders 2014
Inducted into a class of 20 local non-profit and cultural leaders in the Western New York region by The John R. Oishei Foundation. The group requires inductees to participate in three day-long interactive retreats which include skill-building, networking and sharing of success stories between fellow members and previous classes.

National Trust Advisors March 2013
Invited to join as a member of the organization's advisory committee which provides locally-relevant information to the Trust so that leadership can make more effective investment, advocacy and organizational decisions across the country.

Preservation Buffalo-Niagara Award 2013
"Distinguished Merit, Group Achievement" as part of Buffalo's Young Preservationists for organizing and leading efforts to stabilize and redevelop historic structures in the Buffalo area.

Buffalo Spree "Game-Changer" Award 2012
Lauded as a Buffalo "connector" who has inspired significant change in the region since my arrival here in 2008.
<http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/December-2012/Buffalo-Game-Changers-Dana-Saylor-Furman/>

New York State Scholar, National Preservation Conference 2011
It was the knowledge I gained at the conference, due to this scholarship, that enabled me to become a more publicly-engaged preservation activist and citizen.

Press Coverage

Wulff, Samantha. "Photographic Memories." *Artvoice Magazine*, December 11, 2014.
http://artvoice.com/issues/v13n49/cover_story

Nyhius, Phil. "Buffalo Game-Changers: Dana Saylor." *Buffalo Spree Magazine*. December 2012.
<<http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/December-2012/Buffalo-Game-Changers-Dana-Saylor-Furman/>>

Nussbaumer, Newell. "Art Buff: Dana Saylor." *Buffalo Rising blog*. 13 March 2013.
<http://buffalorising.com/2013/03/art-buff-dana-saylor/>

Kearns, Michelle. "House Genealogist Reveals Stories Behind Buffalo's Old Homes." *The Buffalo News*. 26 October 2012.
<<http://www.buffalonews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121026/LIFE/121029327/1109>>

Callahan, Megan. "Empowering Neighbors: ELAB's Dana Saylor." *The Good Neighborhood*. 24 August 2011.

Education***State University of New York at Oswego***

Bachelor of Fine Arts, summa cum laude, studio art/art history.

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