
Jenny Pistella (nee Wedgbury)

Museum and Heritage Learning Consultant

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PROFILE

- A museum educator with over 12 years' experience of working in museums, galleries and heritage sites.
- Passionate and committed to facilitating access to all to culture and heritage.
- Excellent project and people management skills.
- Specialism in heritage learning and championing how we can make heritage relevant for audiences.
- Knowledgeable and well connected in the sector through roles in Group for Education in Museums (GEM), International Council of Museums (ICOM), Committee for Education and Cultural Action (CECA) and the Sandford Awards for museum education.
- Experienced in devising, developing and delivering learning programmes for schools, families and adult learners.
- Skilled at teaching museum education at postgraduate level and assessing and mentoring student trainees and apprentices on work-based learning programmes.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- Current **Museum Education Consultant** www.jennywedgbury.com. In March 2017 I set myself up as a freelance consultant working with museums, galleries and heritage sites to plan, deliver and support learning activities in the cultural sector. Recent clients have included the National Army Museum, UCL Museums, UCL Art History Summer School, Museums Association, V&A, Gunnersbury Park Museum and learning disabilities charity Heart n Soul.
- Current **Teaching Fellow on Museum Studies BA**, Museum Learning and Engagement undergraduate module at the University of Reading <https://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/LearnatMERL/merl-museumstudies.aspx>, based at the Museum of English and Rural Life.
- Current **Lead Assessor and Course Tutor for the New Museum School** www.cultureand.org. I am the Lead Assessor and Course Tutor for the New Museum School (NMS) work-based learning traineeship programme at Culture&. The aim of the NMS programme is to diversify the museum workforce by providing work-based training for BAME young people. I am responsible for teaching, mentoring and assessing 16 trainees in museums and galleries across London to complete their Level 3 Diploma in Cultural Heritage.
- Current **Visiting Lecturer** on the MA in Museums and Galleries in Education, UCL, Institute of Education, www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/museums-galleries-education-ma. I deliver lectures and have acted as a personal tutor for the Heritage, Material & Virtual Cultures, Responsive Museum and Dissertation modules. I have also been responsible for first and second marking of assignments and final dissertations.
- March 2015 **Public Programmer** for UCL Museums and Collections, UCL Culture www.ucl.ac.uk/culture. In my first role at UCL Museums I was a Public Programmer for the UCL Art Museum. In my second role, I had split responsibilities as a Public Programmer at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and working on museum outreach activities in Stratford, East London to support the UCL East plans for a new campus on the Olympic Park site. I was responsible for the delivery of a programme UCL staff and students, special interest groups, community organisations and the public.
- April 2014 **Acting Programme Manager for Families** at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) www.vam.ac.uk/families. I managed the families programme at the V&A as maternity cover for 1 year. I managed a team of 2 full time and 2 part-time members of staff and a team of 30 freelance facilitators and practitioners. I managed activities and the budget for the core

daily and weekend offer as well as regular holiday programming for families. I was also responsible for implementing a new families' community engagement offer at the V&A.

From 2013 **Learning Producer** (cross-site), Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) www.hrp.org.uk. I was Project Manager for the Tudors on Tour school and family learning festival. I also worked in the adult learning team on public programming at Kensington Palace, the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace.

From 2008 **Education Manager** at Kensington Palace, HRP www.hrp.org.uk/about-us/learning
I managed the education programme and the Clore Learning Centre at Kensington; developing, delivering and managing the schools, higher education, adult learning and family learning offer. I line managed a team of 2 full-time staff, 12 freelance artists/performers and 30 education volunteers. I was a member of the project team to deliver the HLF funded Kensington Palace £12 million transformation project in 2012.

2007 **Education Officer** for Open House (now Open City), an architectural education charity, www.open-city.org.uk. I led the Open House education informal and formal learning programmes. I co-ordinated and delivered education programmes for primary, secondary schools and adult audiences across London.

2004-2007 **Communications and Project Officer** for the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC) at UCL, Institute of Education www.nrdc.org.uk. I organised local, regional and national practitioner events and conferences for basic skills tutors and researchers.

2003-2004 **ESOL Teacher** for English Summer Academy www.englishsummer.com for adults and teenagers in Tarragona and Reus, Catalonia, Spain.

QUALIFICATIONS

October 2017 **Level 3 Diploma Assessor**. I completed my teaching qualification as an assessor for Diploma level work-based learning with the awarding body BIIAB. This allows me to work as an assessor for Diplomas, apprenticeships and other work-based learning programmes and qualifications in Museums.

2007 **Distinction in MA in Museums and Galleries in Education**, UCL, Institute of Education.

2003 **First Class BA Hons degree in Combined Arts** in Art History, Film Studies, Archaeology and Spanish, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- UK chair of ICOM CECA (Committee for Education and Cultural Action) October 2017 to present.
- Judge for the Sandford Awards in Museum Education, April 2017 to present.
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, March 2017 to present.
- Co-chair for the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) London, 2012 to present.
- Member of Engage, National Association for Gallery Education

PROFESSIONAL REFEREES

Celine West, Head of Learning & Access, UCL Culture, UCL Museums, 38-50 Bidborough House, Bidborough Street, London, WC1H 9BT, Email. Celine.west@ucl.ac.uk, Tel. 020 3108 8921

Sarah Campbell, Head of Schools, Families and Young People, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL, Email. s.campbell@vam.ac.uk, Tel. 07708150220