MAXIMIZING YOUR PERMANENT COLLECTION

Making New Impressions

National Docent Symposium 2019
Who We Are and What We Do

Lorna Grenadier      Stephen Merrill
lgrenadier@gmail.com stephenamerrill@gmail.com

• Subject              history and art/ individuals
• Exhibits              permanent and temporary
• Collection           23,000 objects
• Role                  docent vs educator
Maximizing the Collection: Things That Inspire

- event/ anniversary
- community organization
- personal experience
- book
- visitor feedback
- exhibit at other museum
- new acquisition
- proximity/ collaboration
- other cultural event
CASE STUDIES: Special Tours

- Shakespeare @ 450
- Moving Frontier
- Music and Presidents
- Would-be Presidents
SHAKESPEARE AT 450
MOVING FRONTIER

1600

1900
WOULD-BE PRESIDENTS

John Fremont

Belva Lockwood
Special Tours:
Other Examples

- *Atlantic Monthly* conference  
  Sitters whose work published (e.g. Julia Ward Howe, Harry Truman, Martin Luther King, Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Gertrude Stein)

- *The Greater Journey / Americans in Paris* by David McCullough  
  (e.g. Samuel Morse, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Harriet Beecher Stowe)

- Postal Museum volunteers  
  portraits of people who had been on stamps. (e.g. Adams, Lincoln, Chavez, Marian Anderson, Edith Wharton, Mary Cassatt, Noah Webster, Mark Twain, Noah Webster; Mary McLeod Bethune)

- Women - Baseball - World War II -- Antebellum
How Did It Get Done?

- Identify a theme or story
- Know and explore your collection
- Establish scope
- Potential to use more than once
- Time and interest to develop
- Institutional support
Small Group Discussion

- Have you done something similar?
- What would inspire you?
- What do you think your community might like?
- What resources are available?
- Can you make it a shared experience with another docent or community group/school?
- How would you implement (e.g. needs, approval)?
What Can Happen

• promotes your collection to community
• builds relationships with others
• attracts new visitors
• supports educational programming
• enhances docent camaraderie
• fun learning
Other Resources

• internet web sites
• cultural institutions and libraries
• prior partnerships
• personal connections and experience
THANK YOU

National Docent Symposium 2019