

## Education

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Master of Liberal Arts, Museum Studies concentration  
Harvard University 2008

Bachelor of Arts Economics  
Smith College 2001

## Museum Experience

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Ms. Newton earned an MLA in Museum Studies at the Harvard University Extension School with courses that included *Issues in Museum Administration*, *Organizational Behavior*, *the Architectural History of Boston*, and *Collections and Curation*. Her thesis, entitled “*Museum Expansion Projects: Working with the Public to Fulfill Museum Goals*,” explores the factors driving museum expansion, applies urban planning theory to museum planning, and delves into two case studies to examine the role of collaborative planning between museum officials and the public. Her internship at the Harvard University Art Museum’s Department of Exhibition Design and Installation enabled her to work closely with the Head of the Exhibition Design and Installation department as she prepared and mounted exhibitions at the Fogg Art, Sackler, and Busch-Reisinger Museums.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Newton worked for five and a half years at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design where graduate students study architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and urban design.

Ms. Newton’s interest in museums was kindled at an early age with a trip to George Washington’s home along the Potomac River in Virginia. Visits to other US presidents’ homes followed, including Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, the neighboring Montpelier home of James Madison, the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough, NH, and the homes of Lincoln in Springfield, IL, Eisenhower in Gettysburg, PA, and the Kennedy family in Hyannis, MA. A visit to Mark Twain’s home in Hartford, CT and Frank Lloyd Wright’s self-designed house in Illinois fostered an interest in architecture and design and prompted her to enroll in art history and architecture history courses at Smith College and the Harvard Extension School.

As a volunteer at the Harvard University Sackler Museum’s “Sackler Saturdays Stories in Art” Program for children, and the Arts First music program at the Fogg Art Museum, Ms. Paquette played an active role in museum programming. She also acted as an exhibit consultant for students sponsoring the first photography exhibit at the Harvard Law School. There she designed the layout for the featured photographs taken by undocumented migrants crossing the desert into the

United States and American Minutemen trying to stop them from crossing the Mexico-US border.

## Projects

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As a planner with Verner Johnson, Inc., Ms. Newton works directly with clients to assess needs, evaluate options, and make recommendations for future growth. Since joining the firm, she has worked on a variety of Conceptual Master Plans for museums that include:

**Flint Hills Discovery Center** Manhattan, KS. We developed a Comprehensive Master Plan as the initial phase for a new museum that will inspire people to celebrate, explore, and care for the Flint Hills Prairie of Kansas. Our team worked with the Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, and members of the public to provide clear programmatic and financial guidelines that ensure that the new Discovery Center is sustainable and meets the needs of the community.

**Academy Museum of Motion Pictures** Hollywood, CA. We created a Conceptual Master Plan to guide the future development of the Museum that includes a Conceptual Plan, Staffing Plan, Outline Facility Program, and Project Budget estimates. We also developed a Detailed Facility Program that outlines each museum space’s function, area in square feet, access and adjacency requirements, architectural and systems design criteria, and the furnishings and equipment to be accommodated to assist the architect to develop a functional museum.

**Tennessee State Museum** Nashville, TN. We created a Comprehensive Master Plan designed to guide the architecture and exhibit design of a new Tennessee State Museum facility. We worked with Museum staff to develop a Program Plan that defined the mission and vision for the Museum, a Staffing Plan, and a Detailed Facility Program, which provided detailed specifications for each museum space.

## Professional Affiliations

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Member: American Association of Museums.

## References

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- Flint Hills Discovery Center, Manhattan KS  
Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager  
palmer@ci.manhattan.ks.us (t) 785.587.2402
- Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, Hollywood CA  
Heather Cochran, Museum Project Administrator  
hcochran@oscars.org (t) 310.247.3000
- Ohio Historical Center, Columbus OH  
George Kane, Facilities Management  
gkane@ohiohistory.org (t) 614.297.2300