

## Education

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Master of Liberal Arts, Museum Studies concentration,  
Harvard University 2009

MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics,  
Boston University 1981

BA in Experimental Psychology,  
Northeastern University 1975

## Museum Experience

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Ms. Cook earned an MLA in Museum Studies at the Harvard University Extension School and was awarded a Dean's List Certificate for Academic Achievement. Her thesis "*Verbal Description: Interpretive Access to Art Museum Collections for Visitors Who Are Visually Disabled*" explores the dilemma art museums face in making their visual content verbal under Title III of the ADA. Through original research conducted with blind patrons at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Jewish Museum in New York, Ms. Cook's findings suggest that special programming designed for a small disability audience is relevant to universal learning in the museum.

As a museum intern for the Boston Museum Project, Ms. Cook designed and conducted an education survey among Boston's cultural institutions and historic sites. This information was sought to inform the planning of this new history museum's educational mission and programs. Ms. Cook's internal report was synthesized as a field trip resource guide for Boston school teachers.

Ms. Cook's interest and participation in museum education has been a life-long passion. In 2006, she was recruited as a volunteer Museum Educator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. There she is a Gallery Instructor and an Access Guide, trained in Visual Thinking Strategy and skilled in leading inquiry-based tours for school groups and visitors with disabilities.

Prior to joining Verner Johnson, Inc., Ms. Cook was a research epidemiologist investigating the effectiveness of public health interventions. The findings of the National Influenza Vaccine Case-Control Study, which she directed, resulted in the Medicare funding of an annual flu shot.

## Projects

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As a planner with Verner Johnson, Inc., Ms. Cook 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 planning studies that include:

**Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC** We are conducting visitor research and an operations analysis that will inform our business plan for serving the museum's short and long-term goals.

**Lynn Museum & Historical Society, Lynn, MA** We are developing options for increasing the museum's functionality through improved space allocation, with attention to providing added income potential and improving the visitor experience.

**Flint Hills Welcome Center, Manhattan, KS** We are working with the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce to determine the feasibility of developing an exciting, cohesive and operationally sustainable Welcome Center that will inspire people to visit historic, cultural and natural attractions in the Flint Hills Prairie of Kansas.

**MIT Museum, Cambridge, MA** In September 2007, the MIT Museum completed a 7,000 sq. ft. ground floor renovation designed by our firm. After a year of operation, the museum requested us to conduct a post-occupancy evaluation to capture staff feedback on how the renovated space and systems have performed under a variety of conditions. Ms. Cook designed the survey instrument, conducted the staff interviews, and compiled the results of the evaluation.

## Other Experience

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Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Cook was involved in several special projects:

- **Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA** – Contract Marketing Specialist
- **Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society** - Program Evaluator
- **Museum of Fine Arts/Perkins School for the Blind Partnership** - Art Facilitator
- **The Boston Museum Project and Gateway Center** – Museum Intern

## Affiliations

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American Association of Museums

Access Advisory Board Member, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2008 - 2010

Juried member of the Cape Cod Art Association, Barnstable, MA