

# John Russick

## Director of Curatorial Affairs



### Experience:

**Chicago History Museum** (Director of Curatorial Affairs, 2011-present; Senior Curator, 2008-2010, Curator, 2003-2008, Exhibit Developer, 1998-2003); **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**, Ankara, Turkey (Exhibit Developer and Designer); **Texas Memorial Museum** (Exhibit Developer); **Texas State Preservation Board** (Exhibits Coordinator); **National Museum of American History** (Exhibits Coordinator); **Field Museum of Natural History** (Exhibition Specialist).

**Education:** M.S., Architectural Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1996, Specialization: Historic Preservation; B.A., History; Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 1987.

John Russick leads the museum's curatorial staff and directs curatorial initiatives for the Museum. Since arriving in 1998, Russick has led the development of a host of exhibitions including, *Magic* (2012), *My Chinatown* (2009); *Mapping Chicago: The Past and the Possible* (2007); The Museum's children's gallery, *Sensing Chicago*, which received an honorable mention in the 2007 Association of American Museums' exhibition competition (2006); *Imagining Chicago, The Dioramas* (2006); *Leopold and Loeb: The "Perfect" Crime* (2004); *Fashion, Flappers 'n All That Jazz* (2001); *Out of the Loop: Neighborhood Voices* (2001); and *That's Good News! Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music* (1999).

His most recent publication, *Connecting Kids to History with Museum Exhibitions* (Left Coast Press) was co-edited with D. Lynn McRainey and released in February 2010. Other recent publications include a chapter in the edited volume, *Sports in Chicago*, University of Illinois Press, edited by Elliott Gorn (2008), and *Historic Photos of Chicago Crime: The Capone Era*, Turner Publishing (2007), which features nearly 200 images from the Chicago History Museum's photography collection.

Russick served as a consultant on the 2011 Florentine Films documentary, *Prohibition*, directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Since 2009 he has co-organized the American Association of Museum's annual Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition. He served as Vice Chair of the Chicago History Museum's Visioning Committee, an initiative that culminated with the publication of *Claiming Chicago: Shaping Our Future* (2007). In 2006, Russick led a citywide committee of architecture historians to celebrate Louis Sullivan's 150th birthday, which included an international symposium planned and directed by Russick. He serves as a member of the Standing Committee on Ethics for AAM's Curators Committee, since 2009.

Russick has won awards for both his preservation work and his exhibition label writing.