

Sheila Arnold
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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, B.A., African-American & African Studies, 1985

FELLOWSHIP

George Washington's Mount Vernon Research Fellow. Selected in 2019. Topic: "New York Presidency: Slaves, Servants and the Washington Family"

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Museum Consultant. 2016 – Present

- Researcher and Writer. "Freedom or Not? Sarah's Story of Emancipation", Historic Christ Church, Lancaster, VA (2018)
- Researcher, Scriptwriter and Dramatic Readers. Edward Ayers' "Thin Line of Freedom", presented in conjunction with American Civil War Museum at the Hippodrome, Richmond, VA. (2017)
- Storywriter and Voice for exhibits. Underground Railroad Museum, Niagara Falls, NY (2017)
- Scriptwriter and Voiceover for new African-American Exhibit Space. James Madison's Montpelier, Montpelier Station, VA (2016-2017)

Historic Character Presentations (requested special performances). 2018-present.

- Langston High School (colored school) Historic Presentation for Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. (LEAD), Johnson City, TN. February 2019.
- Robert Carter Nicholas Slave Historic Character Presentation "Sarah's Story: Emancipation or not?" for Lancaster County Historical Society – Mary Bell Washington Museum and Library, Kilmarnock, VA. February 2018

Teaching Artist – Storyteller & Historic Character Interpreter. 2003 - present.

Credits include:

- Teller in Residence, International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN (*scheduled for August 2020*, October 2018, May 2014)
- Featured Storyteller 2018, Children’s Program Storytellers 2017, New Voice Featured Teller in 2015 & Exchange Place Teller & 2nd place SLAM Winner in 2013 at the National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN
- Featured Teller at Timpanogos Storytelling Festival, Lehi, UT (2018)
- Historic Character Presentations and Historical Storytelling Programs at Culpeper Main Library (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016) & Featured Storyteller, Culpeper Tells Annual Storytelling Festival, Culpeper, VA hosted by Culpeper Main Library (2016, 2014)
- Storyteller and Historic Character Interpreter, Mt. Vernon Public Library, Alexandria, 2020, 2019 & 2018.
- Regional Storyteller (2019, 2018) & Featured Storyteller (2017) and at Paris Storytelling Festival, Paris, KY. *Scheduled as a Featured Storyteller in 2021*
- Host, Emcee and Storyteller at online events: TGIF Family Story Fest, Saturday Family Story Fest, Adults ONLY Stories event & Sacred Storytelling (2020)
- Historical Storytelling and Featured Storyteller, Women’s Storytelling Festival, Fairfax, VA (2020)
- Featured Storyteller, Patchworks Storytelling Festival, Rock Hill, SC (2020)
- Historical Storytelling and Featured Storyteller, St. Simons Storytelling Festival, St. Simons, GA (2020)
- Storyteller and Historic Character Interpreter, Franklin County Main Library, 2019 & 2018.
- Closing Storytelling Presentation (2019) & Evening Olio Teller (2019) at Sharing the Fire Storytelling Conference, Plymouth, MA.
- Featured Storyteller (2018) & Guest Storyteller (2015) at White Mountain Storytelling Festival, White Mountain, NH
- Featured Storyteller at Sounds of the Mountain Storytelling Festival, Fincastle, VA in April 2018
- Sacred Teller at Tejas Storytelling Festival and Conference, Denton, TX in March 2018
- Featured Teller at the 2nd, 4th and 5th Annual Storytelling Concert sponsored by Tucker-Arnold Productions, Williamsburg, VA (2019, 2017, 2014, 2013 & 2011)
- Featured Storyteller at Connecticut Storytelling Festival and Conference, New London, CT in April 2017
- Featured Storyteller, Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival, Young Harris, GA in April 2017
- Featured Storyteller at Hearts Afire Storytelling Festival, Richmond, VA in January 2017
- Featured Storyteller at and Organizer of “Stories: From Sea to Shore” Storytelling Weekend, Norfolk, VA in January 2017
- Featured Storyteller at “Stories in the Round” monthly storytelling series, Takoma Park, MD in October 2016 & 2015.
- Featured Storyteller, Storytelling Festival, Fox Haven Organic Farm and Learning Center, Jefferson, MD (2016)
- Featured Storyteller at “Story Space” monthly storytelling series, Out of the Blue II Gallery, Cambridge, MA (2016)

- Featured Storyteller, Stone Soup Storytelling Festival, Woodruff, SC (2016)
- Featured Teller in 2015 & Regional Teller in 2012 at Storytelling Festival of the Carolinas, Laurinburg, SC
- Featured Teller at 2015, 2013 & 2012 Southern Ohio Storytelling Festival, Chillicothe, OH
- Featured Storyteller at “Heard it through the Grapevine” monthly storytelling series, Takoma Park, MD (June 2015)
- Featured Storyteller at “Speak!” storytelling series, Shepherdstown, WV (May 2015).
- Featured Teller at 2014 & 2013 Cluster Springs Elementary School, Cluster Springs, VA
- 2013 Stories Connect Us All Online Storytelling Festival Storyteller (Facebook)
- Regional Showcase Teller at 2013 National Storytelling Network Conference
- Featured Teller at 2010 Moonshell Storytelling Festival, Omaha, Nebraska
- Two appearances as Storyteller at the Colonial Williamsburg Storytelling Festival , Williamsburg, VA (2006 & 2005)
- Exclusive Storytelling Contract with Worldstrides, Inc., Williamsburg, VA (*programming for school groups visiting Williamsburg, VA*)
- Storytelling Programs at Virginia Reading Association and Mississippi Reading Association
- Storytelling and Historic Character Presentations at over 700 schools, churches and organizations in 29 states

Theatrical Performances

- “Locks Opened: Chesapeake Waterways Used in the Underground Railroad” Storytelling Presentation at National Storytelling Festival 2018 & Hennage Auditorium, Colonial Williamsburg, VA (2018) & Lancaster Middle School, Lancaster, VA (2019)
- Betsy Costner Historic Character Presentation at International Storytelling Center Theatre (2016) & Hennage Auditorium, Colonial Williamsburg, VA. August 2012
- “Oney Judge: Personal Maidservant of Martha Washington” One-Act Play at International Storytelling Center Theatre (2018) & Smithfield Little Theater, Smithfield, VA. August 2012. **AWARDS: *Best Actress of the Festival. Best One-Act of the Festival.***

Resident and Touring Roster Artist. 2004-present.

Credits include:

- Worldstrides, Inc. (in Williamsburg, VA), 2006 - Present
- Young Audiences of Virginia, 2007 - Present
- Suffolk Public Libraries, 2015, 2014 & 2013 Summer & African-American Programming
- Blackwater Regional Library System, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 & 2009 Summer Program
- Portsmouth Public Libraries, 2018, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010 & 2009 Summer Program
- Chrysler Museum “Tickle Your Ears” Pre-school Program, 2006 – 2012 (Program cancelled due to museum upgrades)
- Newport News Public Library System, 2012 Summer Program
- Hampton Public Libraries, 2010 & 2009 Summer Program

Workshop Leader. 2003-present.

Credits include:

- Parent Workshop Trainer at over 100 schools throughout the United States), Sept. 2004 - Present
- Storytelling Workshop Class Trainer, The Muse Writer's Center, Norfolk, VA, October 2016 - Present
- Storytelling Workshop Trainer at Common Ground on the Hill – Tradition Artist Week, McDaniel College, Westminster, MD in 2018, 2017, 2016 & 2015
- Tejas Storytelling Conference, 2018
- Sharing the Fire Storytelling Conference, 2016
- California Gear Up Forum (*for Teachers*), Anaheim, CA, 2016
- Kentucky Storytelling Association Conference, 2014
- National Storytelling Network Annual Conference, 2014
- Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute (5 years)
- Valley Forge Teacher Institute, Pennsylvania (3 years)
- Westchester-Lower Hudson Social Studies Council (2 years)
- Maryland Head Start Association, 2012
- Mississippi State Reading Association, 2010
- Mt. Vernon Teacher Institute
- National Council of Social Studies
- South Carolina Council of Social Studies
- Louisiana Council of Social Studies
- Virginia Council of Social Studies
- Oklahoma PASSages Conference State Superintendents' Social Studies & Fine Arts Centennial Conference
- Loudoun Co. Public Schools, Virginia
- Americorps, Inc., West Virginia
- Teaching American History Grant Participants, Fairfax Co. Public Schools, Virginia
- Teaching American History Grant Participants, Ocala Public Schools, Florida
- Teaching American History Grant Participants, Newport News, Virginia

Professional Storyteller, Historic Character Interpreter, Coordinator, Manager and Executive Assistant. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA. Teacher Institute, Theatre Interpretative Department, Special Events & Evening Programs Department & Public Relations Department. 1998-February 2010.

Recordings:

“Vicki” and “Simon and Susannah”, stories from “Hands Wide Open” CD played on “The Apple Seed” program on BYU radio (Jan. & Feb. 2015)

“Mini, Many, Minnie Tales” CD, released September 2013

“What is This Thing Called Freedom? Betsy Costner Historic Character Presentation” videotaped by and at Hennage Auditorium, 2012

“Hands Wide Open” CD, released May 2010

“The Ragged King”, a story recorded on the CD and DVD, “Emanuel: The Master’s Choir, Christmas 2010”, released December 2010

Keynote Speaker

School Nutrition Association of Virginia, 2016
New York State Council of Social Studies Educators, 2013
Westchester-Lower Hudson Council of Social Studies, 2012 & 2009
Virginia Early Childhood Education Association, 2012

Drama Co-Coordinator. First Baptist Church Norfolk, Norfolk, VA. 2012 – 2018

Drama Director. First Baptist Church Hampton, Hampton, VA. 2002 – 2006.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tim Tingle Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2019

Donald Davis Workshop, Williamsburg, VA (Sept. 2018) & **Storytelling Week,** Ocracoke, NC. (June 2010)

Bill Harley Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2017

Carmen Deedy Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2016

Barbara McBride-Smith Workshop, Virginia Beach, VA. Jan. 2015

Syd Lieberman Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2014

Donald Davis Workshop, Virginia Beach, VA. Jan. 2014 & Jan. 2008

Charlotte Blake Alston Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2013

Kevin Kling Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Sept. 2012

Susan Klein Workshop, Virginia Beach, VA. Sept. 2011

Milbre Burch Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Jan. 2011

Andy Offutt Irwin Workshop, Williamsburg, VA. Jan. 2010

AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS)

National Storytelling Network (NSN)

New Hampshire Storytelling Alliance (NHSA)

Northeast Storytelling (NEST)

Tejas (TX) Storytelling Association

Virginia Storytelling Association (VASA)