

# Engaging Places LLC

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## MARY A. VAN BALGOOY

An award-winning public historian and accomplished non-profit executive who has worked in a variety of institutions, including archives, associations, botanic gardens, historic houses, historic societies, museums, preservation organizations, universities, and agencies at city, county, and national levels with major responsibilities for administration, awards, collections, public programs, fellowships, fundraising, interpretation, preservation, and public relations. Recognized researcher, author, and speaker on interpreting women's history at historic sites, museums, and historical societies. Skilled in collections management from small organizations to national institutions. Successful in obtaining and managing grants from \$25,000-\$1 million.

### EXPERIENCE

#### **ENGAGING PLACES, LLC, Rockville, Maryland**

**Vice President.** 2011-present. Develop, implement, manage, and advise on a wide range of projects, including collections management; individual, corporate, governmental, and foundation fundraising; and interpretation of women at local, county, and national levels.

#### **SOCIETY OF WOMAN GEOGRAPHERS, Washington, DC**

**Executive Director.** January 2014-December 2022. Provided overall leadership, strategic direction, financial management, and administration as its first professional director. Major accomplishments included development of new bylaws, policies, and a board manual; management of graduate student fellowships and national awards; collaboration with the Library of Congress to produce national conferences; and preparation of transferring the organization's archives, oral histories, and artwork to the Library of Congress.

#### **PEERLESS ROCKVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION, LTD., Rockville, Maryland**

**Executive Director.** March 2008-December 2013. As its first professional director, led the strategic direction, development, management, and administration of a local preservation organization which included board governance, education and advocacy, finances, fundraising, management of city grants, programming and special events, and supervising staff and volunteers.

#### **SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Washington, D.C.**

**Museum Site Consultant.** October 2002-May 2011. Advised on historic preservation, collections management, and education and interpretation for the national historic landmark. Also prepared funding applications and progress reports for Save America's Treasures, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Park Service, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and National Trust for Historic Preservation. Major accomplishments include preparing a \$1 million Institute of Museum and Library Services appropriations grant;

obtaining an Institute of Museum and Library Services “Museums for America” grant to catalogue the collections; and securing a National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” grant to conduct a preservation assessment of the existing and potential collections storage areas and make recommendations for improvements.

### **SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, Washington, D.C.**

**Collections Manager.** November 2002-February 2008. Worked in all aspects of the Curator’s Office with a focus on collections management, including moving the collections offsite and developing exhibitions featuring Belva Lockwood (first woman to be admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court), artist Cornelia Fassett of politicians and justices, and the Supreme Court building.

### **THE PETER F. DRUCKER ARCHIVES, Claremont, California.**

**Associate Archivist.** February-August 1999. Developed guidelines for the acquisition and accessioning of Peter F. Drucker’s professional papers and publications for the archives.

### **WORKMAN AND TEMPLE FAMILY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM, City of Industry, California.**

**Public Programs Manager (final title).** August 1991-August 1998. Directed the education and public affairs department of a historic house museum while supervising four paid staff and over sixty volunteers. Also wrote several articles on women for the quarterly newsletter and revised fourth-grade school program to be more inclusive, accommodate diverse learning preferences, and incorporate the latest state standards learning.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Published a wide variety of articles, biographies, guides, manuals, and reviews related to women’s history including the *Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States*, “Interpreting Women’s Lives at Historic House Museums” in *Reimagining Historic House Museums* by editors Kenneth C. Turino and Max A. van Balgooy (Rowman and Littlefield, 2019); “Women Who Dared: A Guide to the Places in Rockville Where Women Dared to Challenge Expectations Both in Society and in Themselves” (Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd., 2010); “Putting Women in Their Place” (*Preservation Forum Journal* 2004); and book review of *Lucy Stone: Pioneer of Woman’s Rights* by Alice Stone Blackwell (*Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 2003). Also, articles on the social history of architecture such as “Before LA: Cliff May’s Beginnings in San Diego” (*Journal of San Diego History*, 2011) and “Designer of the Dream: Cliff May and the California Ranch House” (*Southern California Quarterly*, 2004) and received the Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Award for the best demonstration of significant scholarship. Developed the *Metadata Guidelines for Museum Cataloguing* for the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum (March 2009).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Speaker, panelist, and moderator for a broad range of museum-related topics including collections management, interpretation, preservation, and women’s history for regional and national organizations, including the Organization of American Historians, American Association for State and Local History, Virginia Association of Museums, Wisconsin Historical Society, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, and Small Museum Association Conference.

## **EDUCATION**

**M.A., U.S. History.** Claremont Graduate University.

**B.A., History.** University of California, Irvine.