

LISA ANNE MICHALOSKI

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PROFILE

With more than a decade of experience in social studies education and volunteer service as a public historian with the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum, I work at the intersection of education, interpretation, and historic preservation. I am committed to making history accessible, relevant, and inspiring for learners and audiences of all ages through curriculum development, public programming, and place-based learning.

EDUCATION

MA Cultural Heritage Management

Johns Hopkins University | Baltimore, MD

2028

I am currently pursuing a second Master's degree in Cultural Heritage Management, developing expertise in the areas of preservation, interpretation, and promotion of cultural and historical resources. I am engaging in coursework and projects that explore heritage policy, museum practices, archival management, and community-based public history initiatives, while building skills in research, project planning, and cultural resource stewardship.

MA Anthropology

Monmouth University | West Long Branch, NJ

2020

Thesis: *The North American Phalanx: Gender Equality in a Utopian Socialist Community*

Advisors: Dr. Richard Veit & Brook Nappi

I earned a Master's degree in Anthropology from Monmouth University, conducting advanced research on social and cultural systems. I completed a thesis titled *The North American Phalanx: Gender Equality in a Utopian Socialist Community* under the guidance of advisors Dr. Richard Veit and Brook Nappi, examining historical practices of gender equity within intentional communities.

BA History

Rutgers University | New Brunswick, NJ

2011

Certificate: *Historic Preservation*

I earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Rutgers University, complemented by a Certificate in Historic Preservation. I developed a strong foundation in historical research, archival methods, and preservation practices, with hands-on experience in documenting, interpreting, and conserving cultural and architectural heritage.

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Anthropology Professor

Brookdale Community College | Lincroft, NJ

2021-Present

As a successful adjunct anthropology professor, I teach introductory courses emphasizing cultural understanding, critical inquiry, and the application of anthropological theory to real-world contexts. I am recognized for creating engaging, student-centered learning experiences that support diverse learners and foster thoughtful analysis of human culture.

Social Studies Teacher

UCVTS | Scotch Plains, NJ

2016-Present

As a highly effective social studies teacher, I have taught a wide range of courses across the discipline. I am skilled in adapting instruction to meet diverse student needs and learning styles. I have also authored curriculum for sociology and anthropology courses, designing rigorous, inquiry-based programs that emphasize critical thinking, cultural understanding, and relevant application.

Social Studies Teacher

Paterson Public Schools | Paterson, NJ

2015-2016

As a highly effective social studies teacher, I taught honors and general education level classes in United States History. I was also the advisor of the school newspaper and Co-Chair of the Graduation Committee.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

The Shipley Files: An Oral History Project of Rahway, NJ

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2026

I developed and am leading an ongoing oral history initiative documenting the memories, experiences, and community narratives of Rahway residents. This project is being done in partnership with F. Alexander Shipley, Rahway's City Historian, and through crowdsourced questions that will actively engage the public in the preservation of local history. Responsibilities include project design, interview preparation and recording, transcription, archival organization, and the creation of interpretive content for public access. This initiative preserves community voices, expands the historical record, and fosters meaningful public participation in Rahway's past.

The Terrill Tavern: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2026

I am preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the c. 1734 Terrill Tavern in Rahway, NJ. I am currently conducting primary and secondary source research to document the building's architectural significance, historical context, and associations with local and regional development. Responsibilities include compiling the statement of significance, developing a detailed physical description, creating supporting maps and photographic documentation, and coordinating with preservation professionals to ensure compliance with National Register criteria and submission standards.

The Rahway Cemetery: From Colonial Boneyard to Rural Cemetery

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2026

This research project will examine the evolution of Rahway Cemetery from its origins as a Presbyterian graveyard through its nineteenth-century transformation under the influence of the rural cemetery movement. This paper will analyze changes in landscape design, tombstone architecture, and funerary iconography to interpret shifting cultural attitudes toward death, commemoration, and burial practices. This research will also be used in a future nomination of the cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

Board Trustee

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2025-Present

As a Board Trustee, I am part of the leadership team responsible for the management of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization overseeing a National Register historic site. As Recording Secretary, I create and maintain board meeting minutes, perform contract execution, and sign financial disbursements. I work with the museum's paid Executive Director to develop plans and program budgets for grant applications to state, county, and local funders. Between 2020 and 2025, I participated in a museum-wide grant-funded Long Range Planning initiative, including working with paid consultants on interpretation evaluation and planning, resulting in the creation and adoption by the board of both a formal Long Range Plan and Interpretation Plan, as well as DEAI and ADA statements and policies.

Chair of the Collections Committee

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2018-Present

As Chairperson, I lead a team of staff and committee members responsible for the comprehensive assessment and stewardship of the museum's collections, including archives, artifacts, and historic furnishings. I collaborated with institutional leadership to develop and implement a new Collections Policy guiding acquisitions, stewardship, and ethical collections management practices. I also oversee collections management processes, including accession and deaccession decisions, and supervise the work of a part-time Collections Associate while coordinating volunteers engaged in collections maintenance and cataloguing activities.

Development Committee

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-Present

As a member of the Development Committee, I assist in identifying funding opportunities and contributing to the preparation and submission of grant applications that support the museum's mission, programming, collections care, and public outreach initiatives. I collaborate with staff and committee members to develop project proposals, compile supporting research and documentation, and help ensure funded projects are successfully implemented in accordance with grant guidelines.

Social Media Committee

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-Present

As Social Media Coordinator, I develop and manage digital content that promotes the museum's programs, events, and collections while engaging a broad public audience. I research and create historically curated posts that highlight local history, artifacts, and archival materials, translating scholarly research into accessible and engaging storytelling.

Through strategic use of social media platforms, I help expand the museum's digital presence, increase community engagement, and support public history outreach initiatives.

Cowie Collection: Early New Jersey Land Records Archival Digitization Project

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2018

As chair of the Collections Committee, I initiated a long-range preservation and archival plan for the Museum's Cowie Collection of historic land deeds, indentures, and manumissions. Leading a team of staff and volunteers, I oversaw the organization, digitization, and preservation of historic archival materials. This work involved handling fragile primary sources, creating digital records, and making these rare documents accessible for researchers, historians, and the general public.

GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Historic Foodways Programs | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2023-Present

Through the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum, I was awarded the Union County HEART (History, Education, and Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant to research, develop, and implement historic hearth-cooking demonstration programming featuring period-appropriate cookware and historically documented tavern receipts (recipes). Responsibilities included grant-supported program design, historical culinary research, material culture interpretation, and public-facing demonstrations that connected audiences to early American foodways and domestic practices. In 2025 and 2026, the program incorporated additional HEART funding to incorporate apple cider pressing (2025) and traditional ice-cream making (2026), both with enhanced interpretive components related to the intersection of food, domestic economy, social class, labor, and trade, broadening public engagement with early American foodways and tavern life.

Historical Costuming Research Project | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2023

As part of the 2023 HEART (History, Education, and Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant program, I led a research project on period-appropriate apparel and accessories from the early eighteenth-century to the mid twentieth-century. I revamped the museum's interpretive costuming program to improve period accuracy, developing historically appropriate costumes for volunteer interpreters while working within limited budgets. This culminated in outfitting 20 actors for the history-themed *Ghosts of the Past Cemetery Tour* for the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum educational outreach program that showcased women's contributions in New Jersey history.

U.S.C.T. Burials in the Rahway Cemetery | Research Assistant

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2017

As a grant recipient through the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, I served as research assistant for a project documenting the service of United States Colored Troops from Union County during the Civil War. Conducted historical research to identify and interpret the lives and military service of local soldiers, contributing to a collaborative initiative with the Bob E. Mackie American Legion Post #499. The project culminated in a public dedication ceremony honoring these soldiers at Rahway Cemetery.

PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

Rahway at 250: A Colonial Faire: | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2026

In partnership with the City of Rahway, this grant-funded public outreach program will bring colonial history to life for general audiences. This event theme will be the United States's semiquincentennial through interactive demonstrations, history-themed tours of the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum and the Rahway Cemetery. I will develop age-appropriate hands-on activities and coordinate with traditional artisans to create an engaging and diverse educational environment that inspires curiosity and a love of early American history among its participants.

Volunteer Coordinator | Coordinator

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2025-Present

As the museum's volunteer coordinator, I manage the museum's volunteer program by recruiting, training, and scheduling volunteers for public programs, educational initiatives, research projects, and special events. I serve as the primary liaison between staff and volunteers, ensuring accurate historical interpretation and effective visitor engagement. Maintain records of volunteer service and hours for institutional documentation, grant reporting, and organizational planning while fostering an engaging and collaborative environment that encourages sustained community involvement.

Historic Foodways Demonstration Program | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2023-Present

As chair of the historic foodways committee, I research, develop, and implement a public-facing historic foodways demonstration program that interprets early American cooking practices within a tavern setting. Along with my team we utilize period-appropriate cookware, ingredients, and historic receipts (recipes) to recreate historically accurate hearth cooking and related food demonstrations for visitors.

Tavern Night Series | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2021-Present

I developed the museum's immersive Tavern Night Series, including *Holiday Candlelight Evenings*, *Hearth Light Tavern Night*, and *Moonlight Tavern Night*. This series is designed to be a historically themed evening program that transforms the museum into a lively interpretive space through candlelight ambiance, period-inspired activities, storytelling, and live music demonstrations. I conduct research to ensure historical authenticity while crafting engaging public programs that invite visitors to experience the social atmosphere of an early American tavern. I coordinate program logistics, interpretive themes, and volunteer participation to create memorable community events that strengthen public engagement with local history.

Development Committee | Committee Member

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-Present

As a team, I collaborate with the Executive Director and committee members to identify, prepare, and submit grant applications supporting cultural, historical, and educational

initiatives. I contribute to developing proposals, assessing project feasibility and potential impact, and coordinating supporting materials to ensure alignment with organizational goals and community enrichment objectives.

Social Media Committee | Co-Coordinator

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-Present

I serve as the Social Media Co-Coordinator, managing, curating, and creating content to promote programs, events, and initiatives. Collaborate with team members to develop strategies that engage diverse audiences, increase visibility, and enhance public outreach. I monitor social media channels, track engagement metrics, and adjust content to maximize impact and support organizational goals.

Spirits of Rahway: A Lantern-Lit Tour of the Raway Cemetery | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-Present

Conceptualized and led the *Spirits of Rahway: A Lantern-Lit Tour of the Rahway Cemetery*, an immersive evening program that combines historical research with storytelling by lantern light. I develop historically accurate narratives drawn from archival sources, local legends, and cemetery records to engage visitors in the social, cultural, and personal histories of Rahway. I coordinate tour logistics, audience experience, and volunteer participation, creating a safe and memorable program that connects the community to its local heritage through interactive, interpretive, and experiential learning.

Children's Ghost Story Night | Program Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2016-2023

I designed and led *Children's Ghost Story Night* semiannual program, creating an engaging, age-appropriate spooky experience that introduced young audiences to local history and folklore. I developed storytelling scripts, coordinated interactive activities, and ensured a safe, immersive environment, fostering curiosity and a love of historical narratives among participants.

Experimental Archaeology Camp | Camp Director

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2013-2015

Designed and led the Experimental Archaeology Camp, an interactive educational program for children ages 8-14 that introduces participants to hands-on archaeological and historical methods. I developed a camp curriculum that engaged students in artifact analysis, excavation simulations, historic craft techniques, and period-appropriate activities. I successfully translated complex historical and archaeological concepts into accessible, experiential learning opportunities that foster curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of material culture. I oversaw camp logistics, safety, and volunteer support to ensure a dynamic and educational experience for all participants.

Tavern News Quarterly Newsletter | Co-Editor

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ

2011-2024

Developed, wrote, and edited the award-winning *Tavern News* newsletter, providing engaging content that highlights the museum's programs, local history research, and community

initiatives. Curate stories, historical features, and event updates while maintaining a consistent voice that reflects the museum's mission and fosters community connection. Oversee layout, design, and distribution to ensure accessibility and impact, strengthening audience engagement and promoting the museum's educational and public outreach goals.

CERTIFICATIONS

Supervisor Certification

NJDOE | Certificate #01714340 2023

Teacher of Social Studies

NJDOE | Certificate #01637159 2016

Historic Preservation Certificate

Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies, Rutgers University | New Brunswick, NJ 2011

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

Field Technician

Colliers Engineering & Design | Holmdel, NJ 2014

As a per diem archaeological field technician, I worked on multiple sites in New Jersey, conducting phase I, II, and III archaeological surveys in accordance with Section 106 review policies of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Graduate-Level Student Field Technician

Monmouth University | West Long Branch, NJ 2012

As a graduate-level student field technician, I participated in a phase I, II, and III archaeological survey of the historic White Hill Mansion in Fieldsboro, NJ.

Training: Practical Aspects of Bioarchaeology Fieldwork and Laboratory Analysis

University of Utica | Utica, NY 2011

Through the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), I attended a workshop that provided hands-on training in bio-archaeological fieldwork and laboratory analysis of human remains.

Undergraduate-Level Student Field Technician

Monmouth University | West Long Branch, NJ 2011

As an undergraduate student field technician, I participated in a phase I, II, and III archaeological survey of Joseph Bonaparte's Point Breeze historic site in Bordentown, NJ.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Public History Intern | Rutgers University

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum | Rahway, NJ 2010

As a Public History Intern, I worked closely with the Executive Board to develop a research project to catalogue, archive, and digitize the museum's collection of historic photographs.

Public History Intern | Rutgers University

David Library of the American Revolution | Washington Crossing, PA 2009

Under the direction of the head librarian, I conducted research utilizing the library's collection of primary sources, books, and microfilm for patrons, researchers, and historians. I also created a finding aid on Pre-Revolutionary pamphlets of both patriot and loyalist writings.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request