

## THERESA SCHOBER

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### KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Executive level professional with 20 years of experience in planning and directing operations, capital, and programmatic initiatives at heritage sites and museums for government and non-profit organizations
- ❖ Successful collaborator with colleagues, community leaders, advisory board members, funding agencies, and government officials at local, regional and state levels
- ❖ Excellent strategic planning and project organization skills; Capable of simultaneously managing multiple projects and large-scale events through completion and evaluation with staff, interns and volunteers
- ❖ Effective fundraiser and project administrator securing over \$7 million in grant, foundation, and private revenue from federal flow-through, state, and local agencies for Florida and British Columbia based cultural institutions.

### RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE CURATOR, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Tallahassee, Florida, 2023- present

Specialized faculty overseeing archaeological and ethnohistoric collections of greater than 1 million artifacts. University compliance with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

DIRECTOR & CURATOR, HLI GOOTHL WILP-ADOSKHL NISGA'A | NISGA'A MUSEUM, 2020-2023

Responsible for cost center budget, museum administration, coordination of rotating exhibitions, collections stewardship, repatriations, grant writing, constituency and advisory board relations, and staff supervision. Project successes: over four-fold increase in earned revenue per visitor from 2019 to 2023, standardization of visitor tracking procedures, secured in excess of \$1.5 million in external support for environmental stability of exhibits, accessibility improvements, compacting storage, in support of Wilps Ni'isjoohl memorial totem pole repatriation efforts, and general operations.

MANAGER, IMMOKALEE PIONEER MUSEUM AT ROBERTS RANCH, Collier County, Florida, 2016-2020

Responsible for budget and operations, programming and capital improvements at one of five Collier County Museums, a 13.2-acre cattle farmstead with 15 structures listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Project successes: six-fold increase in year over year visitation, creation of a community partnership-based annual event, *Immokalee Cattle Drive & Jamboree* to attract out of area visitors, and \$455,800 in state grant support.

DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL RESOURCES, Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida 2002-2011

Responsible for development of two residential cultural properties (Mound House and Newton Beach Park) into operational museum and park facilities, including all aspects of departmental budget oversight and administration. Implemented long-range management objectives and capital improvements, supervised staff, interns and volunteers, and developed school curriculum-based programming. Project successes: secured and administered in excess of \$4.5 million in external support for restoration and adaptive reuse of four historic structures, new construction, cultural and natural landscape installations, an innovative walk-in archaeological exhibit and site wide cultural and environmental interpretation.

### INDEPENDENT CONSULTING

Provided cultural resource management, exhibit and fundraising consultation, program and curatorial services, and review of construction plans and specifications for impacts to cultural resources for government and private clients in Florida. Select projects include:

- FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL – Lead scholar for annual Teaching Florida History educator workshops entitled, “Calusa, Creeks, and Crackers: The Peoples of Florida.”
- LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION – Project Director for multiple grant funded initiatives ranging from educational symposia and panels for general audiences, special events and curation of traveling exhibits including *Enchantments* and *ArtCalusa: Reflections on Representation*.

## EDUCATION

M.A. Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 B.Sc. Archaeology, First Class Honours, University of Calgary

## AWARDS

- 2023 British Columbia Historical Federation Certificate of Merit for challenging colonial structures and work to return the Wilps Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole to Nisga'a people. Awarded to Dr. Amy Parent and the Nisga'a Ni'isjoohl Rematriation Project Team.
- 2019 Ripley P. Bullen Award, Florida Anthropological Society for fostering good working relationships between professional and avocational archaeological communities
- 2014 President's Award, Florida Anthropological Society for public education in archaeology and history
- 2014 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Education/Media Award – Meritorious Achievement for the *ArtCalusa* travelling exhibition and catalogue
- 2010 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Education/Media Award – Meritorious Achievement for mobile museum exhibits & Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Adaptive Use Award – Meritorious Achievement for adaptive reuse of the Newton historic home
- 2009 Lady Bird Johnson Award, National Arbor Day Foundation for *Shades of Fort Myers Beach* booklet
- 2007 Outstanding Service Award, Town of Fort Myers Beach

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developed and presented seminars and contributed to panels on cultural landscapes, community partnerships, use of tourist development tax funding for parks and museums, advocacy and fundraising collaborations, repatriation efforts, and travelling exhibits at conferences including the American Alliance of Museums, American Association of Indian Affairs, American Society of Landscape Architects (Florida chapter), Florida Association of Museums, and Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, among others.

## SELECT GENERAL INTEREST PRINT & MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

- Nisga'a Lisims Government (2023) *Collected Wisdom / Nisga'a Lisims*. Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a / Nisga'a Museum and Nisga'a Lisims Government (c) 2023. All rights reserved. ISBN: 978-0-9699016-4-8. 208 pages. Book development and contributing authors/editors: Clark, Bobby (Laax-Yee), Schober, T., Stephens, Kaitlyn (Luubayt-Sgat'aa), Moore, Justina (Gaahl Daats), Adams, Esther (K'yo'o), Stephens, Lydia (Sayt Gibuu), & Language and Culture Vetting Committee
- Interviewed with Clint Raulerson for Collier County Museums *Stories We Tell* Podcast on Florida cowboys and cattle history, 2019. <https://colliermuseums.com/news/florida-cowboys>.
- The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, Island Findings – Episode 8: The Calusa People, October 24, 2017. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLRv9cxj\\_uo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLRv9cxj_uo).
- Interviewed for WGCU Gulf Coast Live! with Seminole Tribal Members Samuel Tommie and Everett Osceola, May 3, 2017. <https://news.wgcu.org/show/gulf-coast-life/2017-05-03/curious-gulf-coastasks-what-motivated-early-settlers-of-south-florida>.
- Schober, T (editor) 2013 *ArtCalusa: Reflections on Representation*. Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, FL.
- Contributing editor, “Adventures in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed: A Story of Four Animals and Their Neighborhoods” by Carol Mahler, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, 2008.
- Participation in WGCU PBS TV *Family Pictures USA*, *Untold Stories of Fort Myers Beach*, and *Community Connect!* and appearances on the *Gulf Coast Live!* Radio program

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Museums, American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Canadian Museums Association, Florida Anthropological Society, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Society for American Archaeology.