

Meghan Crandall is an educator and public historian currently working at the Tacoma Art Museum. Meghan obtained her B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and M.A. in Public History from the University of Southern Illinois, Edwardsville. She describes public history as a field that interprets objects in ways that connect to people while provoking positive change.

These interests led her into the museum world, where she focuses on the social and cultural symbolism found in past and present artwork; and how historic themes and motifs can hold strong meaning throughout the ages. Which, she says, is a reason she traveled out west, "My love for Chinese and Japanese art styles brought me to the Pacific Northwest. Like the art of Greek mythology, I found a lot of beautiful stories and beliefs while immersing myself in an exhibition of Japanese Cloisonné. Learning about other cultures and local history makes me feel closer to people and places."

Meghan is greatly looking forward to reconnecting with her Polish heritage and exploring the Polish Association in Seattle, WA. Her family comes from the Polish district of Chicago, but she grew up hours away in Wonder Lake, IL. Moving closer to her grandparents, her family left the city for the forests. Meghan remembers her grandma doing crafts, like sewing and crochet, and my mom did art, oil painting and photography. She now does both!