

Summary of Telephone Calls with Kathy Craughwell-Varda's References

Below is the summary of the calls I made to Kathy's 3 references. Each of the 3 people immediately responded to my email and gave Kathy the highest marks possible. One called her an extraordinary curator and all recommended her without reservation. Kathy creates wonderful, interesting exhibits and knows budgets. Her rates are reasonable. She has terrific contacts in CT. She runs with a project, but makes sure you know where she is going. I

Karen Frederick, Curator of Exhibitions & Collections Greenwich Historical Society (retired 2020)

Karen was at the Scarsdale Historical Society and then curator of exhibitions at Greenwich Historical Society for 19 years. Karen hired Kathy to do some exhibits at both Scarsdale and GHS. She gives Kathy her highest recommendation and said:

- Kathy is an extraordinary curator.
- On a scale of 1 to 10, Karen is a 10 plus
- It was always a privilege and a pleasure to work with Kathy
- Kathy will produce a beautiful and excellent exhibit;
- She always finds information that makes an exhibit interesting and brings out a new angle about the subject
- Kathy understands budgeting. Her rates are reasonable (\$75/hr is reasonable); She sticks within the budget she gives you. She knows where the emphasis in an exhibit should be. She has worked in CT a long time and has wonderful contacts as needed to put together the exhibition.
- Kathy covers all work necessary for an exhibit. She plans and designs the exhibition and also will put a nail in the wall and hang something up.

- She is enthusiastic about every project and she is great to work with. She is a lot of fun also. She runs ahead with a project, but makes sure you know where she is going.
- I am not an athlete but I would want to see an exhibition Kathy did on golf as she would make it worthwhile.

David Gentner, President and CEO of Wartburg.

Wartburg is a non-profit, senior care and housing facility in Mount Vernon, that started as an orphanage and farm school and has a big campus. David has used Kathy for at least 5 years on projects to document Wartburg's history. Kathy has written historical narrative documentation and created stations on a walking path that bring to life Wartburg's history. Kathy has been hired to design the exhibit for a gallery in a new building that will celebrate Wartburg's history using its archival photographs.

David's comments about Kathy could not have been more positive. He says:

- Kathy is absolutely terrific. She has provided invaluable help.
- Kathy is smart and creative. She rolls up her sleeves, jumps in and produces excellent work.
- Kathy is always useful.
- I give Kathy my highest recommendation. I will continue to use her.
- Kathy's rates are reasonable

**Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums,
Connecticut Office of the Arts, CT Department of Economic and
Community Development**

Prior to her current position, Elizabeth was the director of Sharon's Historical Society and Museum. Elizabeth has known and worked with Kathy for over 20 years. They have been fellow board members, gone to conferences together and worked on various projects including the STEPS CT program. Elizabeth has not had Kathy do exhibits for her but says she has been the go-to person for the Greenwich Historical Society for exhibits for years.

Elizabeth highly recommends Kathy. She said:

- Kathy co-created an exhibit for Greenwich that documented the slaves and indentured servants of an historical house for Greenwich and did a great job with this sensitive topic.
- There is no one I would rather work with.
- Kathy is a wonderful researcher. She takes information, distills it well.
- Kathy uses space effectively to present a story
- Kathy's rates are reasonable
- Kathy is an effective communicator; she listens and communicates well. She presents well to potential donors, and she can converse with all different personalities, including for instance the high powered NYC residents who had second homes in Sharon and the local Sharon residents.
- Kathy is low-key and high passion about her work. She will take you on a journey with her.