

Basic Detail Report



Title Interview with Charlotte Lefland

Date 2 July 2025

Medium born digital audio file

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Description (a) Audio file of interview with Charlotte Lefland. She was

interviewed by Tania Alfonso on 2 July 2025 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. (b)

Photograph of Charlotte Lefland taken at her interview. Charlotte Lefland was

interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History's

Community History Project discussing moments of change in her life. Charlotte

views change as an exciting and scary experience that elicits anxiety, but can

also be refreshing and lead to opportunities. The redefining moment of change

she chose to talk about during this interview was getting her job as Collections

Manager at the Housatonic Museum of Art (HMA) in Bridgeport. The catalyst for

this moment of change was that she felt like she was no longer being challenged

at her previous job, and there was a toxic work environment, so she wanted to

change. Charlotte discusses how the job at the HMA was the right fit. She was

looking for a collections manager position and it was in higher education, which

she desired. She describes being excited for the new challenge ahead, and

remembers how, before the change, she was always stressed at work, and

generally unfulfilled professionally. The friendships she made at her old job

made it difficult to decide to leave, but ultimately she decided she needed the

change. When it comes to facing a challenge, Charlotte has learned to trust her

instincts and get support from the community. She describes being friends with

her boss now before getting the job, and how the relationship between them has

evolved and flourished. She also talks about how her relationship with her

husband has improved since getting the new job. Charlotte also mentions how

her job at the HMA has changed her outlook on the city of Bridgeport. She talks

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about the bustling art scene in the city, with a lot of art, culture, and studios. Her

perception of community colleges has also changed, gaining a deeper

appreciation for the hard work the students do to get an education. She says,

“What I learned is that while change can be difficult and at times scary, that doesn't mean that it's not the right thing to do.” She concludes the interview by talking about a quote she keeps on her bulletin board in her office. She talks about how this quote has become her motto for the work she is doing at the HMA, because so much of the work is just figuring it out as you go, but knowing that eventually you do figure it out. The quote is, “It always seems impossible until it’ s done.”

Dimensions Duration: 24 Minutes, 11 Seconds