

Basic Detail Report



Title Interview with Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye

Date 10 July 2025

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Audio file of interview with Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye. She was interviewed by Tania Alfonso on 10 July 2025 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. (b)

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Photograph of Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye taken at her interview. Jennifer Reynolds-

Kaye was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and

History's Community History Project discussing moments of change in her life.

Jennifer starts the interview by talking about how she is the director at the

Housatonic Museum of Art in Bridgeport and has twin 12-year-olds. She and her

husband initially moved to Connecticut for work. She talks about how change

for her is the only thing that is consistent, emphasizing its inevitability and the

importance of embracing it. She also talks about how children are okay with

change, while adults struggle to accept it. Jennifer has had many moments of

change in her life, but for the interview, she wanted to focus on getting her job

as director of the HMA. She mentions working for a foundation, teaching as an

adjunct, and doing side work for the Guggenheim as jobs that led her back to her

passion for art museums. She found herself scrolling on her phone one day, and

a job posting for the director of the HMA came up. She immediately knew that'

s what she wanted, and so she started preparing for it. Upon receiving the job

offer, Jennifer was ecstatic and felt that her previous experiences and

professional network had prepared her well for this role. She reflects on the

rewarding aspects of her job, particularly working with students and enhancing

the museum's community engagement. She talks about the existential

challenges facing academic museums and her proactive efforts to ensure the

museum remains integral to its educational mission. She is also exploring ways

to integrate the museum more deeply into workforce development for the

cultural sector. Jennifer reflects on how her job has impacted her personal life.

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She specifically talks about her increased confidence in professional settings

and a stronger network. She also discusses how her role has influenced her

family's perception of her, specifically her children: "It's made them see that

women can do really important things, and mothers can do really important

things both inside and outside the home." Jennifer talks about having personal

growth because of her job at the HMA. She reflects on a growth in her confidence

and on how she has become more strategic. She talks about learning to manage

her time effectively to avoid burnout, managing her personal and professional

life. In her conclusion, Jennifer talks about her aspirations for the museum's

future, including potential expansions and program developments. Her words of

advice are, "The biggest lesson I've learned is that being strategic is so

important to success."

Dimensions Duration: 39 Minutes, 31 Seconds