Telling Their Own Stories: Native American Interpreters at Living History Museums

Photo: https://www.flickr.com/photos/masstravel/
Ethnographic Showcases
A.K.A
Human Zoos

On U.W. Campus
at
Alaska-Yukon-Pacific
Exposition
1909

Photo: UW Library Special Collections
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What is Living History?
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Left: Fort Nisqually, Tacoma, WA
Above: Civil War Reenactment

Photos of presenter
“These Indians didn’t have to simulate life in the early 1800s. They were already comfortably living history.”

–Jay Anderson
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Racial Microaggression?

“commonplace verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative racial slights and insults to people of color”

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Non-problematic vs. Problematic Guests

Non-problematic Guests as defined by interpreter

10%
Non-problematic vs. Problematic Guests

Non-problematic Guests as defined by interpreter

10%
Photo: https://www.flickr.com/photos/wdwbarber/
Time’s Up!

• About you:
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  – Quick bio: Sierra is completing her MA in Museology at the University of Washington. She received her BA in history and anthropology from the University of South Florida. Sierra is interested in Native American representation and power dynamics in museums. She currently works as a collections management assistant at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in their Ethnology Department. Sierra was born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida.