

## Getting Your Site on the Map

- 9:00-9:30 Welcome & Introduction
- 9:30 – 9:40 Goals
- 9:40 – 10:00 What interpretation is – Not just the facts folks.
- 10:00-10:30 Mission – Audience, Objectives, Themes, Resources – These inform the type of interpretation
- 10:30-11:30 Getting to themes  
Multiple perspectives
- 11:30 – 12:00 Watch Living History presentation
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch break
- 1:00-1:15 Discuss living history performance
- 1:15-1:30 How people learn
- 1:30 – 3:00 Types of Interpretation  
Web Sites  
Signs  
Exhibits  
Educational Programs  
Living History  
Events
- 3:00-3:30 **Pick a topic and type and do the process**
- 3:30 – 3:45 Evaluation
- 3:45 – 4:00 Questions, wrap-up, evaluation

# Interpretation

Interpretation is a communication process designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, to the public, through first hand involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, or sites.

The communication process in the definition is the use of Tilden's Interpretive Principles which state that to be "interpretive" the communication process must:

- \* Provoke the attention, curiosity or interest of the audience.
- \* Relate to the everyday life of the viewer or reader.
- \* Reveal the theme or key point of the message through a unique or creative viewpoint, design or perspective.
- \* Address the Whole - the interpretation should illustrate a higher theme or message.
- \* Strive for message unity - use the correct graphics, colors, textures, design elements to support the theme of the interpretive message.

# 10 Things to Have on Your Homepage

1. Location – always have the city and state on your home pages
2. Link to membership, donation, sponsorship page
3. The uniqueness of your organization
4. Logo, name and branding style
5. Changing items once every couple of weeks, at least
6. Basic contact information – address, phone & email
7. Immediate up coming event or topic of interest – plus link to future events
8. A taste of interpretation
9. Small size files for speed and accessibility
10. Clear navigation

Award winning sites to visit...

[http://conference.archimuse.com/forum/mw2008\\_announcing\\_best\\_web\\_2008](http://conference.archimuse.com/forum/mw2008_announcing_best_web_2008)

# Living History

A typical definition –

The term "living history" refers to a method of interpreting the past through the use of a person or persons dressed in period clothing. The technique is usually enhanced by having the person or persons use period tools and engage in period activities.

**Several activities can be considered living history.**

## **Demonstrating and Teaching**

Perpetuates historic cultural practices (farming, basket weaving, music, language, etc.)

## **Portrayal**

Performance of a specific personality (known or unknown) in history, usually as a presentation

## **Reenactment**

Dressing in period-like clothing and participating in period-like activities

## **Interactive Portrayal**

Performance of a specific personality (known or unknown) in history and interacting with the audience

## **Style**

**First Person (past)** – portraying a particular personality, stays in past time (does not understand the present), uses “we” and “I”

**First Person (present)** - portraying a particular personality, enters in present time (does understand the present from the perspective of the past), uses “we” and “I”

**Third Person (present)** – discussing history with audience in period-like dress and props

## **Key Elements**

**Knowledge** – context of the period (climate, politics, social issues, etc.), person (family, personality, skills, etc.)

**Props** – clothing, tools, accessories, etc. Be real or excellent replicas