

# Peter Alter

## Archivist

**Experience:**

Chicago History Museum (Archivist, 2010-present; Curator, 2003-2010; Public Historian, 1999-2003); University of Arizona (Graduate Teaching Associate, 1993-99)

**Education:**

Ph.D., United States and Balkan History, University of Arizona, 2000; M.A., United States and Eastern European History, University of Washington, 1992; B.A., History and International Studies, Wabash College, 1990

Peter Alter processes the Museum's archival and manuscript collection, continues to build the collection, and promotes the holdings to researchers and to the Museum. He also contributes to a blog informing the public of new additions to the collection as well as treasures that he uncovers in his research.

Prior to his current role Alter lent his talents as curator and public historian through many Museum exhibitions in the past including: *Lincoln Treasures* (2009); *Is It Real?* (2007); *A Compassionate Eye: The Photographs of Declan Haun, 1961-69* (2004); *Outspoken: Chicago's Free Speech Tradition* (2004) at The Newberry Library, Chicago; *Harold Washington: The Man and the Movement*, (2003); *Chicago Sports! You Shoulda Been There* (2003).

From 1999 to 2002, Alter coordinated the documentation project, *Global Communities: Chicago's Immigrants and Refugees* which explored five of Chicago's recent immigrant and refugee communities.

Alter curated the Museum's *Chicago Treasures* (2006), a collection of striking installations found in the Museum's lobby area. Most recently, he co-curated, *Facing Freedom* (2010), a United States history exhibition that focuses on conflicts over freedom. Alter's expertise encompasses many aspects of Chicago history. He has been interviewed and consulted on countless news programs, television shows, and documentaries.