

# LEIGH TAYLOR MICKELSON

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## **GOAL: To obtain a position in arts administration that increases my impact in the arts and in my community.**

An arts-minded hard-working detail-oriented achiever with 22 years of experience in non-profit arts administration, exhibitions management, executive management, strategic planning and program development. Grew two art centers from small grassroots organizations into vibrant, nationally recognized arts institutions.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Executive Director</b> | <b>Clay Art Center</b> | November 2012 – 2019  |
| <b>Program Director</b>   | <b>Clay Art Center</b> | September 2006 – 2012 |
- As ED, led growth of unearned revenues by 142%, earned revenues by 38% and doubled staff and audience in a 6-year period of accelerated growth and change
  - Led in 2017 the center's celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a ceramic art center, 10 years as a non-profit organization, and its first year surpassing a \$1 million budget
  - Nurtured business management and program development through a team of program managers, enhancing and expanding exhibitions, artist, education and community arts outreach programs
  - Implemented a donor database and guided expansion of contributed income through individual and institutional donations, grant writing and membership
  - Led organization through strategic planning and visioning exercises to help determine future objectives
  - Nurtured and expanded nationally competitive artist residency program for emerging artists
  - As Program Director, responsible for all adult educational programs, including classes, lectures and workshops including recruitment and management of instructors, staff, volunteers and interns
  - Expanded and enhanced youth educational programs, initiated and developed a new summer camp program
  - Curated, designed, managed and installed a calendar of exhibitions, featuring emerging, mid-career and established ceramic artists from across the nation
  - Developed and nurtured relationships with nationally and internationally respected exhibiting artists
  - Directed program and budget development through a 4000 square foot expansion of classroom and gallery space in 2010
  - Established and developed the SHOP at CAC, showcasing utilitarian and decorative ceramic art by Clay Art Center artists and invited artists
  - Responsible for PR, marketing and communications, including website development, social media and all press materials
  - Coordinated 73 ceramic exhibitions at 60 venues across Westchester county for a county-wide celebration of clay, "All Fired Up!" in 2008. The exhibitions featured regional, national, and international works of art that explored the breadth and depth of ceramic expression

<b>Board of Directors &amp; Exhibitions Director, National Council on Education of Ceramic Arts (NCECA)</b>	March 2014 – 2018
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- Served as a board volunteer for a nationally respected 501(c)3 organization that engages and sustains a community for ceramic art, teaching and learning and cultivates the next generation of ceramic artists and enthusiasts through programming that affects professional artists, K-12 schools, community centers, universities, museums, galleries, businesses, organizations, collectors and enthusiasts of ceramic art.
- Co-curated and coordinated NCECA sponsored exhibitions, hosted at various institutions and organizations across the nation for their annual national conference, which attracts over 6000 attendees
- Participated in board led strategic planning, fund development, program development, and served on the executive committee

<b>Exhibitions Director</b>	<b>Baltimore Clayworks</b>	Sept 2000 – May 2006
<b>Program Manager</b>	<b>Baltimore Clayworks</b>	July 1997 – Sept 2000

- Developed, directed, implemented and executed all education (adults and youth) and exhibition programs, then focused on exhibitions as full-time curator and exhibitions director after an expansion of the center
- Curated exhibitions of contemporary ceramic art featuring emerging, mid-career and established artists from the US and abroad
  - Led programs through accelerated growth over a 9-year period
  - Managed all PR, marketing and communications for the organization
  - Developed, curated and managed the center's Shop featuring high end utilitarian and decorative ceramics
  - Coordinated over 200 ceramic exhibitions for a region-wide celebration of ceramics "Tour de Clay" while acting as host liaison for the 2005 NCECA conference in Baltimore, MD

## CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

*Unconventional Clay: Engaged in Change*, 2016 NCECA Invitational, Co-curator, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, 2016  
Chief Curator, Clay Art Center, 2006–12 – curated/managed exhibitions featuring 100s of emerging, mid-career & established artists  
*eARTh*, Arts Westchester, White Plains, NY, October 2011  
*On Earth*, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, NY, October 2010  
*Gift It*, Pelham Art Center, December 2010  
*Home Sweet Home*, Pelham Art Center, December 2009  
Chief Curator, Baltimore Clayworks, 1998-2006 – curated/managed exhibitions featuring 100s of emerging, mid-career & established artists  
*Rhythm & Breath: Revealing the Invisible*, Loyola College Gallery, 2005  
*Richard DeVore*, Baltimore Clayworks, 2005  
*Atmospheric Interpretations*, Baltimore Clayworks, 2005  
*Polymer Possibilities: Jewelry and Beyond*, Baltimore Clayworks, 2002  
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## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### CEO Learning Lab, 2019

A 5-month professional development initiative focused on identifying the tools and leadership strengths needed for advancing organizations toward greater impact and sustainability

### Westchester Leadership, 2012

A rigorous, 9-month curriculum designed to sharpen leadership skills and give an in depth understanding of how non-profits work

### Rochester Institute of Technology, Masters in Fine Arts Degree

Ceramics/Ceramic Sculpture; Minor in Metals

### Hamilton College, Bachelor of Arts Degree

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Studio Art/English Literature Double Major

## ARTIST ACHIEVEMENTS

### AWARD - Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award, 2003

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

**LURE**, April 2013, Hammond Museum & Japanese Stroll Garden, North Salem, NY

**Apiary**, August 2011, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD

**LURE: Leigh Taylor Mickelson**, March 2010, Sherrie Gallerie, Columbus, OH

**Botanical Attraction: Leigh Taylor Mickelson**, November 2008, Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale, NY...

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**Alternate Endings**, March 2018, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, PA

**Rewind**, January 2017, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY

**In Form**, November 2016, Rockland Center for the Arts, Nyack, NY

**Natural Shift**, February 2016, Fort Collins Museum of Art, CO

**Revisiting Arcadia**, July 2015, ArtsWestchester, White Plains, NY

**Botanica Ceramica**, March 2015, Roger Williams Botanical Center, Providence, RI

**Duo** (Anat Shifan & Leigh Taylor Mickelson), July 2013, Saratoga Clay Arts Center, Schuylerville, NY

**Nature as Metaphor**, February 2013, Gallery 66, Cold Spring, NY

**We've Got to Get Back to the Garden**, July 2011, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Larchmont, NY

**Natura**, March 2011, West Tampa Center for the Arts, Tampa, FL

**Flowers, Follies and Other Rites of Spring**, March 2011, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, NY

**The Things Themselves**, September 2010, Pelham Art Center, Pelham, NY

**Nature/Culture**, September 2010, Castle Gallery, New Rochelle, NY

**Modern Morphism**, August 2010, Delaware Museum of Art, Wilmington, DE ...

### PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Small Organization, Big Ideas, *Ceramics Monthly*, March 2009

Enjoying the Still Life of Anat Shifan, *Ceramics Monthly*, September 2008

Ship Happens, *Clay Times*, Nov/Dec 2007 (co-authored with Mary K. Cloonan)

Reconnecting: The Expressive Utilitarian Wares of Andy Shaw, *Ceramics Monthly*, October 2005

Centering: Community, Clay and Culture, NCECA 2005 Conference Preview, *Ceramics Monthly*, Feb 2005 ...