

# Ariel Villaverde

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## SUMMARY

Dynamic Art Manager and Art Director with 25 years experience leading creative teams across TV/Film Animation and Game Development. Proven track record of spearheading artistic visions for major global brands including Disney, Warner Bros., PBS, and Meta VR. Skilled in mentoring artists, optimizing production pipelines, and integrating cutting-edge tools (including Ai and real-time engines) to deliver high-quality visual storytelling on time and on budget. Bilingual in English and Spanish.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** Pennsylvania *Field Trip Educator* 2026

- Guide, supervise and assist K-2nd Grade field trip guests through exciting and educational museum exhibits and spaces.
- Tasked to perform set-up and rest responsibilities at certain physical spaces.
- Contributed to team building exercises and shared innovative ideas for current and future exhibits and/or spaces.

### **Schell Games** Pittsburgh *Artist Manager & Senior Concept Artist* 2022 - 2025

- Managed and mentored a team of 4 in-house Game Concept Artists, establishing career development frameworks and leading sub-discipline training workshops.
- Evaluated performance data to author semi-annual progression assessments, aligning individual artist milestones with studio production demands.
- Delivered Senior 2D Concept Art for high-profile immersive experiences, including *Out of Scale: A Kurzgesagt Adventure* for Meta VR and an un-announced Tokyo Disney theme park adventure ride.
- Researched and experimented with Ai tools to explore potential future artistic pipelines to accelerate concept generation and optimize workflow efficacy.
- Designed high-impact Key Art and visual assets for executive pitch decks to secure studio project funding.

### **Atomic Cartoons** Ottawa *2D Layout Supervisor* 2021

- Supervised, delegated scenes and mentored a mid-sized team of 2D Layout Background Artists to achieve the required cinematic scenes, while keeping to the show's aesthetic style for the **Apple+** episodic series *Pinecone & Pony*.

- Produced 2D Layout scenes for the **Disney+** Animated Film: *Night At The Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again*.

**Deluxe Animation Toronto 2D Layout Artist 2020 - 2021**

- Crafted cinematic 2D layout assets and environment designs for the Warner Bros. Animation feature film 2021 Animated Feature Film *Space Jam: A New Legacy*.

**Portfolio Entertainment Toronto Art Director 2018 - 2020**

- Promoted to Art Director after successfully developing the foundational background art style for the PBS Kids series *Hero Elementary*.
- Led and mentored a creative team of Background Artists, overseeing environmental design pipelines to achieve cinematic shot targets across all episodes.

**WildBrain Vancouver 2D Background Artist 2016 - 2018**

- Executed background designs for Season 2 of Cartoon Network's *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*.
- Created background environment art for the Youtube animated series *Subway Surfers*.

**9 Story Media Group Toronto Senior 2D Background Supervisor 2008 - 2018**

- Collaborated with Directors and Producers to review scripts, generate asset requirements, and assign production tasks to creative teams.
- Guided and coached junior artists to consistently meet and exceed strict episodic production deadlines.
- Supervised visual pipelines for key priorities including *The Magic School Bus Rides Again*, *Creative Galaxy*, *Max & Ruby*, and *Numb Chucks*(series Lead Concept Artist)
- Designed background art for the pilot episode of the Emmy-award-winning series *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*.

**March Entertainment Ontario Art Director 2003 - 2007**

- Directed the visual aesthetic for the CBC Television animated series *The Very Good Adventures of Yamroll in Happy Kingdom*.
- Spearheaded a mid-sized background art team from concept to final production, meeting all studio shot metrics.

**Nelvana Ltd. Toronto Senior 2D Concept Artist 1998 - 2003**

- Developed concepts and character designs for diverse television broadcasting networks, including *Clone High*, *Blaster's Universe*, *George & Martha*, and *Maggie and the Ferocious Beast*.

**Education:**

**Sheridan College**

Diploma in Classical Animation 1995 - 1998

**Skills & Languages:**

- Software & Tools: Adobe Creative Suite, Maya, Unity, ZBrush, MS Office, Generative Ai Pipelines.
- Core Competencies: Art Direction, Creative Team Management, 2D Concept Art, 2D Layout, Background Styling, Mentorship, Performance Reviews, Pitch Decks.
- Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent)