



Ben Blanco

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Project Management for Creative Initiatives

Innovative professional with a unique blend of critical thinking skills, financial aptitude, design savvy, and major project leadership experience. Continually identifies and implements strategic initiatives to advance operations, productivity, and profitability. Thrives in driving change through accuracy, process improvement, and leveraging technologies. Trusted collaborator with senior leadership and business partners.

"I just never knew what my daughter's talent was. Ben and the studio developed it, and I'm blown away by them."

- Kevin Kambic, from the 2021 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article

"Pittsburgh artist Maggie Kambic has 'a following overseas.' She also has Down syndrome."

Professional Experience

Creative Arts Manager and creator of VaultArt Studio, Achieva

Pittsburgh, PA July 2016 – Present

- Led the development of local non-profit Achieva's Creative Arts Department. Crafted all grant writing to successfully secure **\$200K for startup costs**. Created and launched the commercial gallery **VaultArt Studio**, which represents artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Track record of identifying financial risks and improving accounting processes. Prepares monthly financial reports, and manages an **annual budget of \$350k**.
- Supervises print and social media communications for department's brand. Promotes monthly events that attract **thousands of guests** and average **\$25K in art sales/year**. Viral posts on [instagram.com/vaultartstudio](https://www.instagram.com/vaultartstudio) have generated over **6K interactions**, and over **2K followers**.
- **Spearheaded the commercial website** [vaultartstudio.org](https://www.vaultartstudio.org) in 2020, which has generated over **\$40K** to date. Expanded domestic and international e-commerce opportunities for artists.
- Secured studio and retail space in the Penn Avenue Business District. Designed floor models to **maximize accessibility**, along with training and retail operations. Maintains facilities.
- Leads **three full-time staff** and **twenty artists** by building commitment, capability, and performance.

Associate Producer, 13th Gen Film Production

San Francisco, CA July 2014-July 2016

- **Oversaw marketing and financial operations** for seven film productions with budgets up to **\$500k**.
- Implemented information management systems using **Google Workspace, Analytics**, and **Microsoft Excel** in order to track project objectives and engagement on simultaneous film projects.

- Selected by executive leadership to travel nationally and internationally for **on-site initial negotiations** and **licensing agreements**.
- **Recruited talent** and drafted hiring contracts in accordance with California film production labor laws for film crews with up to **ten production staff** and up to **fifty on-camera personnel** per project.
- **Developed, wrote, edited, and designed** toolkits, educational materials, press notes, websites, video features, and other marketing assets for company's documentary and social cause film roster.
- Select titles include: *The G Word: A Documentary about Giftedness* (Post-Production), *The Watermelon Woman* 20th Anniversary Re-Master (2016), *Desert Migration* (2015)

Community & Civic Leadership

ASSEMBLE (*A community space for arts and technology*)

July 2021-Present

- Invited by the founder to serve as a strategic vision consultant for the fundraising and operations committee.

Vibrant Pittsburgh

August 2019-Present

- Serves on the Next Generation Council to attract, retain, and improve the diversity of young leaders and professionals in the region.

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh

February 2019-Present

- Current steering committee member due to extensive industry knowledge, and successfully launched a series of professional development training sessions.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corp.

November 2018-November 2020

- Selected to write sections of the Strategic Vision Plan 2020-2025 with the goal of improving economic development for residents, community groups, and businesses.

Education & Certification

Skillbook Academy | Scaled Agile (SAFe) Certification

Institute for Community Inclusion | ACRE Certification for Employment Supports

California College of the Arts | Master of Fine Arts in Film Production and Design

Dennis Leon and Christine Nelson Scholarship | awarded Teaching Assistantships for full term

University of Pittsburgh | Bachelor of Arts in Studio Arts and English Criticism | Summa Cum Laude

Graduation Speaker | first undergraduate Teaching Assistant in department history

Technology Profile

Adobe Design and Video Suites • WordPress • Google Workspace • Microsoft Teams, Office Suite