



Benjy Blanco

Creative Enterprise Management • Teacher • Artist and Toymaker

Work Experience

Creative Arts Manager, ACHIEVA

July 2016 - present

Duties

- Manages VaultArt Studio, a progressive art gallery in Pittsburgh's Penn Avenue Arts District
- Operates budget and financials of a commercial art gallery
- Supervises staff of 25 artists and 2 full-time artist mentors
- Researching PA Office of Developmental Programs regulations to develop programming and ensure compliance with state regulations
- Writes grant applications, and collaborates with other departments within the organization to fundraise for special projects
- Created an Arts Initiative for a large nonprofit organization that culminated in the opening of VaultArt Studio in July 2017

Associate Producer, 13th Gen Films

Jul 2014 – July 2016

Promoted from Assistant to the Producer

Dec 2013 – July 2014

Duties

- Coordinating multiple teams to complete tasks within tight deadlines
- Drafting budgets and bookkeeping
- Designing flyers, toolkits, press notes, and other marketing assets
- HTML and template web design
- Intensive client and film festival research
- Processing, logging, and editing legal clearances

Select titles include: *The G Word: A Documentary about Giftedness* (Post-Production), *The Watermelon Woman* 20th Anniversary Re-Master (2016), *The Nine* (2015), *Buried Above Ground* (2015), *Desert Migration* (2015), *Black is Blue* (Short, 2014)

Archivist, California College of the Arts

May 2014 – Sep 2014

Promoted from Administrative Assistant

Aug 2012 – May 2014

Duties

- Optimizing large volumes of confidential data for easy reference
- Developing archival methods
- Creating Excel databases

Teaching and Fine Arts experience continued on 2nd page

Capabilities

Administrative Professional

8+ years working in the fields of management, production, and coordination

- Creating budgets and tracking finances
- Developing systems for small businesses
- Event planning and coordination
- Office, Excel, and Google app suite

Teaching Professional

7+ years managing diverse classroom environments

- Disciplines taught: drawing, painting, sculpture
- Adults and teenagers with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- College and university art courses
- Senior classes for local art organizations

Creative Professional

3+ years professional experience with Adobe Creative Suite – Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign

- Designing digital and print promotional assets
- 10+ years exhibiting work as a sculptor and artist

Education

MFA, California College of the Arts

May 2014

Sculpture, Film, and Design

Dennis Leon and Christine Nelson Scholarship

For major impact on school culture

Creator of *Stage and Screen* video festival

BA, University of Pittsburgh

Dec 2010

Studio Arts, English Criticism

Graduated summa cum laude

Departmental Achievement Award recipient

Highest honor conferred upon graduation



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Teaching Practice

Creative Arts Manager, ACHIEVA / VaultArt Studio

Jul 2016 - cont

Duties

- Supervised the development of entire teaching method, structure, and curriculum for VaultArt Studio
- Goal of VaultArt programming is to provide both skill and professional development to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are interested in fine arts careers
- Methodology is individualized: artist mentors at VaultArt Studio are prepared to teach any skill needed by a particular artist

Teaching Assistant, California College of the Arts

Aug 2013 – May 2014

Classes: Sculpture Level 1, Sculpture Level 2

Duties

- Dividing up lectures and lessons with professor, managing critiques
- Providing office hours for additional student guidance after class

Main Instructor, Society for Contemporary Craft

Mar 2012 – Jul 2012

Classes: Senior classes, toymaking workshop

Duties

- Lesson planning and guidance for weekly Spring and Summer classes
- Teaching multi-step techniques for novices from beginning to end

Volunteering

Steering Committee Member, Pittsburgh Emerging Arts Leaders

Duties

Jul 2017 - cont

- Coordinating networking events and secretarial functions

Fine Arts Practice

Featured Art: Natural History Diplodocus Femur Installation Nov 2018
University of Pittsburgh, Posvar Hall

Featured art: video installation *Let Us Tickle You* Jan 2015
Incline Gallery 4th Anniversary Exhibition, San Francisco CA

Producer and creator of *Stage and Screen* May 2014
Video festival for CCA grads, now in its 5th year of production

Honors

Panel critic, California College of the Arts Finals April 2015

Invitation for alumni of Masters in Film program who work in the field to evaluate student theses

Artist Spotlight – Incline Gallery 4th Anniversary Jan 2015

Recognizes upcoming talent in the SF Bay Area

Dennis Leon and Christine Nelson Scholarship May 2014

Recognizes California College of the Arts students that have a major impact on their program and its culture

Tillie Spreyer Memorial Award recipient Dec 2011

Award for sculpture *Lachesis* at AAP 101st

Student speaker at University of Pittsburgh Apr 2011

Graduation ceremony

Pitt Departmental Achievement Award recipient Apr 2011

Highest honor conferred upon graduation

Arts and Sciences Dean's Award recipient Apr 2011

Award for installation *Santo* at senior show

Arts and Sciences Dean's Award recipient Apr 2010

Award for sculpture *Moloch* at Frick Fine Arts

Betty Blockstein Memorial Award recipient Apr 2010

Award for sculpture *Moloch* at Frick Fine Arts

Undergraduate Studies Award recipient Apr 2009

Award for sculpture *Caesar* at Frick Fine Arts

Martin Richard and Susan Gluck Award recipient Apr 2008

Award for installation *Gondrites* at Frick Fine Arts

Featured art: light sculptures *Depthcharges* Oct 2014
Historic Dunsuir Manor, Oakland CA

Featured art: short film *Dinoplasty* Jun 2013
QCC International Exhibition, San Francisco CA

Featured art: sculpture *Lachesis* Nov 2011
Associated Artists of Pittsburgh 101st Annual