



## Education and Advanced Training

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Person-Centered Practices  
Certification

*Aug 2021*

National ACRE Certification  
for Employment Services

*Apr 2019*

Master of Fine Arts  
California College of the Arts  
Dennis Leon Scholarship

*May 2014*

Bachelor of Arts  
University of Pittsburgh  
Honors College  
Summa cum laude

*Dec 2010*

## Board Work and Volunteering

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Vibrant Pittsburgh  
Next Generation Council

*Aug 2019 – present*

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh  
Steering Committee

*Feb 2019 – present*

Bloomfield Garfield Corp  
Board Member

*Nov 2018 – Nov 2020*

Pgh Emerging Arts Leaders  
Co-Chair and Secretary

*Jul 2017 – Jul 2019*

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# Benjy Blanco

Creative enterprise leader  
supporting nonprofit initiatives  
with best business practices

## Work Experience

Creative Arts Manager, Achieva

*Jul 2016 – present*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

In 2016, I was hired to develop Achieva's new Creative Arts Department. My pitch was "Art as a Vocation," a service operating under Community Integrated Employment. One year later, I launched the department's major project: VaultArt Studio, a commercial gallery and marketplace located in Pittsburgh's thriving Penn Avenue Arts District. At VaultArt, we provide college-level training and inclusive professional support to neurodiverse artists with ambitious career goals.

### *Business Operations*

- Wrote, applied for, and awarded grants to fundraise for \$200K startup costs
- Negotiated with PA Office of Developmental Programs and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to bill Medicaid for an innovative and unique employment service
- Launched a commercial website in 2020 that earned \$20K in its first year of operation, and allowed artists working at VaultArt to develop national and international customer bases
- Successfully transitioned department in 2021 to a higher billing rate under an advanced service model after years of artist career growth with increased entrepreneurial income
- Develops and oversees departmental finances that yield annual profits

### *Programs*

- Manages 3 full-time staff with Masters degrees, and a roster of 25 artists receiving supports
- Creates and promotes exhibitions and art markets that attract thousands of guests and average \$2K in sales per month, with all income going directly to artists working at VaultArt
- Develops comprehensive, wide-ranging training curriculum for groups and individuals based on artist learning styles and professional goals – from photorealistic painting techniques, to filing taxes as an independent contractor
- Fosters mentor relationships with artists working at VaultArt and notable members of the Pittsburgh fine arts community based on shared expertise

*Employment continued on page 2*

## Core Skills

- Provides progress-driven human services that focus on employment, community inclusion, and person-centered objectives
- Hires, trains, and retains specialized staff
- Develops budgets and financial operations that prioritize fiscal solvency and growth
- Plans and coordinates large-scale events
- Highly proficient writing and digital literacy skills, with experience in grant applications, service proposals, marketing, communications, contract development, and archiving
- Print and website design, with fluency in Adobe Suite products

## Honors and Awards

Strategic Vision Consultant  
Bunker Projects, ASSEMBLE  
Aug 2021

Guest Lecturer  
Application Workshop Series  
Associated Artists of Pittsburgh  
May 2021

Publication  
Letter of Support for Activism  
Bloomfield Bulletin  
Jul 2020

Applicant Selection  
Handmade Arcade  
Dec 2018, 2019, 2020

Publication  
VaultArt Exhibition Writeup  
Pittsburgh City Paper  
Aug 2019

Permanent Exhibition  
Diplodocus Femur Installation  
University of Pittsburgh  
Nov 2018

Grant Awardee  
Buncher Foundation  
Sep 2016

MFA Thesis Panel Critic  
California College of the Arts  
Apr 2015

Spotlight Artist  
Bay Area Rising Talent  
Incline Gallery 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Jan 2015

Guild Membership Awardee  
101<sup>st</sup> Annual Exhibition  
Associated Artists of Pittsburgh  
Dec 2011

Student Graduation Speaker  
Dept Achievement Award  
Undergraduate Studies Award  
Arts and Sciences Award  
University of Pittsburgh  
Apr 2009 -Dec 2011

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# Benjy Blanco

## Work Experience, continued

### Associate Producer, 13<sup>th</sup> Gen Film Production

Jul 2014 - Jul 2016

San Francisco, CA

- Carried out on-site advanced negotiations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Berlin Germany for film festival, streaming, and home video distribution
- Oversaw financial operations for numerous film productions with budgets up to \$500K
- Developed and designed toolkits, educational materials, press notes, websites, and marketing assets for company's documentary and social cause film roster
- Select titles included: *The G Word: A Documentary about Giftedness* (Post-Production), *The Watermelon Woman* 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-Master (2016), *The Nine* (2015), *Buried Above Ground* (2015), *Desert Migration* (2015), *Black is Blue* (Short, 2014)

### Teaching Assistant, California College of the Arts Sculpture Dept

Aug 2013 - May 2014

San Francisco, CA

- Supported two professors teaching a total of four introductory and intermediate sculpture courses in class lectures and demos, including substitute coverage
- Provided 1:1 teaching support for students looking to improve ability in all aspects of the department course load, including material competency, critical writing, and art history
- Primary instructor for after-class and weekend shop access for students using advanced industrial equipment in compliance with OSHA standards

### Administrative Assistant, California College of the Arts

Aug 2012 - May 2014

San Francisco, CA

- Optimizing large volumes of confidential student application data for ease of reference
- Student interface and interviews for demographic and campus life surveys
- Processing course reviews and professor evaluations
- Developing archival systems in Microsoft Excel

### Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh Sculpture Dept

Aug 2010 - Dec 2011

Pittsburgh, PA

- Supported three advanced-level sculpture courses requiring student use and access to industrial wood shop and metal working studios
- Emergency preparedness and safety training, including 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR/AED certification which continues to be renewed in current employment role
- Held regular office hours, and provided 1:1 shop demos and tutoring for students
- Awarded position as first undergraduate teaching assistant in recent department history

References Available Upon Request