

CURRICULUM VITAE

Amy King Ruggaber

Arts Leader, Policy Analyst, and Advocate

I am a creative professional with 20+ years of experience in the nonprofit arts sector, focused on community engagement, collaboration, equitable public policies, and advocacy. I specialize in assisting artists, organizations, and communities in telling their stories effectively. Adept at strategic planning, program and curriculum design, grant writing, and management as well as public speaking, I am a self-motivated leader known for a deeply collaborative spirit, dedication to the principals of diversity, equity and inclusion, a strong work ethic, and innovative mindset.

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SKILLS

Public & Nonprofit Management
Public Policy Analysis & Development
Public Speaking
Arts Advocacy
Strategic Planning
Arts Integration
Human-Centered Program Design
Program Evaluation
Community Engagement
Budgeting

Fundraising
Communications
Grant Writing & Management
Results-Based Facilitation
Creative Entrepreneurship
Event Planning
Theatre & Performing Arts
Authentic Leadership and Staff
Management

WORK EXPERIENCE

SOCIAL POLICY CONSULTANT, ARTS AND CULTURE (Contract Position)

[Seeding Success](#), More for Memphis Project | April 2022 – May 2023

[More for Memphis](#) is a cross-sector, community-driven project with the goal of improving economic and social mobility outcomes for BIPOC communities in Memphis, TN. As Social Policy Consultant for the Arts and Culture Collaborative, my role is leading research and policy development. To do so, I collaborate with community members, youth, and sector experts, presenting and interpreting data to build a compelling narrative. I facilitate audiences in connecting the significance of the statistics and facts to their own experiences and perspectives. Together, we isolate and examine systemic issues and infrastructural shortfalls which

CURRICULUM VITAE

disproportionately impact BIPOC artists. Finally, we make intervention recommendations which I develop into sustainable policy recommendations to be presented to the Memphis City Council, County Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and TN state agencies.

Participating in the Arts and Culture Collaborative are:

- **Memphis Music Initiative (Lead Organization)**
- **Collage Dance Company**
- **TONE**
- **The Orpheum Theatre Memphis**
- **The National Civil Rights Museum**
- **BRIDGES Memphis**
- **Community members, youth, and independent artists**

FOUNDER, CO-OWNER, CONSULTANT

[Ruggaber Creatives, Inc.](#) | Jan 2018 - current

My consulting firm, [Ruggaber Creatives](#), specializes in providing strategic, technical, and creative support for artists and nonprofits in the Memphis area and beyond. Although passionate about supporting the growth of small, minority-lead and focused arts organizations, I have also contracted with larger companies across multiple states. I collaborate closely with artists and communities to communicate their impact and the importance of the arts through careful, audience-focused storytelling.

Highlights include the development, design, and installation of the [“Uplift the Vote” Exhibit for the Hooks Institute](#) and serving as the Keynote Speaker for Tennessee Arts Advocacy Day in 2019.

Clients include:

- **Ohio Arts Council**, Folk and Traditional Arts Contractor
 - *Read some examples of my profiles of folk and traditional arts and artists [here](#) and [here](#).*
- **Tennesseans for the Arts**, Administrative Director
- **Tennessee Shakespeare Company**, Grants Manager and Writer
- **The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis**, [Exhibit Design](#), Script Writer, [Documentary Set Design](#), Production Manager, Social Media Campaign Development and Communications, Grant Writer, Event Planning
- **Hattiloo Theatre**, Teaching Artist, Actor, Education Program Consultant
- **NrityArpana School for Performing Arts**, Grants and Administration Consultant
- **Cazateatro Bilingual Theatre Company**, Grants Writer and Strategic Consultant
- **Carpenter Art Garden** Grants Writer and Consultant
- **Tennessee Arts Academy**, Grant Writer
- **Independent documentary filmmakers** Grants Researcher
 - Robert Gordon, Grammy and Emmy award-winning writer and documentarian
 - Trisha Clarke, UK-based Documentarian for films “I Shall Be” and “Repudiation”

CURRICULUM VITAE

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER

ArtsMemphis/ ArtUp | Apr 2016 - Dec 2017

In this role, I oversaw the award-winning **Arts Fellows Program**, which was created to provide professional development to artists, arts administrators, and community residents on Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship, as well as EDIA principles. This program was incubated at **ArtsMemphis** and has since become its own entity in the new organization, **ArtUp**.

In this role, I was charged with:

- Designing and developing a syllabus, resource handbook, and program evaluation tools.
- Curating, organizing, and executing the Fellowship program curriculum, learning sessions, and experiences.
- Managing communications and travel plans for Fellows cohort, including mentors, and program administrators for site visits and conferences in multiple cities and states, including Boston, Newark, Brooklyn, Chicago, Charlotte, and more.
- Providing individualized support and mentorship to Fellows, helping them to successfully navigate the program and implement the concepts of engagement, entrepreneurship, and equity in their artistic and community work.
- Assisting in the development of a strategic plan, new programming, and business model for the new organization, ArtUp.

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Playback Memphis | Sept 2014 - Apr 2016

As the first hire of Playback Memphis beyond their founder, I was responsible for creating major foundational structures for this burgeoning nonprofit theatre company. This included the set-up and management of a development database, ensemble performance schedule, internal task management website, evaluation materials and reporting, and grant writing and management. Additionally, I authored the Board of Directors' Handbook, established an invoice and tracking system, and established and oversaw the company's social media presence. I assisted in the creation of a three-year Strategic Plan for all programming and organizational structure and provided program and progress reporting to the Board.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

[Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati](#) | Aug 2007 - Apr 2014

Though I joined Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati (ETC) as an Intern, I was quickly hired as the first Director of Education for the Equity and LORT-LOA theatre company. In this role, I founded what would go on to become an award-winning education department, working closely with area schools, community arts centers, and partner organizations. Charged by my Artistic Director with "serving those who are overlooked" I developed and implemented strategic plans and budgets to expand and diversify educational programming to steadily increase the populations served each season.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Over time, I was able to:

- Double the numbers of individuals served by theatre education outreach.
- Triple the number of programs offered to the community.
- Personally teach 10,000+ students.
- Write 50 original, curriculum-integrated plays with and for k-12 students, many of whom were from the differently-abled community.

In addition to my educational duties:

- Developed and coordinated a new volunteer organization at ETC, managing the engagement and mobilization of 285+ volunteers. This task involved developing policies and procedures for recruitment, training, recognition and communication for volunteers.
- Trained and oversaw members of Intern Company in their duties in House Management, Community Outreach, and distribution of marketing materials.
- Piloted new ways to communicate to funders, patrons, volunteers, and supporters through the creation of two online blogs, use of social media, the publication of annual reports for the education department, and more.

I was frequently called upon to represent the theatre as a speaker and facilitator for public events and collaborations with other organizations.

I represented ETC in:

- The first STRIVE Initiative Arts Education Student Success Network
- The Greater Cincinnati Alliance for Arts Education, for which I eventually became Co-Chair
- The Ohio Alliance for Arts Education
- Ohio State Arts Advocacy Day

FREELANCE TEACHING ARTIST & PERFORMER

Various Organizations | 2005 - 2019

Contracted By:

- *Hattiloo Theatre*
- *Playhouse on the Square*
- *Delta Arts*
- *Madonna Learning Center*
- *Theatre West Virginia*

As a teaching artist, I have worked within various organizations' programmatic structures to teach theatre and performance skills in public, private, and charter schools as well as community theatre programs.

In doing so:

- Developed curriculum and lesson plans based on the needs and missions of contracting companies and schools.
- Worked with students to write, design, rehearse, and perform original scripts/productions through my own "Creative Engineering Process." This focuses more on teaching the creative process of theatre rather than solely on the finished product.
- Directed 120+ students at a time in major productions, such as *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Worked as the local support educator for national touring artists from the Lincoln Center.

CURRICULUM VITAE

I am particularly skilled in engaging students who are disabled and/or neurologically divergent in collaborative creative processes. To do so, I consult with classroom teachers as well as occupational and speech therapists to develop activities specifically tailored to the skills and concepts which are the current focus of each student's Individual Education Plan and interests.

FREELANCE TEACHING ARTIST & PERFORMER

Theatre IV | Aug 2006 - May 2007

Performed in the 25th anniversary production of *Hugs and Kisses*, a sexual abuse awareness and prevention program which toured across the Commonwealth of Virginia. For six months, I performed twice a day in schools all across the state and assisted in set-up and maintenance of sets, costumes, and sound equipment.

For this role:

- Underwent special training with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia to act as an advocate for children seeking help.
- Assisted school counselors and the Department of Social Services at each school visited in identifying children in danger.

VOLUNTEERISM AND MEMBERSHIPS

MEMBER, STATE BOARD MEMBER

Tennesseans for the Arts | 2018

- Member of TFTA since 2016.
- Attended 2016 and 2017 Arts Advocacy Day in Nashville to speak to members of the House on the importance of the arts in their districts and in TN at large.
- At the request of ArtsMemphis, developed and published information packets for State Arts Advocacy Day participants, including research and information on arts in the economy and the creative industries.
- Lead a team of Memphis advocates to visit five state representatives on State Arts Advocacy Day in 2017, 2018.
- Rolled off Board early in order to be hired on as the Administrative Director, a role held from 2018 – 2020.

MEMBER

Americans for the Arts | 2015 - Current

- Attended 2015, 2016, & 2017 National Conferences along with Pre-conferences on Cultural Equity, Community Visioning, and Racial Equity.

CURRICULUM VITAE

- Wrote winning nomination for ArtsMemphis Community Engagement Fellowship Program for the inaugural 2016 Robert E. Gard Award.
- Generated three published blog posts for AFTA, one on Resiliency in Arts Leadership and two on Advocacy.

MEMBER, CO-CHAIR

Greater Cincinnati Alliance for Arts Education | 2008 - 2013, Co-Chair 2012 - 2013

- Developed Advocacy Pocket Tool Kit for distribution through GCAAE, which has gone on to be used by the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and the Ohio Arts Education Association.
- Advocated for arts education on local and state levels.
- Organized Professional Development classes and workshops for area teachers and teaching artists.
- Served as Arts Integration specialist for the original STRIVE Initiative in Cincinnati, OH.

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Ohio Alliance for Arts Education | 2012 - 2013

- Prepared and presented quarterly reports on the activities and goals of GCAAE.
- Participated in Ohio Arts Day by meeting with State Legislators to advocate for the Ohio Arts Council and arts education.

PRESENTATIONS AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

GUEST SPEAKER/WEBINAR LEADER

Memphis Music Initiative | February and April 2021
"Arts Advocacy information and Planning Sessions" (2 webinars)

GUEST SPEAKER/WEBINAR LEADER

Miami University | April 2021
"Arts Advocacy as a Professional Artist"

GUEST SPEAKER/WEBINAR LEADER

Memphis Music Initiative | February 2020
"Arts Advocacy Planning"

CURRICULUM VITAE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER, STATE ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

Tennesseans for the Arts, Tennessee Arts Council | 2019
"Artist, Advocate, Constituent"

GUEST SPEAKER

Tennessee Arts Academy, Belmont University | 2019
"Arts Advocacy"

GUEST SPEAKER

Department of Dance and Theatre, University of Memphis | 2018
"Utilizing the Arts in Education and Community Engagement"

GUEST SPEAKER

Department of Education, University of Memphis | 2018
"Independent Teaching Artists, Educators, and Advocates."

BLOG COLUMNIST

Americans for the Arts | 2016 - 2017

[*"If Not YOU, Then WHO?: Why I Became an Arts Advocate"*](#)

"Resilient Leadership in the Arts: Realities About Being in an Arts Couple"

[*"Advocating for the Everyday Advocate"*](#)

BLOG COLUMNIST

ArtsMemphis, 2016

BLOG COLUMNIST

"Beyond Broadway" Column, The Write Teacher(s), NYC-based | 2013 - 2014

Interviewed theatre leaders from all over the country, including [NJ Shakespeare](#) and [Seattle Repertory Theatre](#) to map and highlight the unique strengths and challenges facing Regional Theatres in a post-recession economy and creative industry.

MASTER CLASS PRESENTER

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra | 2013
"Creating a World"

The workshop instructed teachers on easy and inexpensive ways to use theatre techniques to immerse students in a subject to bring the curriculum to life and highlight relevancy.

CURRICULUM VITAE

GUEST SPEAKER

The College-Conservatory of Music, The University of Cincinnati | 2013
“Building Professional Relationships with Social Media”

EDUCATION

DEGREES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC POLICY

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE, NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

The University of Memphis | 2023 | GPA: 4.0

BACHELOR OF MUSIC, VOCAL EDUCATION, MINOR IN THEATRE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte | 2005 | GPA: 3.7

TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH - BASIC/REFRESHER

CITI Program | Issued Sept. 2022 – Expires Sept. 2024
Credential ID – 48839581

RESULTS-BASED FACILITATION – WHITE BELT

Seeding Success | 2022

STEWARDS OF CHILDREN - CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

Memphis Child Advocacy Center | 2022

YOUTH ADULT EQUITY

BRIDGES Memphis | 2022

CURRICULUM VITAE

ARTSENGAGED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING BETA COHORT

Doug Borwick, Arts Engaged | 2017

Worked with renowned thought-leader Doug Borwick to develop a new training module for his company, ArtsEngaged. Functioned as a BETA test student for national, web-based training.

THE ARTS MEMPHIS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM

Linda Steele, ArtsMemphis | 2015

Studied the theories and best practices of community engagement within the arts through the work of Doug Borwick, Donna Walker-Kune, and the 'Animating Democracy Toolkit' created by the Americans for the Arts.

LINCOLN CENTER INSTITUTE TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING

Delta Arts | 2013

A WALK THROUGH THE NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE ARTS

Jim Palmarini, Educational Theatre Association | 2013