

Jillian Gryzlak | Collaborator, Educator, Administrator, and Artist

[@jgryzlak](#)

Current Work

Early 2019, I decided to return to the classroom and art making to reconnect and explore the practice of teaching and to realign my work to the arts. Some recent projects include:

Exhibit design, fabrication, and installation for the Keilhauer showroom, NeoCon at the Merchandise Mart with NewMoon, Chicago IL.

- Led the aesthetic direction of the installation.
- Managed production team and installation schedule.
- Managed budget.

Artist in Residence at Prussing Elementary with Urban Gateways, Chicago IL.

- Project was a part of the Creative Schools Fund in collaboration with Ingenuity and the CPS Department of Arts Education.
- Collaborated with the classroom teacher to develop a process oriented curriculum.
- Led multiple classes each week in creating a large scale permanent mural within the new annex of the school.
- Managed budget and installation schedule.

Costume design and construction for “880 Movements: A Body, Home” with Dance Exchange in partnership with The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ and traveling across the United States.

- Created modular costumes that accommodate the dancers’ movements and fit different body types.
- Incorporated symbolism of color and fabrics to support the stories shared in the piece.

Management and Direction

After School Matters | Program Specialist, Feb 2016 – Feb 2019

Managed a portfolio of roughly 30 programs providing opportunities for teens in the Near West Side and East Garfield Park community areas. (Feb 2016 – Feb 2017)

- Conduct site visits and perform formal YPQ assessments.
- Recommend professional development for instructors based on observations.
- Coach instructors and program providers to level up program quality as needed.
- Led special initiatives to bring together over 400 teens to perform original pieces of dance and poetry for their community.
- Develop and manage relationships with program providers, instructors, school administrators, teens, and parents.

In Feb 2017, moved community areas to Belmont Cragin and managed the start-up of programs in ASM’s new facility, The Lutz Family Center. Within this new role, additional responsibilities include:

- Requesting and assessing program proposals.
- Hiring and onboarding of new program staff.
- Developing and managing program budgets.
- Managing 2-3 part-time staff, 1 full-time seasonal staff in addition to 38 independent part-time instructors.
- Develop systems and make recommendations for running the facility.
- Manage the recruitment and interviewing for over 650 opportunities for each session of programs.
- Manage the programs in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood creating pathways for teens in the community area and the Lutz Center.

Redmoon Theater | Education Programs Curator, Jan 2013 - Dec 2015

- Successful management of community programs within and outside of school settings for youth, adults, and families.
- Effective coordination and management of arts and STEM programs in partnership with After School Matters, serving over 320 Chicago teens annually.
- Designed, secured funding, managed implementation and assessment of a new Technical Apprenticeship program focused in wood and metalworking skills training and job readiness.
- Managed community partnerships and programs.
- Successful management of administrative, production, and artistic intern teams. Recruiting, coordinating, and managing over 200 interns annually.

Ag47 | Art Director, Lead Teacher, and Founding Member, Jan 2009 - Aug 2012

- Designed and managed curriculum implementation for an all-female identifying one-to-one arts mentorship nonprofit.
- Recruited mentors/mentees and coordinated in pairing alongside the Executive Director.
- Led professional development for mentors about Ag47 pedagogy as well as the cohesive aesthetic.
- Organized and guided mentors as co-teachers for weekly sessions.
- Curated and installed annual final showcases.

Select Teaching and Program Development

CAPE | Teaching Artist at Chicago Artists in Partnership in Education, 2019 – Current
Focusing on arts integration in partnership with a core curriculum classroom teacher.

Alternatives Inc. | Instructor with After School Matters at Manley Career Academy, 2011/12
Teens created a public anti-violence mural and youth-led peace rally with members of the North Lawndale/Douglas Park communities.

Urban Gateways | Teaching Artist at Urban Gateways, Apr 2009 – Current
Develop and facilitate curriculum in arts integration within the K-12 classroom. Design and deliver arts-based after school programs, and teacher professional development across Chicago Public Schools with a focus in visual and literary arts.

DramaGirls | Lead Artist with Redmoon Theater, 2008/09
An all-girls program incorporating the Spectacle arts of performance, visual arts, contraptions, and storytelling to an audience of over 1,500.

Education

DePaul University – Master of Arts: Material culture and visual language and symbolism in the arts, 2013
School of the Art Institute of Chicago – Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2005

Projects and Inspiration

- 2020** Prop Design for “Grey Gardens” with Theo Ubique, Evanston, IL.
Costume Design for “Farewell Fables” with Cabinet of Curiosity, Chicago, IL.
- 2019** Prop Design for “Columbinus” with Elgin Community College, Elgin IL.
Prop Design for “La Ofrenda” with Adventure Stage Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2018** Costume design and construction for “Tabletop Tragedies” with Cabinet of Curiosity to debut at the

International Puppetry Festival, Chicago IL.

- 2017** Costume design and construction for “Firsts” an interactive play created by For Youth Inquiry, the arts branch of the Adolescent Caucus of Adolescent Health, Chicago IL.
- 2015** Museum Camp attendee, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz CA.
- 2013** Co-authored and presented “Cultural Politics of Textile Craft Revivals” at the Textile Society of America Symposium, Washington, D.C.
- 2012** Curator of Youth Spectacle at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and Homan Square community center with Redmoon Theater, Chicago IL.
- 2011** Presentation at the Museum of Contemporary Art Curriculum Slam, Chicago IL.
- 2008** Bliran Sina Ikat Cooperative, Flores, Indonesia. Worked and lived in a village making ikat textiles as a participant observer.
- 2007**
 - Kerala Khadi Cooperative, Kerala, India. Worked and lived in a village weaving traditional Khadi textiles with a women’s group as a part of a participatory action research project.
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Orissa, India. Worked and lived in village as a participant observer making Ikat saris as a part of a women’s training program to secure financial stability and newly organized communities of weavers

Assessment Certifications/Trainings

Youth Program Quality Assessment | Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Dimensions of Success | The PEAR Institute

Youth Mental Health First AID

Trauma Informed Organization 3 day training: UCAN