

Jillian Gryzlak | Collaborator, Educator, Artist, and Maker

jvgryzlak@gmail.com [@jgryzlak](mailto:jvgryzlak@gmail.com) 773.490.0705

In 2019, I realigned my work with the arts and returned to making, teaching, and design. Since, I have collaborated on some exciting projects. Some highlights include:

Prop Artisan, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Loyola University Chicago 2021-Present

- Lead prop design and fabrication for the school's 5 mainstage productions.
- Provide training and mentorship to student workers and students enrolled in design and fabrication classes in the shop.
- Lead lessons in two courses around the role of prop design and fabrication.

Production Designer for "Imagine That" with Northwestern University: Theatre School of Communication and toured in the Chicago Public Library, 2024

- Collaborated with a college class and a preschool class to devise a theater experience.
- Presented design research and facilitated design workshops with college students to then support their workshops with the preschool class.
- Built and adapted the objects and puppets throughout the devising process.

Artist in Residence, Franconia Sculpture Park, Minnesota, 2024

- Designed and facilitated an original curriculum around site-specific art, sculpting and building practices, and installation art for young people ages 11-14
- Each young person designed and installed an original piece of art in the sculpture park that will be on display for the remainder of the summer.

Select Education & Teaching Artistry

Loyola University Chicago, Part-time - Faculty 2021-Present

- Prop Artisan for the 4 mainstage theater productions, 1 Dance performance and mentor student designers in student-led projects
- Teach classes in the Teaching Artist minor program

Our Lady of Grace School, Art Teacher - 2022-Present

- Design, prep and lead in school arts instruction for K-8th grades.
- Identify and accommodate specific needs of students.

Urban Gateways, Teaching Artist - 2008-Present

- Lead in school and after school programs in visual arts across K-8 Chicago Public Schools.
- Leading professional development for arts and core subject classroom teachers around choice based learning and arts integration.

Chicago Artist in Partnership in Education (CAPE), Artist - 2020-2023

- Collaboratively design and co-teach arts integration projects. Classroom and Teacher collaborations have included U.S. History, Civics, Biotechnology, Urban Agriculture, and Cluster Programs.

DramaGirls: Redmoon Neighborhood Arts Program, Lead Artist - 2007-8 School year

- Guide the object, prop, set, and puppet building for a devised performance.
- Collaborated closely with the Director team to center youth voices and redirect the curriculum based on their explorations and choices.

Management and Direction

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

Managed a portfolio of 30 programs providing opportunities for teens in the Near West Side and East Garfield Park community areas.

- Conduct site visits and perform formal Youth Program Quality Assessments.
- Led special initiatives to bring together over 400 teens to perform original pieces of dance and poetry for their community.

In Feb 2017, I changed roles to manage the start-up of programs at The Lutz Family Center. New responsibilities included:

- Requesting and assessing program proposals.

- Managing 2-3 part-time staff, 1 full-time seasonal staff in addition to 38 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.

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.
- 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 showcases.

Select Costume, Prop, and Installation Work

- Goodman Theatre, "Christmas Carol" - Butterfly Puppet design & fabrication, 2024
- "Garden of Decay" - Navy Pier - Installation artist, 2023
- Goodman Theatre, "Christmas Carol" - Rat Puppet design & fabrication, 2023
- Cabinet of Curiosity, "Sea Change" - Museum of Contemporary Art - Costume design, 2022
- Grand opening installation for the Bank of America building - Installation artist & team lead - 2020
- Adventure Stage Chicago, "Ghost" - Prop design, 2020
- The Gift Theatre, "Pillowman" - Prop design, 2020
- Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, "Grey Gardens" - Prop design, 2020
- Elgin Community College Theater Department, "Columbinus" - Prop design, 2019
- Adventure Stage Chicago, "La Ofrenda" - Prop design, 2019
- Cabinet of Curiosity, "Tabletop Tragedies" - International Puppetry Festival - Costume design, 2019
- NeoCon Merchandise Mart - Installation artist & team lead, 2018
- Dance Exchange & The University of Arizona, "A Body, Home" - Costume Design, 2018
- Adolescent Caucus for Adolescent Health, "Firsts" - Costume design, 2017
- Albany Park Theater Project, "Learning Curve" - Installation artist, 2016
- Chicago Children's Theater, "The Beatrix Potter" - Costume design, 2015
- Redmoon, "The Great Chicago Fire Festival" - Interactive Installation artist, 2015
- Redmoon, "Winter Pageant" - Art Director & Costume design, 2014
- Chicago Children's Theater, "The Elephant and the Whale" - Costume design, 2013
- Redmoon Neighborhood Arts Program, "Youth Spectacle" at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and Homan Square Community Center - Curator & Lead artist, 2012
- Redmoon, Obama Whitehouse Halloween celebration - Costume design, 2009
- Redmoon, "Once Upon a Time or the Secret Language of Birds" - Costume design, 2007

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