

# VALERIE XANOS

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## EDUCATION

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- MFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago** Aug 2021  
Low Residency MFA program  
Thesis: *Exiled in Light: An exploration of altered phenomenological perception*  
Thesis exhibition: *Exiled in Light :: Never(W)here*  
Thesis Advisors: Gregg Bordowitz and Tyler Coburn
- MS Western Illinois University** (partially completed) 1994-1996  
Emphasis: Therapeutic Recreation in Education  
GPA 3.86-4.0, Rho Phi Lambda Honor Society
- BFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago** May 1991  
Emphases: Painting, Multi-Media Installation, Art Education  
Illinois Art Education Teaching Certification K-12  
Glasgow Art School in Glasgow, Scotland 1989  
Student Exchange Program for Research and Advanced Painting.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- School of the Art Institute of Chicago,** Jan – May, 2023  
**Lecturer,** Art Education
- Teach *Doing Democracy*, a required art education course around the history of the struggle for democratic education in Chicago as it compares to other forms of education movements in the United States.
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago,** Aug 2016-2019, 2022  
**Studio Art Instructor,** Adult Programs; Continuing Studies
- Teach *Experimental Drawing and Painting: Exploring Contemporary Practice*, an adult studies course that explores the experimental practice of contemporary interdisciplinary drawing and painting techniques.
  - Developed the proposal, curriculum, and syllabus for the course.
- Curie Metropolitan High School for Technical and Performing Arts,** Chicago Public Schools Sept 1999 to Present  
**Studio Art Instructor;** Visual/Fine Arts Department

- Mentor student teachers from SAIC, UIC, and other art education programs.
  - Mentor IB art students for their personal projects and extended essays.
  - Teach workshops and mentor students in portfolio development and art school/scholarship applications.
  - Serve as a general education teacher in IEP meetings and provide accommodations for all Diverse Learner students.
  - Serve as liaison with Early College Programs and other teens arts programs in Chicago for our high school students.
- Developed and Teach ARTivism Track: ARTivism 1, ARTivism II-H, ARTivism III- H  
This unique set of courses is designed to help students develop a contemporary, interdisciplinary studio arts practice addressing issues of social justice. The advanced honors levels, II and III (AKA the Guerrilla Art Collective), function as an artist collective in which students work with me and visiting/resident artists to develop the curriculum and community-engaged projects for the year.
    - Designed and created the proposal, curriculum, methodology, and syllabi for all levels of the ARTivism Track. 2010 – 2022
    - Founder and facilitator of The Guerilla Art Collective and its alumni cadre
    - Mentor students for internships in gallery curation/installation.
    - Coordinate visiting artists for the ARTivism track
    - Coordinate the SPACE studio; a flex space used for creating, community engagement, workshopping, and exhibiting social justice artworks.
    - See Residency, Curatorial, and Publication sections of CV for additional details
  - Artist Instructor for IB/MYP Art; Drawing and Painting II, III, AP Studio Art, Art I, II, III in the Art Majors Program; and Art Appreciation
    - Designed, created, and taught the Curriculum and syllabi for all courses.
    - Sponsored National Art Honors Society, Art Club, Figure Drawing Club, and YARN (a yarn bombing collective).

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago,** 1996-2009

**Studio Art Instructor:** Young Artist Studios, Middle School Program, and Ox-Bow Art Camp; Continuing Studies Department

- Taught a variety of interdisciplinary studio arts courses for children aged 3 years – 14 years old.
- Developed the curricula and syllabi for the courses.
- Mentored student teachers from the SAIC Art Education department who completed student teaching internships in YAS programs

**Calumet Career Academy High School,** Chicago Public Schools 1996-1999

**Art Teacher;** Fine Arts Department

- Artist Instructor for Art Appreciation and Studio Art I

**Mount Greenwood Park District,** Chicago 1996

**Program Specialist** for Art classes for Campers with Disabilities

- Internship for Masters work at Western Illinois University

**Camp Wawbeek/Pioneer, Easter Seals** 1992  
Program Specialist for Art and Nature Studies classes for Campers with Disabilities

## **ARTIST AND TEACHING RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

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**Resident Artist, Chicago Art Department (CAD)** 2018-Present  
Personal Art Practice

- Creating for personal art practice as part of the CAD community with studio space, workshops, event planning, presentations, studio visits, and exhibition/curatorial experience.
- Curated three art exhibitions
- Exhibited in six art exhibitions

**Journey to Justice 2.0**, a two year-long residency exploring techniques for social emotional learning/compassion in the classroom and new media platforms (such as Twine and augmented reality) as tools for creative agency. 2021-2023

**MotherArt: Revisited Collective** 2018-Present

- Original organizing member
- Creating and exhibiting as a collective artist member.
- Contribute to MAR literary publications.
- Given public artist talks in conjunction with exhibitions.

**Lead Artist Teacher for SPACE (School Partnership for Art and Civic Engagement), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Curie Metro HS - Pilot school** 2017 - 2022

Co-created the SPACE curriculum. Partnered with resident artists, civics teachers, and museum programs to create contemporary art projects with high school art students around issues of social justice. Artwork is community engaged and inspired by MCA exhibits. Centered around the work done in the advanced ARTivism classes AKA the Guerrilla Art Collective. [IG@GAC.CurieHS](#). Details of work can be found in “Curatorial Projects – Student Art Exhibitions”. Residency Projects:

- 2022 *Hear Our Voices!*; in consultation with Andres L. Hernandez
- 2021 *Self Care is Self Love*; Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez
- 2020 *Student Voice in the Covid19 Pandemic*; Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez and Daniel Jimenez
- 2019 *Selfies 4 Justice*; Partnered with Ricardo Gamboa
- 2018 *Identity Crisis*, Partnered with Samantha Hill
- 2017 *Sanctuary*; Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez

**Lead Artist Teacher in Art Partner School Initiative, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Curie Metro HS.** 2015-2016

Partnered with resident artists and museum programs to create special projects with high school arts students using contemporary practice in fine arts. Centered around the work done

in the advanced ARTivism classes AKA the Guerrilla Art Collective in response to MCA exhibits.

- 2016 *Sound + Vision*; Partnered with Mikel Patrick Avery
- 2015 *Wake UP!*; Partnered with Lee Blalock

**Art Teacher Institute, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.** 2015-2017

Worked in year-long residencies to create dynamic contemporary art lessons, projects, and curricula using MCA exhibitions.

- Attended workshops and used the teacher/museum community as laboratory for experimental curriculum development.
- Published lessons for sharing with art teacher community.

**Spaces for Possibilities, Northeastern University.** 2011-2014

Worked in year-long residencies to create dynamic contemporary art lessons, projects, and curricula.

- Attended workshops and used the teacher community as laboratory for experimental curriculum development using Studio Habits as a language and process in the classroom.
- Emphasis: teaching the artistic process, creating student agency, deconstructing the classroom hierarchy, and the creation of the Guerrilla Art Collective as a teaching methodology.

## **JUDGE FOR ART COMPETITIONS**

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**DCASE Mural Public Art Project,** 2022

Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Public Art Department, City of Chicago

- Acted as the artist member of a judge panel to choose the muralist for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Mural at 59<sup>th</sup> street and Central Park Ave.

**MCAD Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards,** 2008

Minneapolis College of Art and Design

## **PERSONAL ART EXHIBITIONS**

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### **Solo Shows**

***Exiled in Light :: Transfiguration,*** July, 2022

Immersive Video Projection & Sound Installation with Movement Performance in two acts; in collaboration with Allen Turner, Chicago Art Department.

***Exiled in Light :: Through the Looking Glass,*** Oct-Nov, 2021

Immersive Video Projection & Sound Installation with Movement Performance; in collaboration with Allen Turner & Irene Hsiao. *Terrain Biennial*, 4916 S Leamington, Chicago, IL

***Solo Retrospective Exhibition***, Primitive Circle Gallery, Chicago 2003  
Retrospective of paintings and drawings created from 1989 – 2003.

## **Group Shows**

***Thresholds in Parameters of What It Is to Be...***, Jan 23-Feb 16, 2023  
MotherArt: Revisited Collective, *Articulating Nodes* (I) *Movement in Mothering Spheres*, Ink Drawing/Digital Print on Canvas, 61"x 18", Fresno State M Street Graduate Gallery and Conley Art Gallery, Fresno, CA.

***Thresholds in Parameters of What It Is to Be...***, MotherArt: Sept, 2022  
Revisited Collective, *Articulating Nodes* (I) *Movement in Mothering Spheres*, Ink Drawing/Digital Print on Canvas, 61"x 18" and video work called *Tired*, Clovis Community College Gallery, Fresno, CA.

***Crystal Ball Group Show***, Chicago Art Department May 14, 2022

***Fermilab, [Be a part of PARTicles 2.0.](#)*** Feb, 2022 - July, 2024  
Online gallery of artwork that interprets words and data that delve into matter, energy, space and time.

***SAIC Low-Res MFA Thesis Exhibition, Never(W)Here***, Immersive July, 2021  
Video & Sound Installation, Black fabric and LCD Screens, School of the Art Institute of Chicago Galleries, Chicago, IL

**[SAIC Low-Res MFA Thesis Exhibition Microsite](#)** Summer, 2021  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

***Connectivity Group Show***, Hyde Park Arts Center Summer 2021

***Long Time No See Residents Group Show***, Chicago Art Department Oct - Dec 2020

***Mother to Mother, Knots and Nodes Group Show***, March - June 2020  
MotherArt: Revisited Collective, *Basile*, photographs on fabric, in collaboration with Athena Xanos and Jessica Dzialek, Chicago Art Department.

***On Tyranny Postcard Art Group Show***, Spring, 2020  
MotherArt: Revisited Collective: postcard art based upon the book, *On Tyranny*, by Timothy Snyder, resulting in traveling exhibits and mail art action.

***Long Time No See Residents Group Show (PT 3)***, Chicago Nov 2018  
Art Department

***Light Matters, Exiled in Light***, immersive video projection April 2018

as part of exhibition of three women light and video artists: Margarita Fainshtein, Galina Shevchenko, Valerie Xanos, Chicago Art Department.

***Collaborative Collisions Group Show***, MotherArt Revisited Feb 2018  
Collective, CC's Art Garage & Gallery, Chicago.

***Exiled in Light :: Never(W)here*** July 2017  
Immersive Installation for SAIC LRMFA Open Studios, Chicago.

***The Sublime Light and Dark*** July 2016  
Immersive Installation for SAIC LRMFA Open Studios, Chicago.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Educator Show***, Bridgeport Arts Center, Chicago. April - June 2016

***It's Not Just Art – A Complicated Conversation with Teachers,*** May 2014  
***Tied Up and Boxed In, Bluebird of Happiness,*** 2 acrylic paintings in group show:  
Firecat Projects, Chicago.

***Annual Curie Faculty Art Exhibit & Auction***, Curie HS, Chicago 1999-2014

***Postcard Art Group Show***, APW Gallery in NYC, NY 2009

***2' x 2' Group Show***, Galaxie Art Gallery, Chicago. 2007

***Photo and Digital Group Show***, 33 Collective, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago 2007

***Self Portrait Group Show***, 33 Collective, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago 2007

***Revisioning America Art Exhibition***, Chicago Music Garage. 2006

***SHE, An Exhibition Celebrating Women***, 33 Collective, 2006  
Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago

***Art of Teaching Group Show***, Gallery 37, Chicago. 2003

***Earth Artworks Group Show***, Gallery Egg, Chicago. 1997

## Curatorial Projects

***A Woman for All Seasons***, Feb, 2023  
Retrospective of the art and life of Darlene Gambotz, a Chicago artist. Chicago Art Department.

***Through the Looking Glass***, an exhibition of four women video May 2019

and sound artists: Margarita Fainshtein, Sara Ludy, Galina Shevchenko, Valerie Xanos. Exhibited my own work as part of the show; *Exiled in Light*, an immersive video installation, Chicago Art Department.

## **CURATORIAL PROJECTS - STUDENT ART EXHIBITIONS**

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***Sanctuary Village***, Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition and installation about exclusive and inclusive public spaces, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago. Jan, 2023

***Rest, Play, Protest – Art as Resistance***, ARTivism 1 protest banner parade, 'zine distribution, and conceptual performances around social justice and self-care, Curie Metro HS, Chicago. Collaboration with SAIC student teachers Simone Scigousky and Joe Barcelona. May, 2022

***Hear Our Voices***, Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition of collaborative final projects around issues of Sexual Harassment, Unity, Immigration Rights, Medical Care Rights; Curie Metro HS, Chicago. May, 2022

***Power to the Students***, Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition of about contemporary art and social justice issues, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago. Dec, 2021

***Self Care is Self Love***, Guerrilla Art Collective virtual reality exhibition of conceptual performance scores, other artworks, and the *Infinite Care Card Deck*, a limited edition of card decks (ala Oblique Strategies) – curated in collaboration with virtual museum architect and resident artist, Andres L. Hernandez and the GAC. Spring, 2021

***Selfies 4 Justice***, Guerrilla Art Collective exhibition of photography and text design around creating an inclusive identity culture through self-portraits, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago. June, 2019

***Identity Crisis***, Guerrilla Art Collective interdisciplinary exhibition and self-published book around social justice, identity, and inclusivity issues, Curie Metro HS, Chicago. June, 2018

***Sanctuary Festival***, Guerrilla Art Collective, MCA 21 Minus Festival, Chicago. June, 2017

***Sanctuary Festival***, Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged art Installation around issues of equity, safety, and access in public spaces, Curie Metro HS outdoor campus, Chicago. Collaboration with Andres L. Hernandez. June, 2017

***Sound + Vision***, Guerrilla Art Collective exhibition of sound sculptures addressing inequity and lack of arts funding in Chicago Public Schools, MCA 21 Minus Festival, Chicago. June, 2016

***Wake UP!***, Guerrilla Art Collective, MCA 21 Minus Festival film screening June, 2015  
in the MCA Theater (two screenings and a student led workshop), Chicago.

***Wake UP!***, Guerrilla Art Collective, film about challenging social conformity May, 2015  
inspired by the MCA's David Bowie exhibition. Screening in the  
Curie Auditorium, Chicago.

***Shout Out! – Art Advocacy***, Guerrilla Art Collective, wheat paste street May, 2014  
exhibit on the outside of Curie HS campus buildings, Chicago.

***Shout Out! – Art Advocacy***, Guerrilla Art Collective, wheat paste street May, 2014  
exhibit about challenging budget cuts of the arts in Chicago Public Schools. Outside walls of  
Firecat Gallery building and other neighborhood buildings. In conjunction with exhibition  
*It's Not Just Art – A Complicated Conversation with Teachers*, Chicago.

***Curie HS Alumni Art Gallery and Auction***, (included works by 2014  
Herman Aguirre and Maria Wolf Lopez) Curie Metro HS Gallery, Chicago.

***Postcard Art Exchange***, Guerrilla Art Collective, founder of program 2010-2014  
to create postcard art about social justice and exchange with other artists through the mail.

***Guerrilla Art in the Community***, Guerrilla Art Collective, 2010-present  
Various artworks curated into the community and on Chicago streets; for example, in  
libraries, bookstores, magazine racks, street stickers, zine giveaways, trading cards, micro-  
world installations, altered street signs, etc.

## COMMISSIONS

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***Future Sex***, Collage; Private commission for Scot Cortese. 2017

Collage for published book cover illustration for role-playing game *Edrigoehr*; 2014  
Private commission for author Allen Turner.

***Hathor***, Painted sculpture to celebrate the opening of the Philip Glass Opera, 2001  
***Akhenaten***; Corporate commission for the Chicago Opera Theater.

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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**World's Best School Prizes, T4 Education** Oct, 2022  
Category: Supporting Healthy Lives, Curie Metro HS  
Contributing teacher, as part of the Art Department of Curie HS, for curriculum addressing  
social justice issues and self/community care. School was awarded \$50,000 grant.

**Individual Artist Grant, DCASE, Chicago** 2022  
Awarded IAP Grant for partial funding of art installation exhibition,



*Exiled in Light :|: Transfiguration.*

<b>CPS REACH rating of “Excellent” (highest)</b>	2015-2022
<b>CPS REACH rating of “Distinguished” (highest)</b>	2014
<b>CPS evaluation rating of “Superior” (highest)</b>	1999-2013
<b>Finalist for Harvard Education Review (Special Arts Edition)</b>	2012
<b>“Teacher of the Year” and “US Partner of the Year”</b> Awarded honors and exhibition with ArtLink Creative Connections, International Art Exchange and Gallery in Norwalk, Connecticut.	2011
<b>Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant</b> For art education project “Postcards for Healing”	2011
<b>Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant</b> For art education project “Postcards from the Edge”	2010
<b>HP Grant for Art and Technology</b> For art education project “The Golden Mean”	2007
<b>Suave Performance Teacher Award Finalist</b>	2004
<b>Suave Performance Teacher Award Finalist</b>	2003
<b>Lead Teacher award for Studio Art of the AP Arts Initiative</b> The College Board	2001
<b>IAEA Best Illinois Art Program – Curie HS Art Department</b>	2001
<b>CPS evaluation rating of “Excellent”</b>	1996-1998

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Books and Publications***

MotherArt: Revisited; Edited by Kris Schaedig, Joanne Tepper Saffren, *Daily Sentences*, contributing author, 2022.

Xanos, Valerie; co-authored with Andres L. Hernandez; and the Guerrilla Art Collective, *Infinite Care Card Deck*, Chicago: The Normal Studio and MCA Chicago, 2022.

Xanos, Valerie, *Exiled in Light :|: Never(w)here*, Chicago: Self-published, 2021. This speculative fiction novelette is a companion work to the new media art installation.

Xanos, Valerie and the Guerrilla Art Collective, *Identity Crisis*, Chicago: Self-published, 2018.

### ***Journal Publications***

Xanos, Valerie, *A Classroom in 45's America, My Name is Not Honey, Stop Telling Women to Smile, Glimpses, Corpuscles*, MotherArt: Revisited Review Issue 1: 2018, pp. 62-67.

Xanos, Valerie, *Meditative Mandala*, MCA Chicago Teacher Institute Curricula, 2015.

Xanos, Valerie, [\*Wake UP!\*](#), MCA DNA online publication, 2015.

Xanos, Valerie, *There's a Guerrilla in My Classroom!*, Exhibition catalog for It's Not Just Art – A Complicated Conversation with Teachers, published by Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, 2014, pp. 22-25.

Xanos, Valerie, *Arts and Experiential Learning*, Seeds for Change – Association for Experiential Education Conference Proceedings, Editor: Laurie S. Frank, Nov, 1995, pp. 292-293.

### ***Published Thesis***

Xanos, Valerie, *Exiled in Light: An exploration of altered phenomenological perception*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2021.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY - FEATURED AS AN ARTIST TEACHER**

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Pace Green, Lynne [\*Making Space – Self Care is Self Love\*](#), MCA DNA, 2021.

[\*Curie HS Students Curate Virtual Art Exhibit to Explore Self Love and Self Care\*](#), CPS Spotlight Article, April 29, 2021.

Koumpilova, Mila, [\*This School's Response to the Pandemic Health Crisis? A Full-Scale Art Show\*](#), Chalkbeat, April 9, 2021.

Ana Sekler, [\*Where I Work\*](#), featured alumnus in SAIC Biannual Magazine, Fall 2017.

Lydia Ross, [\*Finding a SPACE for Sanctuary at Curie Metro HS\*](#), June 20, 2017.

Reyes, Marissa, Ross, Lydia, *The World We're In, The World We Want: Youth as Civic Agents*, featured in article about the launch of the SPACE program with the GAC as pilot, MCA Member's Magazine. Summer 2017.

[\*Who We Are\*](#), MCA Website, Nov 2015.

Kletchka, Dana Carlisle; Carpenter, B. Stephen, *Professional Development in Art Museums: Strategies of Engagement through Contemporary Art*, National Art Education Association, Jan 2018. (interview subject)

Contributor to *Not in the Yearbooks*, an historical archive about CPS teachers for the History Moves Project of Jane Addams Hull House, Library Recordings, 2013.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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**Artist Talk**, *Feminist Utopia*, with Sonja Blum. A performative Zoom discussion around our making experience as mother artists in an imaginary feminist and inclusive utopia. In conjunction with exhibition work. Clovis Community College Gallery, Fresno, CA, Sept. 29, 2022.

**Artist Talk**, *The Intersection of an Artist and Teaching Practice*. A Zoom presentation that centered around my work as a mother artist and how that practice intersects with my teaching practice in the Guerrilla Art Collective. In conjunction with exhibition work. Clovis Community College Gallery, Fresno, CA, Sept. 29, 2022.

**Presentation**, *Expanding Civic Understanding & Student Agency through Contemporary Art*, NAEA Convention, March 2021.

**Presentation**, *Artists Create Change – Educating the Citizen Artist*, SAIC Teacher Toolbox Conference, Sept, 2019.

**Artist Talk**, *Light Matters; Artists in Conversation*, with Galina Shevchenko and Margarita Fainshtein. A discussion around our practice as women who work with light as an art medium. In conjunction with exhibition work. Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL, April 14, 2018.

**Panel Discussion**, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Teacher Exchange, May 20, 2017.

**Keynote Address**, *The Collective Artistic Voice in the Classroom: The Artistic Practice & The Teacher's Practice*, IAEA Conference, Nov 6, 2016.

**Panel Discussion**, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Teacher Exchange, June 4, 2016.

**Keynote Address**, *Guerrilla Art Explorations; How Experimentation, Student Autonomy, & Collectivity Works in a Studio Art Classroom*, SAIC Teacher Toolbox Conference, Sept 25, 2015.

**Panel Discussion**, *Teaching as an Artist Collective*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Teacher Exchange, June 6, 2015.

**Presentation**, *NAEA Art Delegation Trip to Finland*, NAEA Convention/New Orleans, March, 2015. Presented academic research of Finnish art education as it pertains to own teaching practice.

**Presentation**, *Meditative Mandala Drawings*, Spaces for Possibilities, Oct, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Learning to Love You More*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Curriculum Slam, May, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Learning to Love You More – MCA Curriculum Slam*, NAEA Convention/San Diego, March, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Visual Literacy and Learning to Love You More*, YAL Conference, Nov, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Guerrilla Art Class*, National Online Studio Thinking Network, Jan, 2013.

**Annual Presentations**, *Studio Habits of Mind in Art Curriculum*, Every Art Every Child Conference with Center for College Access and Success, 2011-2014.

**Workshop**, *Art History*, CPS CPDU Workshops, 1999.

**Workshop**, *Arts and Experiential Learning– Making Earthworks*, “Seeds for Change” 23rd Annual International Conference for Association for Experiential Education/Michigan, co-presented with Colleen Conley and Jackie Seiden, 1995.

**Workshop**, *Experiential Art Education – Making Sacred Sculptures/Earthworks*, Heartland Conference for Association for Experiential Education, 1994.

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

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**Professional Development in Art Education**, 1994 – present.

**International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Teacher Training – Art Education**

**International Baccalaureate Teacher Training – Art Education**

**Advanced Placement – Studio Art Portfolio Teacher Training**

**IL Art Ed Certification K - 12**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Completed 1991

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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**Illinois Art Education Association**

**National Art Education Association**

## REFERENCES

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