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JAMES REES

A well-rounded visionary, connector and innovator, who is a knowledgeable advocate of the visual arts. Using a mission-driven approach, I am a proactive, dynamic and people-oriented leader through collaborative communication.

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, MFA
Brigham Young University, BFA

EXPERIENCE

State Collections Board Representative- Utah Division of Art & Museums, State of Utah 2018 - present

- Appointed by the State of Utah as a representative to oversee the acquisition of art pieces under the purview of the mandate for the state of Utah and its legislation.
- Promote, align and uphold the vision and mission of the Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement.
- Steward and ensure the preservation and sustainability of the State's art collection.

Department Chair & Art Instructor - Provo School District 1991-2022

- Established and directed an award-winning art program for three decades, mentoring students to explore their creative potential and achieve remarkable and excellent artistic accomplishments.
- Awarded 2 Beverly Sorensen Learning in the Arts Awards and the Governor's Leadership in the Arts Award in recognition for exceptional contributions.
- inaugurated period of growth and professionalism in High School for College preparation. Organized and hosted a monthly artist lecture series, enriching students' artistic knowledge and providing a platform for engagement with the wider community.
- Found venues throughout the community for students to display artwork and connected them with professional artists for internships and mentorships.

Adjunct Assistant Professor & Visiting Artist- Brigham Young University 2022 & 2023

- Drafted original curriculum and taught both the academic and practical sides of curriculum in the multifaceted role within the scopes of researcher, artist and teacher through the context of contemporary art.
- Bridged the connection between studio practice with pedagogical approaches through course examined methodologies.
- Created integrated experiences with On the Other Side Academy, Clever Octopus and other community nonprofit organizations.

EXPERIENCE (continued)

Art Education Consultant– Davis Publishing 2022-present

- Design and deliver conference sessions and professional development events for multiple school districts and state art association conferences
- Create original content, including impactful blog posts, articles, and professional development materials, to enhance art educators' understanding of contemporary approaches to art curriculum
- Conduct tailored presentations across the U.S. regarding best contemporary curricular practices within the arts, with an impact of reaching 500+ teachers.

Gallery Director–Artcetera Gallery 2017-2022

- Implemented a student-run gallery as a professional experience studio, providing hands-on training in curation, presentation, and the business aspects of running a small gallery located in a local mall inclusive of a diverse set of consumers.
- Served as the primary liaison to a student-run gallery committed to empowering K-12 students to showcase their artwork which led to fostering local community engagement and increased accessibility for diverse constituents.
- Orchestrated an uplifting, immersive, and practical student learning experience by establishing a unique venue for the curation of 36 distinctive art exhibitions.
- Conducted many monthly workshops, while enriching the community with diverse artistic experiences including a collaboration with Federally-funded programs promoting intergenerational arts programming to preschool children and their parents.
- Spearheaded a recurring bi-monthly artist lecture series, featuring 75 different artists, including renowned figures like Oliver Herring, Jaimie Warren, and Matt Roche.
- Managed a budget of \$40,000 and successfully secured grants and other supplemental funding to support the gallery's initiatives.
- I was the creator and instigator of getting this program going for my students and that it was a first of its kind in the US.

Arts Education Integration Artist/Instructor- Westminster College 2013-2014/

- Instructed a wide-variety of educators on incorporating creativity in education curriculum.
- Taught Studio Art techniques while utilizing contemporary curriculum and instructional approaches.

Advance Placement Studio Art Reader- The CollegeBoard & Educational Testing Services 2007-2012

- Evaluator for the Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art program, responsible for ensuring precise and effective assessment of student portfolios.
- Demonstrated extensive expertise in the AP Exam, leveraging comprehensive knowledge to evaluate 40,000+ portfolios in collaboration with a diverse team of 100 professionals.
- Recognized for outstanding accuracy and efficacy in evaluation from the CollegeBoard.

EXPERIENCE (continued)

Associate Examiner Visual Arts- International Baccalaureate 2009-2011

- Evaluated student portfolios, employing a thoughtful and discerning approach to analyze aesthetic attributes, the interplay between form and significance, the social and cultural purposes of visual arts, and the socio-cultural and historical contexts of diverse cultures.
- Examined how artworks relate to the broader realm of visual arts and assessed students' comprehension of the cultural contexts in which they created their own artworks.
- Critically analyzed the aesthetic qualities of visual arts and the relationship between form and meaning and social and cultural functions across disparate societies and historical periods thereby cultivating increasingly sophisticated and informed responses to the encountered works.
- Used an individualized approach by actively observing and analyzing the techniques and conventions employed in the artworks under study leading to the fostering of critical thinking and experimentation, while identifying avenues to incorporate these transferrable skills into their own artistic practice.

Instructor /Recipient- Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation 2008-2009

- Offered supplementary instruction to aspiring young artists who secured a spot in the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation's summer seminar, enabling them to further their art education.
- Earned a working studio space and joined a vibrant artist community as a result of recognition for artistic merit and demonstrated talent.

Mentor & Teacher, Teachers Institute of Contemporary Art & School of the Arts Institute of Chicago 2006, 2008

- Facilitated unparalleled access to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and facilitated inspiring educational experiences under the expert guidance of Rika Burnham (the Frick Museum).
- Revitalized art educators' art-making and teaching through transformative practices.
- Offered guidance and support to art educators as they actively engaged in a dynamic studio program, empowering them to explore their artistic abilities.
- Collaborated in the production of lecture/slide shows featuring renowned contemporary artists such as Matthew Richie, Mark Dion, and numerous others.

Gallery Director- Central Arts Collective Gallery 1990-1992

- Formed strategic partnerships with various community organizations, with art workshop offerings and an exhibition space to underrepresented and historically vulnerable populations.
- Represented artists and fostered community engagement through the lens of a visionary dedicated to uplifting artists and their arts.
- Led an empowering artist-run gallery, showcasing a diverse range of artists and facilitated meaningful connections with the local community.

EXPERIENCE (continued)

Gallery Assistant- Center for Creative Photography 1990-1992

- Collaborated in the curation and installation of exhibitions featuring the distinguished collection of American photographic fine art.
- Contributed to the successful coordination of various exhibition openings, showcasing the works of internationally renowned artists.
- Assisted researchers in an in-depth search of the archives, fostering a culture of creative inquiry, dialogue, and an enhanced appreciation for cultural influence of photography.
- Played a role in managing the Center's world-renowned collection, which boasts over 90,000 works by 2,000 photographers, solidifying its status as one of the finest collections globally.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Creative Retreat, Davis Publishing 2023
- Webinar Instructor, National Art Education Association 2018-2023
- Adjunct Graduate Faculty, Westminster College Art Education Department 2013-2014

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Change Leader, Utah Division of Arts & Museums 2013-Present

- Leadership within communities, building political consensus and establishing professional best practices.
- Inform and create value while increasing connections within communities.
- Perceptive facilitation skills necessary to implement change.
- Illustrate the impact of arts and museums in meeting social and community needs

Art 21 Educator Fellow- Art 21 organization 2013-Present

- Connect with and bring contemporary art, artists, and themes into communities.
- Learned proper documentation and reflection practices that capture changes in personal growth, student learning, and classroom culture.
- Certified graduate of this intensive, year-long professional development initiative and learning community while working with top tier contemporary artists.
- Support innovative contemporary art practices in classrooms & museums educational spaces.

Education Institute- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art 2019

- Knowledgeable in the strategies and methodologies that draw from C3 Framework Standards
- Establish a connection between primary source documents and contemporary perspectives.
- Engage in team building and collaboration to promote healthy civic dialogue

CERTIFICATIONS (continued)

Teacher Institute- National Gallery of Art's Teacher Institute 2016, 2019

- Informed on different pedagogies, such as Artful Thinking Routines and Social-Emotional Learning Strategies
- Possess extensive knowledge of effective teaching methods using artwork, applicable to various educational settings.
- Comprehend the use of reflective journaling, art-making, and other forms of personal expression in response to works of art

Teaching Certificate- Utah Office Of Education 1992-2025

- Visual art, Commercial art, and Commercial photography.
- The Utah core Art standards.

BOARD & ADVISORY EXPERIENCE & NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Commissioner At-Large 2020-Present/ NAEA Research Commission

- Led the "Give it a Minute" initiative, dedicated to streamlining and demystifying research methodologies.
- As Commissioner at Large worked to meet the ongoing research needs of the visual arts education field through publication, research and national presentations.

Pacific Region Vice President-National Art Education Association 2018-2019 (elect 2016-2017)

- Identified and prioritized objectives and priorities for the region, while providing strategic guidance and ensuring responsible fiscal management of Pacific Region activities. Supervised the Delegates assembly and oversaw the drafting and evaluation of position statements.

Secondary Division Director-National Art Education Association 2013-2015 (elect 2011-2013)

- Led the coordination of a national four-day event at the National Gallery of Art. Appointed to an Ad Hoc working group to promote authentic Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives for the organization, working alongside the NAEA Board, which contributed to the strengthening of the organization in its current state.

Board of Trustees Member/Acquisitions-Springville Museum of Art 2020-present

- Championed transparency and provide accurate information regarding operations and finances, while upholding the Museum's mission and guarantee alignment between decisions and core principles.

Board Member C4-Utah Cultural Alliance 2018-present

- Fostered robust public funding and policies that enhance the cultural sector and lifelong cultural education. Served as a representative of the Arts and Culture sector in Utah, collaborating with legislators to promote state policies that support and elevate the arts.

BOARD & ADVISORY EXPERIENCE (continued)

Statewide Art Partnership Advisory Board-State Wide Art Partnership P.O.P.S. 2007-22

- Directed and organized dynamic events designed for educators, known as "Evening for Educators." Provided valuable support in implementing the Professional Outreach Programs in Schools (POPS), a program backed by financial support from the Utah State Legislature and supervised by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

Board Member- Utah Art Festival 2011-2018

- Evaluated business operations and executive performance for the largest outdoor multi-disciplinary arts event in Utah, drawing in a crowd of over 70,000 attendees each summer. Approved audit reports, budgets, and pivotal business decisions. Assist in the organization of events supported by grants, private donations, and program revenue.

Board Member- Fulbright Alumni board-Utah 2012-2021

- Pioneered initiatives to invite Fulbright scholars to present their research and share their experiences in community and university events.

President- Utah Art Education Association 2010-2012

- Implemented a comprehensive array of policy and procedure changes, ensuring that the board adhered to industry best practices. Pioneered rebranding efforts and restructured the board to align with optimal board practices.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/GRANTS/ DEVELOPMENT

Appointed Panelist for Learning in the Visual Arts 2010- 2014, 2017, 2021/National Endowment for the Arts

- Perform diligent, impartial, and thorough assessments of grant proposals, ensuring a fair and meticulous review and ranking process.
- Engage in autonomous and remote collaboration with Program Specialists and fellow panelists, fostering effective teamwork and synergy.
- Evaluate budgets and programming for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, ensuring their alignment with funding criteria and feasibility.

Reviewer of The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards-The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities 2016/2017

- Chosen for the prestigious national accolade honoring outstanding after-school and out-of-school-time arts and humanities programs.
- Evaluated the importance and excellence of arts and humanities programs catering to young individuals during non-school hours, while acknowledging the imaginative capabilities of America's youth, with special emphasis on those in underserved communities by promoting dynamic programming.
- Managed program budgets, their documented track record, projected outreach and impact of programming.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (continued)

Grants Panelist Division of Arts and Museums-Utah Arts Council 2011-2012, 2017, 2023

- Administer funding to support various arts institutions, museums, schools, traditional artists, community-based arts organizations, and similar entities that contribute to the advancement of arts and culture. This includes museums, festivals, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to promoting the arts.
- Strive to ensure fair evaluation and equitable distribution of funding opportunities to organizations across the state, fostering accessibility for Utah-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, municipalities, government agencies, federally recognized tribal communities or tribes, correctional/juvenile facilities, social service agencies, libraries, and community centers.
- Assist The Utah Division of Arts & Museums (UA&M) who receives funding from the state of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts in championing a wide range of artistic disciplines including dance, folk arts, literary arts, media arts and film, performing arts, and public art.