

MELISSA MULLER

Arts & Cultural Policy Leader | Public Art
Administrator | Fund Development Strategist

CONTACT

☎ 414-559-8725

✉ melissajmuller@gmail.com

CAREER TIMELINE

FOUNDER/PRINCIPAL

Melissa Muller Designs | February 2021 - present

- Provide administration, fund development, and consulting services to nonprofits, artists, and municipalities
- Successfully secured and managed public and private arts funding (local, state, federal)
- Advise organizations on cultural planning, artist compensation, and sustainable arts infrastructure

PUBLIC ART ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT MANAGER

Quorum Architects, Inc. | June 2016-February 2021

- Managed public art planning, design coordination, and stakeholder engagement for civic and private developments
- Supported Percent for Art-adjacent processes, including artist coordination and public-facing design review
- Led visual communication and design strategy

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM DIRECTOR (CONSULTANT)

Near West Side Partners via Quorum Architects | 2016 - 2021

- Administered art projects in partnership with artists, City of Milwaukee departments, and community stakeholders
- Managed artist selection processes, contracts, fabrication timelines, and installations
- Integrated public art into broader economic development and placemaking strategies
- Oversaw budgets, reporting, and compliance for publicly funded arts initiatives

DIRECTOR

Washington Park Neighbors | June 2006 - Present

- Lead governance, fundraising, programming, and fiscal oversight for a community-based nonprofit
- Produce large-scale, publicly accessible arts programming with paid artists and inclusive audiences
- Build partnerships across City agencies, funders, and cultural organizations

PERSONAL PROFILE

Arts and nonprofit leader with 30+ years of experience across public art administration, cultural programming, fund development, and community-based economic development. Extensive experience working with municipal agencies, artists, nonprofit boards, and grantmakers. Proven record administering public art programs, managing Percent for Art processes, reviewing competitive grants, and stewarding arts investments with equity, fiscal discipline, and community impact at the center.


CORE COMPETENCIES

Public Art Administration & Percent for Art Program
Arts Grant Review & Evaluation
Cultural Policy & Civic Governance
Creative Inclusion & Equitable Artist Support
Artist-Centered Program Design & Compensation
Fund Development & Grant Strategy
Community-Centered Programming
Artist Support & Workforce Pipelines
Budget Oversight & Fiscal Stewardship
Equity, Access & Cultural Inclusion
Cross-Sector Partnerships (City / County / Nonprofit)

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS & CIVIC SERVICE

- Milwaukee County Percent for Art Committee – Administrator & Committee Member
- Milwaukee Arts Board – Grant Review Panelist (multiple cycles)
- Artists Working in Education (AWE) – Marketing & Program Support
- Downtown BID Public Art Task Force
- ImagineMKE Committees & Civic Arts Initiatives
- Washington Park Neighbors – Board President / Executive Director
- Friends of Washington Park - Member

AWARDS

Milwaukee Arts Board 10th Annual Friends of the Arts Honoree
Near West Side Partners 2019 Community Champion Award
MANDI Community Space Award

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

The School of the Art Institute | 1989-1994

FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Lily School of Fun Development | 2021