

SYMPHONY D. SWAN- ZAWADI, BFA, M.ED SHE/HER

ARTIST | CURATOR | ARCHIVIST | COMMUNITY LEADER + VISIONARY

Founder: WWW.THECR8TVHOUSE.ORG Art Practice: WWW.SYMPHONYSWAN.COM (site under construction)



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

11/2023 - Present

*THE CR8TV HOUSE
Milwaukee, WI*

FOUNDER + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Founder and Executive Director of THE CR8TV HOUSE, responsible for leading a nonprofit dedicated to reimagining creative spaces for artists and fostering meaningful collaboration and community engagement. This role involves overseeing strategic initiatives, curating artist-driven programs, and cultivating partnerships that support Black and Brown creative communities. Focused on creating an environment where radical imagination thrives, while advancing workforce development and cultural preservation through innovative programming and initiatives.

11/2023 - 11/2024

*Ruth Arts Foundation
Milwaukee, WI*

MANAGER OF PUBLIC INITIATIVES

As Manager of Public Initiatives at Ruth Arts, lead the development and execution of community-focused programming and engagement strategies. Role involved cultivating partnerships, curating public events, and creating meaningful opportunities for artists and community members to connect with Ruth Arts' mission. Also oversaw initiatives that amplify the foundation's impact, fostering dialogue and collaboration across the arts sector.

7/2020 - 6/2023

*Arts@ Large
Milwaukee, WI*

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Managed strategic and operational oversight of Arts @ Large programs, identifying opportunities for growth and addressing organizational challenges. Developed budgets, curated artist professional development, and advocated for fair and equitable pay. Served as a liaison to community partners and kept the board informed on strategies and challenges. Led stakeholder engagement, social media, and marketing efforts to support program growth and funding. Reestablished community relationships post-pandemic and developed materials to secure funding for arts programs.

2018-2020

*Woodlands School -
State Street Campus
Milwaukee, WI*

INTERIM PRINCIPAL/ ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Developed and implemented cultural, curricular, and operational strategies to support a transitioning school, achieving rapid academic gains and closing the achievement gap. Trained and coached teachers, led professional development, and tracked student outcomes. Recruited teachers, staff, and families, fostering a culture of love, high expectations, and joy, maintaining a 96% attendance rate. Promoted continuous improvement through peer and external observations and an open-door policy. Reduced suspensions and enhanced social-emotional learning by coaching teachers and behavior committees and implementing restorative practices. Built meaningful community partnerships and developed a school-wide character education plan and positive behavior incentives.

2017-2018

*HOPE Semper
Milwaukee, WI*

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Demonstrated a sense of urgency to achieve dramatic gains in student learning and close the achievement gap by increasing high yield instructional practices including data driven instruction, teacher observation, and creating a culture of success. Worked to coach teachers around restorative practices and positive classroom cultures. Developed a strategic plan to decrease suspensions, truancy and increase daily attendance with weekly teacher professional developments, and weekly all school assemblies.

2014-2017 | 2013-2014

*Milw. College Prep - 38th
Universal Academy for
the College Bound*

ART TEACHER

Collaborated with other specials teachers to provide sound, collaborative integrated instruction. Supported students in need of Tier Two ELA interventions during prep periods. Partnered with community stakeholders to bridge community and social justice art projects. Ensured student engagement by facilitating meaningful relationships with students in and outside of the classroom.



EDUCATION

2012

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-
MILWAUKEE**
*Bachelors of Fine Arts w/
Teacher Certification*

2016

**CARDINAL STITCH
UNIVERSITY**
*Masters of Educational
Leadership*



SPECIALIZED TRAINING & EXPERIENCES

- TRUSTEE, MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
- BOARD MEMBER, SIGNATURE DANCE COMPANY
- 2023 GENER8TOR ART FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT
- 2023 SHEPHERD EXPRESS MILWAUKEE OF THE YEAR
- 2024 BIZ TIMES - NOTABLE LEADER IN THE ARTS
- CO-FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR, BLANKSPACE MKE | 2015-2020



PERSONAL PROFILE

Symphony D. Swan-Zawadi is a dynamic professional and community artist with extensive experience in the arts, community engagement, and education. As a leader, interdisciplinary artist, and advocate for community arts and education, she brings over a decade of administrative and nonprofit leadership expertise.

Symphony is passionate about innovative, people-centered decision-making that addresses issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Whether working within schools or the nonprofit sector, she is committed to creating culturally relevant environments that prioritize mission alignment and foster a sense of belonging for all.

A humble servant leader, Symphony believes in the relentless pursuit of excellence—not only for herself but for every team she leads. Her innovative spirit, joy-driven approach, and fun-loving personality make her a valuable asset to any organization.

Symphony D. Swan-Zawadi

CONTACT INFORMATION



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REFERENCES

Available Upon Request