

Monika Kimrey

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Objective:

Professional opportunities that utilize my experience as a fine artist, teacher and community developer.

Qualifications:

- 10 years experience conceiving, promoting, teaching and implementing arts and community development programs.
- Broad social and artistic perspective resulting from international travel, teaching, exhibit curation and facilitating local and international partnerships.
- Skilled in use and teaching of various artistic media: painting, drawing, textiles, puppetry and ceramics.
- Experiences collaborating with not-for-profit organizations from grassroots, such as **Awassa Children's Project** in rural Ethiopia, to established institutions such as the **Field Museum of Chicago**.
- Highly organized and able to present information clearly and professionally with charisma; excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Designated **Illinois Arts Council** "Arts in Education Roster" teaching artist.

Professional Experience Overview:

Created and maintained Fine Art studio programs for over 2500 people; utilizing written, performing and visual arts for education, community development and individual expression, in a variety of settings:

- Sheltered work sites for adults with developmental, physical and mental, challenges in over 10 locations: *Little City Foundation, University of Illinois at Chicago, El Valor, Sunshine Center, Ada S. McKinley Foundation, Pioneer Center and Chicago ARC.* **1998-2005**
- Artist residencies for youth in schools, parks and community centers throughout the Chicago metropolitan area: *Reuben Salazar Bilingual Academy, Chicago Park District, Lake Shore Preparatory School, Sol School, Harris School, Bobby Wright Mental Health Center, Bethel Cultural Arts Center, Free Street Programs, Alcuin Montessori School.* **1991-2005**
- Three annual two week artist residencies in *Awassa Ethiopia*: 2003 Self Portraits, 2004 Puppetry, 2005 Mosaic Mural work. **2003-2005**
- Researched and authored culturally appropriate lesson plans for parent/educator activity guide published by the *Field Museum*, in collaboration with the *Chicago Park District*, as a companion to the international *Puppetropolis 2001* puppetry festival, outreach program. **2001**

General management and long term planning in for-profit and not-for-profit corporate settings:

- Manager, *Inhabit Inc.* and *Paper Source* 1996-1997: 2 million dollar flagship store **1996-2005**
 - Supervised enrichment classes and invitation design department and merchandising
 - Managed a staff of 20 people.
 - Wrote employee manuals; hired and trained staff for branch stores
- CEO *Awassa Children's Project* 2003-2005: (active board member since 1999)
 - Organizational development and fundraising 35k annually for the *Dehub Nigat A.I.D.S. Education Circus*, and the *Dehub Nigat Orphanage Center*, home to 75 displaced youth.
 - Program development, fundraising
 - Lead facilitator for annual artist residencies merging public health advocacy with fine art.
 - Leadership of a 12 person Board of Directors
 - Research, needs and resource assessment

Curatorial Experience: preparation and promotion of community exhibits:

- (2000) "Go Art Go" works by adults with disabilities, *Rat and Dragon Studio*, Chicago
- (2001) "Alchemy" works by adults with disabilities, *Intuit Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art*, Chicago
- (2005) ""Quiet Circus" works by adults with disabilities, *ARC Gallery*, Chicago
- (2005) "Alama" works by Ethiopian Children Orphaned by HIV/Aids Pandemic, *ARC Gallery*, Chicago

Solo Exhibitions:

- (1995) *Lush Life*, *Clinton Street Theater and Gallery*, Portland, OR
- (2001) *Big Pile*, *Blackhawk Studio*, Chicago IL
- (2002) *Blue Mule*, *handmade puppets in performance of folk tales*, *Schaumburg Public Library*, Schaumburg, IL
- (2003) *River Styx*, *ACME Artist Coop*, Chicago IL
- (2004) *Shrine Brain*, *ACME Artist Coop*, Chicago IL

Group Exhibitions:

- (2004) *Crowning Glory*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL**
- (2004) *Promised Land*, Athenaeum Theatre, Chicago, IL**
- (2003) *Around the Coyote*, Chicago IL**
- (2000) *Collaborations*, Barrington Area Arts Council, Barrington, IL**
- (1999) *Collect-O-Rama*, House of Blues, Chicago IL**
- (1998) *Around the Coyote*, Chicago, IL**
- (1998) *Primitives*, Cortland Leyten Gallery, Chicago, IL**

Group Exhibitions continued:

- (1998) *Opening*, Richard Hunt Gallery, Benton Harbor, Michigan**
- (1996-1998) *Gallery Artist*, Oh Boy Gallery, Chicago, IL**
- (1995-1998) *Gallery Artist*, Textile Art Center, Chicago, IL**
- (1997) *"The Museum"* Preston Bradley Center, Chicago IL**
- (1997) *SOFA Show*, Navy Pier, Chicago IL**
- (1996) *Group Show*, Aaron Packer Gallery, Chicago IL**
- (1991) *First Words*, Collaboration with the Commons Theater, Chicago, IL**

Awards:

Illinois Arts Council Arts in Education Grants, in partnership with local non-profit organizations:

- (2001) Four-month Artist residency Chicago A.R.C., \$20,000**
- (2002) Four-month Artist Residency Chicago A.R.C., \$20,000**
- (2002) Star grant, Bethel Cultural Arts, summer program \$1,000**
- (2004) Four-month Artist residency Chicago A.R.C., \$20,000**
- (2005) Two-month Residency, Reuben Salazar Bilingual Academy, \$8,000**
- (2005-2006) Four-month Artist Residency, Lincoln Elementary School, \$20,000**

Commissions and Special Projects: (photos available on request)

(1998) *Highland Park Library, Highland Park, IL: 5 piece 15' x 20' permanent soft sculpture installation for children's library*

(2001) *Bethel Cultural Center, Chicago IL: Designer of sets and costumes for Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity Play" for a cast of the 30 actors*

Education:

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- (1992-1993) *Oregon School Of Arts and Crafts*, Coursework in Ceramics and Printmaking, Portland OR
(1993) Portland Community College, Coursework in Fine Arts, Portland OR
(1994) Harold Crown Center, Coursework in Ceramics, Evanston IL
(1999) Triton Community College, Course Work In Ceramics, River Grove IL
(2005) Enrolled, Harper Community College, Palatine IL

Professional and Community Service:

- (2001) Volunteer: Art Educator: Ethiopian Community Center, Chicago IL
(2001-2003) Volunteer: Costume Design, Chicago Park District, State St. Halloween Parade
(2003) Volunteer Soccer Coach, A.Y.S.O. Oak Park, IL
(2002-2004) Volunteer: Costume and Set Design, Chicago Waldorf School Youth Circus Spring Circus, Chicago IL
(2005) Volunteer: Guest Art, Community Garden Collaboration/Carnegi Elementary School, Chicago IL
(2005) Volunteer: Drama Club Leader, Lincoln Elementary School, Oak Park, IL
(2005) Volunteer: Oppenheimer Family Foundation, Senior Appreciation Day
(2005) Guest Artist Masters-in-Education Program Columbia College
(2005) Presenter, Illinois Art Council, Artist Training and Showcase, *Adaptive Programming: Working with seniors and individuals with developmental, cognitive and emotional challenges*

References available on request