

ROSIE FORREST

she/her/hers | 773.412.5828 | roseblue@gmail.com | Nashville, TN

SUMMARY

Qualified creative leader and storyteller with more than 20 years of experience developing and implementing community programs, crafting multi-platform content, and cultivating teams for substantial growth. Uniquely skilled in both interpersonal and large-scale communication, well-versed in nonprofit strategic planning, educational programs, and DEIA analysis and practice.

SKILLS

Strategic Planning ♦ Storytelling ♦ Program Innovation ♦ Relationship Building
Public Engagement ♦ Coaching/Training ♦ Written and Verbal Communication ♦ Multimedia Content

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

August 2018 – Present

OZ Arts, Nashville, TN

Conceive, implement, and communicate meaningful public and educational experiences designed for Nashville's emerging artists, youth, and the many vibrant communities within Middle Tennessee.

- Position OZ Arts as both a physical and virtual hub for captivating arts experiences, including free monthly programs and partnerships to deepen community connections within and beyond Greater Nashville.
- Compose grant narratives and sponsorship proposals to secure corporate, foundation, and government support toward 1.9M OZ Arts operating budget.
- Create and implement innovative hybrid programs that engage the community in a variety of ways, including Brave New Art podcast, Art Wire creative writing collaboration with The Porch Literary Center, and the STEAM Fusion Virtual Library.
- Establish and realize rich partnerships with local community organizations, including 21c Museum Hotel, National Museum of African American Music, Vanderbilt Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, Global Education Center, FiftyForward, Hispanic Family Foundation, among others.
- Partner with Metro Nashville Public Schools to impact 1.6K+ students annually via STEAM Fusion, an original STEAM-integrated program series designed to meet the ever-changing needs of MNPS, including virtual content as-needed and applicable TN state academic standards.
- Engage audiences of 200-500 in post-performance conversations and panel discussions supplementing OZ Arts artistic content.

DIRECTOR, VANDERBILT SUMMER ACADEMY

October 2013 – May 2018

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth (PTY), Nashville, TN

Managed all aspects of academic and residential campus programs for 600+ gifted middle and high school students annually, including the hiring and training process for more than 75 faculty and administrators.

- Served as a key member of PTY leadership team, managing and executing academic residential programs for youth and professional development conferences for educators and administrators working with high ability students.
- Co-implemented Reading Academy at Vanderbilt, a partner program with Creswell Middle School designed to inspire a love of reading, culminating each year with a visiting YA author visit, including Jacqueline Woodson, Jason Reynolds, and Christopher Paul Curtis.

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- Led and facilitated quarterly trainings for 25-50 faculty designed to provide high ability youth with academic challenges via rigorous course content and appropriate scaffolding.
- Developed age-appropriate social-emotional materials and practices within the summer framework.
- Ensured smooth operations, program logistics, and legal compliance, collaborating with 10+ university departments, including Office of Conferences, Risk Management, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, VU School of Medicine, and Office of General Counsel.

PROFESSOR, LECTURER / CREATIVE WRITING, COMPOSITION, AND THEATRE 2003 – 2018

Vanderbilt University, DePaul University, Northwestern, University of New Hampshire
Interlochen Center for the Arts, National High School Institute, and Chicago Dramatists

- Designed and taught 20+ middle school, high school, and undergraduate courses, including first-year personal narrative, persuasive, and analytical writing courses, fiction and creative nonfiction, and hybrid writing genres.
- Selected as Interlochen Arts Academy writer-in-residence in 2013, served as a member of the creative writing faculty, and continued as interim director of creative writing at Interlochen Arts Camp.
- Awarded a three-year teaching fellowship with University of New Hampshire writing MFA program.

LITERARY MANAGER AND DRAMATURG

February 2003 – June 2008

Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL

Cultivated Northlight Theatre's commitment to the development of new work for the American theatre, collaborating with the artistic director in season and long-range planning.

- Launched a new play development initiative, *Interplay*, providing dramaturgical support and program management for 5 developmental workshops and public readings per year.
- In-house production researcher for season plays: compiled and formatted in-depth research materials for season productions, including research packets, newsletter articles, lobby displays, and program notes.
- Represented Northlight Theatre at national and international new play development festivals and conferences.
- Received *Evie Award* for distinguished service to Northlight Theatre.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts / Creative Writing, University of New Hampshire

2008 - 2011

English Department Award for Teaching Excellence, 2011

Richard Shea Memorial Award, Fiction, 2010 & 2011

Thomas Williams Memorial Award, Excellence in Writing, 2009

Bachelor of Arts / Theater, University of Virginia

1996 - 2000

Jefferson Scholar Finalist

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Nashville LGBT Chamber

The Trevor Project Digital Crisis Counselor

Member, The Porch Literary Center

Rose Metal Press, Chapbook winner, 2015

Best Small Fictions, 2016

Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) 2021 Cohort

STEAM Advisory Council, Metro Nashville Public Schools

PENCIL Foundation Partner

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

National Guild of Community Arts Education