

PAUL FERRARA | ART EDUCATOR

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CAREER PROFILE

Fine artist and educator with extensive background in the development, instruction and delivery of educational programming, catering to diverse audiences including older adults, children and students. Leverages a broad range of experience in fostering inventive and motivating approaches to education with an emphasis on individual learning styles, skill development, creative problem solving and teaching best practices. Brings together experience and training in visual and theater arts to deliver enriching learning experiences and facilitate exchange of creative ideas. Possesses strong interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. Career highlights include:

- Experience coordinating projects and programs from initial vision through execution and implementation.
- Exposure to multiple populations within a diverse range of settings including education, non-profits, community centers, social services, public libraries and senior centers.
- Knowledgeable in the grant proposal process and development of program curriculums and lesson plans.
- Combines experience in program development with hands-on teaching and instruction to build communities and cultivate social consciousness.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artist in Residence

Feb 2013 – June 2013

PROJECT FIND, HAMILTON SENIOR CENTER, New York, NY

Awarded a grant to develop a program centered on teaching collage techniques to older adults. Responsible for weekly instruction, overseeing curriculum and lesson plan development, historical overview, creation of samples and exhibit planning to showcase participants' work at the end of the course. Collaborated with center staff to coordinate exhibition as part of Creative Aging Arts Days initiatives, involving participants in related music and writing courses. Organized a presentation on creative aging and served as a member of the National Center for Creative Aging.

Consultant, Studio Assistant

Oct 2012 – June 2013

ARTS & MINDS, New York, NY

Assisted with development of a working group to expose adults living with Alzheimer's and dementia to the arts. Assumed responsibility for spearheading the working group and assist in building a team of teaching artists to work with program participants. Supported artists with program logistics including setup, breakdown and working one on one with participants and caregivers to guide them through fine art exploration in gallery and museum settings. Helped further the vision and mission of the operation, while gaining an understanding of best teaching practices and pedagogy in working with adults with dementia and Alzheimer's.

Teaching Artist

Fall 2010, Spring 2012

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, COUNTEE CULLEN BRANCH, New York, NY

Awarded a grant through Lifetime Arts to develop and teach Life Maps, an eight-week collage workshop for adults 55+. Curated on-site exhibition of student work.

Student Art Teacher

Fall 2009

I.S. 223, THE MONTAUK SCHOOL, Brooklyn, NY

Collaborated with middle school art teacher to prepare unit and lesson plans focusing on sculpture. Demonstrated materials and techniques to students, and worked with them to organize the end-of-semester art installation.

Teaching Artist

June 2009

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BRANCH, New York, NY

Developed a curriculum for a four-week workshop on collage geared towards older adults. Class explored the themes of identity and place while focusing on the subject of "Washington Heights: My World, My Community, and My People".

Teaching Artist 2008 - 2009
STAR SENIOR CENTER, New York, NY
Developed and taught weekly art class to older adults, with responsibility for preparing unit and lesson plans, establishing course goals and curating an exhibition of student work. Organized fieldtrips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Public Library and Fort Tryon Park.

Student Art Teacher Fall 2008
BEGINNING WITH CHILDREN CHARTER SCHOOL, Brooklyn, NY
Instructed children ages eight and nine in an afterschool program focused on teaching art through the use of recyclable materials, incorporating assemblage, drawing and collage.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor, English as a Second Language Fall 2006
MANHATTAN IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, New York, NY
Utilized drama practices to teach English as a Second Language to adults and children as part of a Family Literacy Program.

Substitute Teacher Spring 2004, Fall 2004
P.S. 4 BRONX, Bronx, NY
Served as a part-time teacher in collaboration with STARR Cohorts, teaching literacy through drama education and practices in an elementary school environment.

Urban Theatre Outreach Fall 2001
EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES, Bronx, NY
Developed an afterschool theatre program for teenagers, responsible for directing a play over a 10-week period that was performed at a Bronx community arts center.

Director Summer 1999
ST. GENEASUS PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM, New York, NY
Directed summer camp theatre program for school-aged children through the Franciscan Community Center, with responsibility for organizing the program, devising the curriculum and recruiting guest artists.

Director 1998 - 1999
LATIN HOPE THEATRE PROJECT, Langley Park, MD
Established a theatrical company for Latino youth, and developed two original works encompassing dance narrative and original drama, pertinent to the faith, life and social issues of the Latino culture.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

MS, Art and Design Education (*With Distinction*), Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York 2011
BA, Theatre, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

The Creative Center at University Settlement's Creative Aging Training Institute, New York, NY, 2011
STARRR Cohorts Teaching Artist Training Program, New York, NY, 2003
City Center Teaching Artist Training Program, New York, NY, 2002
Community Word Project Teacher Training Program, New York, NY 2001-02

Member, National Association of Art Educators
Member, American Society of Aging

HONORS & AWARDS

Awarded Artist Residency through the Department for the Aging, NY Department of Cultural Affairs, and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council at Project Find Hamilton Senior, February 2013 – June 2013.
Awarded grants for Creative Aging in Our Communities: The Libraries Project, Lifetime Arts, 2010, 2011, 2012