PLACES OF POSSIBILITY: HOW CHILDREN TRANSFORM OUR DESIGN PRACTICES

Children’s desire for play is inescapable, and the lesson that play is ultimately a form of learning has never been more evident in the landscape of the COVID pandemic. With children reintegrating new ways to play in-person and online, and with social distancing guidelines for public organizations now in place, it’s more important than ever to explore the impact of the pandemic on the learning and emotional wellbeing of children and adults who both have experienced isolation. How can design be a form of self-care for staff and a form of self-management for the audiences that we serve.

Attendees will see how working with children can benefit organizational sustainability, improve circulation, and be a form of self-care for staff.

ASSOCIATE CURATOR

MEGAN DICKERSON

FAVORITES

1. Placzek’s work at CSM is linked to a deep commitment to access, a practice that has resulted in 15 transformative art installations, including Wes Bruce's The Wonder of the World (2022); Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind: Exhibition (2019). Placzek’s work at CSM is linked to her objective to advance access to collections, promote art’s ability to foster connections among humanity across time, and deconstruct curatorial practice to make our cultural organizations places of possibility, curiosity, and joy.

2. Placzek was the associate curator and research and project manager for Clyfford Still’s Clyfford Still in Denver (2021–22), and Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind: Exhibition (2019). Placzek’s work at CSM is linked to her objective to advance access to collections, promote art’s ability to foster connections among humanity across time, and deconstruct curatorial practice to make our cultural organizations places of possibility, curiosity, and joy.

OUTCOMES

1. Attendees will be able to articulate at least three changes they will make to their design and collaboration with educators and audiences that benefit all of the audiences that we serve.

2. Attendees will understand how designing for children can benefit organizational sustainability, improved circulation, and be a form of self-care for staff.

PRESENTATION PLAN

MEGAN DICKERSON

Presentation • 10 minutes

BAILEY PLACZEK / NICOLE CROMARTIE

Presentation • 10 minutes

BAILEY PLACZEK

Presentation • 10 minutes

NICOLE CROMARTIE

Presentation • 10 minutes

CRIS NESBITT

Presentation • 10 minutes

BIOGRAPHY

MEGAN DICKERSON

is a curator, designer and playworker who co-creates spaces where all can play. Her twenty year career in museums and civic engagement has included posts at Boston Children’s Museum, The New Children’s Museum, the Berwick Research Institute, and Visual Understanding & Education. Currently she is a Curatorial Practice Fellow at California College of the Arts and a BA in Art History from the University of Florida.

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