

JULIE ANN OTIS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ARTIST · ARTS CONSULTANT · POET

ARTISTIC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

LEAD CREATOR AND CONCEPT DESIGNER

American Therapy

May – Oct 2017

A 200 square-foot mural comprised of responsive poetry and portraiture from conversations with participants sharing their experiences of living in and immigrating to the United States. With my team, I interviewed the community using “listening booths” – a confessional booth, a podium, and a “tension booth” of two chairs connected by bungee cords. The result was a deepening of empathy between people of different beliefs, races, and economic statuses and a fostering of creative expression as both a process and product of compassionate communities.

Locations: Development in Paris, Alabama, and Nebraska; Installations in Boston’s Blackstone Square, Atlantic Wharf, Fenway District, and Boston City Hall. **Funding:** Live Arts Boston Grant, The Boston Foundation, Barr Foundation, Washington Gateway Main Streets, the Fenway Alliance, HUBweek, Boston Properties, and Patreon funders.

Inauguration Therapy Booth and Election Therapy Booth

Nov 2016/Jan 2017

These precursors to American Therapy invited the public to share their experience of the 18-month election cycle and the presidential inauguration, respectively. I translated each experience into poetry.

Locations: Boston Common, Boston Public Library (Boston); Occupy Inauguration, Women’s March (Washington, D.C.). **Self-funded.**

Pluck Your Prophecy

May 2016

More than 200 prophecies hung on laundry lines in Davis Square, Somerville, MA, for three weeks, ripe for the plucking. During a one-day give-and-take event, the community composed and exchanged good wishes and prophecies for each other. My favorite prophecy written and illustrated by a six year-old: “Someday you will be able to fly!” **Funding:** Somerville Arts Council

The Complaint (& Catharsis) Department

Sept 2015

In empathetic, feedback-loop conversations, I composed poetry and prose and then notarized them as declarations (pissy permission slips, eulogies for lost opportunities, calls to the universe, etc.) for attendees at Somerville’s Pity Party. What began as tongue-in-cheek consolation evolved into a powerful and earnest sharing of stories, hardship, and heartbreak that had many participants reconciling with real grief. **Self-funded.**

Free Verse - Interactive Public Art Installation

May 2015

A three-week installation in Somerville, MA of five vintage typewriters and a ten-foot, typewriter-shaped bulletin board that invited the public to “type, tack, and take” creative writing. I suggested starting points and playful suggestions for participants’ writing and composed poems during the installation that were tacked up to be taken by others. The result was hundreds of exchanges of heartfelt, personal reflections that engaged our gift economy and cross-cultural dialogue.

Funding: Somerville Arts Council

PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITIONS

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF POETRY LOS CONFINES <i>elastic communion – Spoken word performance</i>	Gracias, Lempira, Honduras 2018
Bloc Cafe & Cambridge YWCA <i>Miraculous Invisible – Photo-poetry Exhibit</i>	Somerville and Cambridge, MA 2017-2018
The Art Farm <i>Answering Mara – Mixed Media Poetry Installation</i>	Marquette, NE 2014
Institute of Contemporary Art <i>Poets in Ekphrasis – Spoken Word Performance</i>	Boston, MA 2016
Aeronaut Brewery <i>Three Track Mind – Performance art combining live-time projected poetry, liquid art, and electronic music</i>	Somerville, MA 2015
Boston City Hall <i>Mayor’s Poetry Exhibition</i>	Boston, MA 2013 & 2015
The Bridge Sound & Stage <i>Sermons of the Real - Live Album Recording</i>	Cambridge, MA 2014

RESIDENCIES & AWARDS

BARRE CENTER FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES <i>Artist Cohort – Dharma and Art: A Practice of Investigating Perception</i>	Barre, MA 2018-2019
SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL <i>Artistic Fellow of Interdisciplinary Arts</i>	Somerville, MA 2015
THE ART FARM <i>Artist Residency</i>	Marquette, NE 2015 & 2017
NOEPE INSTITUTE FOR LITERARY ARTS <i>Writer’s Residency</i>	Martha’s Vineyard, MA 2014
MARTHA’S VINEYARD CREATIVE WRITING INSTITUTE <i>Writer’s Residency</i>	Martha’s Vineyard, MA 2014
OPUS AFFAIR <i>Artist of the Year Award</i>	Boston, MA 2014

WORKSHOPS & PANELS

GOOGLE <i>Workshop Instructor, Allowing Your Most Awesome Life</i>	Cambridge, MA 2018
WOMEN’S WRITING COLLECTIVE <i>Retreat Facilitator and Teacher, Opening Sense Doors to Creative Flow</i>	Multiple Locations, NH and MA 2014-2017
ARTS AND BUSINESS COUNCIL OF GREATER BOSTON <i>Workshop Instructor, Artistic Dharma</i>	Boston, MA 2015
THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP <i>Lead Panelist, The Artist/Administrator Model</i>	Dallas, TX 2013
BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS <i>Panelist, Creating Work/Life Balance in the Arts</i>	Boston, MA 2011

ARTS CONSULTING & ADMINISTRATION

MOBIUS Mediation	Boston, MA 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated membership meeting to heal from a past conflict and build resiliency	
ARTS AND BUSINESS COUNCIL, CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM Entrepreneurial and Business Development Coaching	Boston, MA 2014-2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthened individualized marketing, price-setting, and community-building strategies• Identified individual artists' entrepreneurial mission, vision, infrastructure, and obstacles	
INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL BOSTON Organizational and Fundraising Consulting	Boston, MA 2014-2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed first matching gift campaign resulting in \$33,000 in individual gifts• Received first-time funding of \$50,000 from the State and \$5,000 from the Boston Globe• On-boarded two new board members and two full-time staff	
LIARS AND BELIEVERS THEATER Executive Coaching, Organizational and Fundraising Consulting	Cambridge, MA 2014-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secured \$15,000 in new funding from CAC, MCC, BCC, and Kahn Family Foundation• Designed board stewardship, major donor cultivation, and annual appeal strategies	
SURVIVOR THEATER PROJECT Organizational Consulting	Cambridge, MA 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated Board retreat to create new strategic plan focused on increased inclusion and fiscal growth while transitioning executive leadership• Sufficiency-based coaching in board development, budgeting, and fundraising	
MASSACHUSETTS PRODUCTION COALITION Executive Coaching and Board Development	Boston, MA 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led Board trainings in stewardship and solicitation focused on increasing corporate membership	
ARTSEMERSON Fundraising Consulting	Boston, MA 2014
SUSAN HACKLEY, DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ON NEGOTIATION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY Fundraising and Artistic Coaching, <i>A Child's Guide to War</i> documentary	Cambridge, MA 2014
SPECTRUM MEDIA Executive and Fundraising Coaching, <i>Fragile Island of Peace</i> documentary	Somerville, MA 2014
SPEAKEASY STAGE COMPANY Director of Development, Education, and Outreach	Boston, MA 2008-2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased overall income from \$865,000 to \$1.3M, growing contributed income by 56%, special events income by 118%, and gala attendance by 200%.• Secured first multi-year grant and first-time funding from three grant-making organizations• Cultivated 24 new Trustee and advisory board members	
BOSTON THEATRE WORKS General Manager	Boston, MA 2007-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed payroll, accounts payable & receivable, artist contracts, and annual tax review audit	
COLONIAL THEATER, OPERA HOUSE, CHARLES PLAYHOUSE, WILBUR THEATER Front of House Manager / Assistant Theater Manager	Boston, MA 2002-2007

EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Master of Science in Arts Administration

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Philosophy, *double major, summa cum laude*

CERTIFICATIONS

SEVEN STONES LEADERSHIP, SUSTABU: Sustainable Abundance

2016-2017

Complex, systemic contexts of capitalism, consumerism, scarcity and oppression; Practices of centering, release, and completion; Engaging experimentation as our primary teaching modality and worldview

DELL'ARTE ABROAD: Bali

2014

Experiential study of Bali's community structures, religious diversity, artistic practices, and culture

LANDMARK

1998-2000

Landmark Forum, Advanced Course, Self-Expression and Leadership Program