

MARY H. GRAY

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FINE ARTS GALLERY DIRECTOR

Passionate, forward-thinking public sector gallery director with excellent skills at building strong relationships with staff, artists, visitors, community partners and other stakeholders. Possesses thorough knowledge of visual arts facility management, in-depth experience with all aspects of fine art exhibition production, workshop and special event development.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gallery management	Budgeting	Exhibition design
Contract negotiation, administration	Special event coordination	Supervision
Educational activity development	Policy development	Facilities management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ohio Arts Council’s Riffe Gallery
Columbus, OH
Gallery Director

January, 2002 to present

Sole full-time employee responsible for leadership of a 4,000 square ft. fine arts gallery owned and operated by the state of Ohio. Act as community and partnership liaison. Develop and implement gallery activities, policies and goals, oversee all aspects including budgeting, hiring, contracts, publications, exhibition design, marketing and publicity, and special events.

Accomplishments:

- Through a series of new programming and marketing initiatives, increased audience annual participation in FY15-16 by 34% following near closure of Riffe Gallery in 2014.
- Coordinated nearly 125 main gallery exhibitions of varying themes, 18 toured in-state or internationally.
- Since the inception of the *Columbus Dispatch’s* annual *Year in Review Best Exhibitions*, numerous Riffe Gallery exhibitions have been included.
- Created the Riffe Center lobby exhibition series to showcase local arts organizations and artists including Westbridge Photography Club, Central Ohio Plein Air and Creative Women’s Art (CAW). Provided first venue for Somali-born photographer Abdi Roble which was the springboard of the development of the internationally-recognized Somali Diaspora Project.
- Developed on-going poetry reading and writing workshop series to introduce Riffe Gallery audiences to some of Ohio’s most talented and widely published poets, authors and playwrights.
- Exhibition manager for renowned Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson’s first international exhibition, Museo Nacional de Belles Artes, Santiago, Chile, and on-site coordinator for exhibition exchanges in Budapest, Hungary and Prague, Czech Republic.
- Juror for exhibitions and festivals including GCAC’s Columbus Arts Festival, West Virginia Cultural Center, Zanesville Museum of Art, Springfield Museum of Art, Upper Arlington Arts Festival, McConnell Arts Center, Urban Arts Space and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
- Panel facilitator, moderator for various arts related meetings.
- Voice over talent for Governor’s Awards for the Arts, and GCAC’s Ray Hanley Award.

Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

Coordinator

October, 1997 to January, 2002

Assisted OAC's Public Information Office Director and Visual Arts Coordinator with exhibition selection. Acted as lead worker to Education and Marketing Specialists. Hired preparators and gallery assistants.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated shipping and crating logistics for exhibition exchanges in Saitama, Japan, Jerusalem, Israel, Santiago, Chile and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Registered artwork on-site in Jerusalem, Santiago and Buenos Aires.
- Developed a family workshop series which continues to provide creative educational experiences for children with assistance from professional artists.

Assistant Coordinator

October, 1993 to October, 1997

Hired as first full-time Riffe Gallery employee. Assisted in the development of Riffe Gallery policies and procedures, assisted with exhibition installation, lead group tours for schools, social and senior groups.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Education:

BA / Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Affiliations:

- Columbus Visual Arts Consortium, Steering Committee, 2013 to present
- Columbus Arts Marketing Association, 2005 to present
- The Ohio State University Town and Gown Advisory Committee, 2012 to present
- Supreme Court of Ohio, Art Consultant, 2005 to present
- Member of the Ohio Judicial Center Commission (Chair of Art Acquisitions Committee) and Foundation, 2010 to present
- Urban Arts Space Community Partners Group, 2010 to present
- Fellow, Next Generation of Leaders, Academy for Leadership and Governance, Columbus, OH 2001. Continue to serve on NGL selection committee.
- Ohio Women in Government, Columbus, 2001 to 2012, Vice President, 2005 to 2009
- Jefferson Center and Academy for Leadership and Governance, Board Member, Columbus, OH 2004 to 2008
- Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts, Art Committee, Columbus, OH 2001 to 2009
- University of Findlay's Mazza Collection, Visiting Board Member, Findlay, OH 2000 to 2006