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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Manager, Communications & Community Grants

January 2018-December 2020

- Part-time position. Implemented training and capacity building tools for new nonprofit, administered training to scores of grant-seekers, and oversaw communications policy. Leveraged training expertise to deliver grassroots grantwriting training workshops throughout the Baltimore-D.C. area.

Family League of Baltimore

Director of External Relations

Baltimore, MD

February 2016-December 2017

- As senior manager for the nonprofit Local Management Board in Baltimore, responsible for planning and executing all external communications strategies to showcase the organization's value, impact, and outcomes city-wide; streamline and strengthen stakeholder engagement; inform the Mayor's Office, City Council, and state lawmakers on key issues; refresh and update the organization's brand and messaging; boost social media engagement; develop multi-platform outlets for sharing information and data; manage press. Supervise staff specialists in communications, graphic design, and policy, and manage contracts with external vendors.
- Winner, American Business Awards 2017 Gold Medal--Communications Department of the Year.

Maryland State Department of Education

Director of Communications

Baltimore, MD

January 2015-January 2016

- As a member of the Executive Team, oversaw and coordinated agency-wide communications programs, special projects and initiatives, and set communications policies for the major state agency supporting K12 public education system across 24 districts.
- Provided communications counsel, direction, and support to the State Superintendent of Schools and several assistant superintendents, the legislative team, and external stakeholders in education.
- Significant achievements included attaining measurable growth in social media; overseeing strategic development of new website; generating positive coverage of education policies; collaborating effectively with wide range of internal and external stakeholders; creating messaging documents for new statewide assessment; and putting new communications protocols in place to improve engagement with stakeholders statewide.
- Managed a staff of five communications, PR, and video specialists.

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Washington, DC

Communications Director & Senior Public Affairs Officer – GS-15 06/2012-12/2014

Executive Speechwriter & Senior Policy Communications Specialist – GS-14 10/2007-06/2012

- For a highly visible, fast-paced communications office serving a decentralized \$10 billion, 500-person agency, I successfully lead, executed, and coordinated regional and national campaigns designed to highlight responsible investments of taxpayer dollars; worked closely with national media, including *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*; served as Cabinet-level executive speechwriter; wrote high-profile Congressional testimonies; and oversaw both major website upgrades and social media implementation and growth. Developed budgets for high-profile initiatives. Provided communications counsel directly to appointed leadership.

- Supervised a staff of communications specialists.

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Washington, DC

Senior Communications Analyst Homeland Security & Justice Team

2003-2007

- An internal expert on applying GAO's rigorous methodology for writing and presenting clearly written reports to Congress. Certified as adjunct faculty in GAO's Learning Center, teaching multiple courses on GAO's quality assurance practices.

CD Publications

Community Health Funding Report

Silver Spring, MD

Senior Editor/Reporter

2002-2003

- Responsible for researching, writing, and producing bimonthly 18-page newsletter covering Congress and health care policy, legislation, and grants relevant to community health centers around the country.

The Daily Record Newspaper

Baltimore, MD

Senior Reporter

2000-2002

- Award-winning reporter for a fast-paced daily newspaper in Baltimore. Covered major business issues, including energy and electric deregulation and transportation.

Independent Journalist / Communications Consultant

Boston, MA & Baltimore, MD

1988-2000

- As a journalist, contributed frequently to National Public Radio news programs, other public radio news outlets, and various print media, including the *Baltimore Sun*.

- As a marketing-communications consultant, provided editorial advice and marketing materials to nonprofit organizations, consulting firms, and small businesses.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

- Society of American Business Editors & Writers: National Spot News Coverage—Best in Business.

- Associated Press: Four first-place awards for beat reporting.

- Society of Professional Journalists: two first-place awards for beat reporting.

- Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association: 2nd place.

- Journalism Fellowship, Univ. of MD Knight Center for Specialized Journalism.

EDUCATION

- MA, Cultural Anthropology. Vermont College Graduate Program/Union Institute. First recipient of the John Dewey Alumni Award for outstanding academic performance.
- BA, English Literature, *cum laude*. Hunter College, NY.

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Selected Professional, University & Community Theatre Productions

The Zero Sum Defense, Bellarmine University, Kentucky, 2011.
Time to Impact, Marble Collegiate Church, New York, NY. 2012
Discovery Day, Fells Point Corner Theater Short Play Festival, 2012. *T*
Minus Five, Baltimore City Fringe Festival, 2013.
Lady Gaga and Michael Jackson Take Tea, Variations Short Play Festival, 2013.
Circus Circus, Interrobang Theater, Baltimore, MD, 2015.
Raw, produced by Venus Theater, Laurel, MD, 2015.
Exit Pluto, produced by Strand Theater, Baltimore, MD, 2016.
Running Interference, Variations Short Play Festival, 2017.
Always Never Now, produced by the Navigators Theater, New York, NY, 2018.
Terminal Lucidity, directed by Melanie S. Armer, Baltimore Theatre Project, Baltimore MD. 2019

Selected Readings & Workshops

The Legend of Tommy Tremain. June 29, 2019. Top of the Lake Theatre, Deep Creek Lake, MD. Second grant-funded reading in Oct. 2019 at Motor House, Baltimore MD.
Terminal Lucidity, read by the New Circle Theatre Co., New York, NY. Winter 2018. Kennedy Center Page-to-Stage Festival, 2012-2018 (short and full-length works).
Free Fall Baltimore, 2012-2016.
Association of Theaters for Higher Education Conference, 2011.
Inkwell Theater, 2012.

Production Experience

Producer & Writer, *Terminal Lucidity*. 2018. Responsibilities included raising funds online; securing grant funds (Puffin Foundation); overseeing marketing/advertising collateral; securing rehearsal space; handling all marketing and publicity. A highly collaborative venture including a multi-racial cast and crew and an accomplished New York-based director. Together, we launched the world premiere of this topical, experimental theater work at Baltimore Theatre Project. Exceeded attendance and box office projections. Selected as a “top pick” by *Baltimore Sun*.

Producer & Project Director, *Maryland Odyssey Pilot Project*. 2018-19. Conceived and successfully secured grant funds from local and national funders to enroll three area high schools in a pilot project for students to devise new written and artistic work using a new translation of Homer’s *Odyssey*. Project resulted in a much-shared student video and a public lecture by *Odyssey* translator and academic superstar Emily Wilson, which drew a crowd of 150 adults and students from in-state and out-of-state.

Curator, 10-minute play festivals for the Strand Theater Co., Baltimore, MD. 2016-2017.

Producer & Director, *Workforce*. 2015. Managed every aspect of producing my full-length play written for a cast of actors with disabilities, from securing venue to hiring prop designer, making programs, and arranging a pre-show panel. The production was standing-room only. One of the first times in Baltimore a play was produced with a cast of disabled adult actors of different ages and races.

Awards & Grants

- 2014 recipient of a Rubys Artist Grant Award for the production of *Workforce* (description above).
- 2018 recipient of a grant from the Puffin Foundation for production of *Terminal Lucidity* (description above).
- Society for Classical Studies grant recipient for the *Maryland Odyssey Pilot Project* (description above).
- Baltimore Community Foundation Mitzvah Fund grant recipient for the *Maryland Odyssey Pilot Project*.
- Onassis Foundation grant recipient for the *Maryland Odyssey Pilot Project*.
- Maryland Humanities grant recipient for the *Maryland Odyssey Pilot Project*.

Non-Journalistic Publishing Credits

Ell and *Tent City*, two novels, will be published by Scarsdale Publishing in 2021-23. *The Potrero Complex*, also a novel, will be published by Regal House Publishing in 2022.

“The Water Always Glints in the Sun” appeared in *The Goldilocks Zone Anthology*, published by Flying Ketchup Press. 2019.

Short plays published in anthologies by Routledge in the UK and by Leicester Bay Theatricals.

Short fiction and poetry published in *Fleas on the Dog*, *Yellow Arrow Journal*, *Parliament Lit*, *Defenestration*, and others.

Humanities Magazine, the flagship publication of the National Endowment for Humanities, published a feature article on the *Odyssey* project in the winter of 2019.