

JANICE FRENCH

...Creator...Connector...Collaborator

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www.linkedin.com/in/artexecutive ▪ www.artistportfolio.com

Executive Director: Fine Arts

Art Education & Community Advocacy → Non-Profit Leadership → Grant Writing

Fostering cultures of innovation that honor the past while transforming tomorrow.

**Winner of \$10K Artist Fellowship Award | Recipient of student-selected "Excellence in Teaching" award
Key project leader on build of multimillion-dollar donor-funded arts facility | Founder of multiple community arts programs**

Driven senior leader who brings a passion for people, a love of the arts, and the ability to transform vision into action. Offer 20+ years' expertise designing, executing, and securing funding for programs that inspire individuals, mobilize communities, and challenge organizations to think differently. Leverage extensive experience as program administrator and board member along with proven grant writing skills to partner with and lead organizations focused on the fine arts, arts advocacy, or arts education.

LEADERSHIP IMPACT

Critical Funding Success	Generated \$120K in grants to support art initiatives. Won Dekko grant integral to launch and expansion of summer art camp serving 140 youth in underserved rural area.
Visionary Leadership	Managed \$1.5M budget and facilitated teams of 22+. Overhauled faculty mentoring program. Led strategic planning that resulted in multimillion-dollar art facility.
Industry-Wide Partnerships	Gave 20 presentations at conferences, received 36 reviews by various media outlets, and exhibited works in 60+ regional and national exhibitions.
Award-Winning Excellence	Received 3 major awards in recognition of scholarly work and teaching. Excellence in Scholarly Work Award, Iowa Artist Fellowship Award, and Excellence in Teaching Award.
Transformative Programs	Designed 32 unique courses impacting 3.2K students. Organized 7 national and international experiences for students. Organized 22 artist workshops and talks.

Program Administration • Strategy & Planning • Non-Profit Leadership • Contracts & Negotiations • Donor Relations
Program Development • Grant Writing • Public Speaking • Group Facilitation/Teaching • Budget Management
Curriculum Development • Training and Staff Development • Stakeholder Management • Relationship Building

"Janice has partnered with social service non-profit organizations across the state to become an advocate for mental health and LGBTQ issues while demonstrating how the arts can act as a vehicle to heal wounds in these sectors. She pursues each new partnership opportunity with a rarely-seen diligence to quality, timeliness, and attentiveness."

— Grant Services and Artist Programs Manager, Arts Council, Department of Cultural Affairs

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY • Somewhere, IA

2000 to Present

Professor of Art | 2000 to Present

Department Coordinator | 2003 to 2012 • 2013 to 2015

Division Chair: Visual and Performing Arts | 2003 to 2009 • 2010 to 2012

Hired as professor and earned quick appointment to serve in dual capacity as Department Coordinator and Division Chair. Managed \$1.5M budget while facilitating faculty and support teams of 22+. Created and taught art and interdisciplinary courses while serving on committees charged with policy review, assessment, curriculum efficiencies, program innovation, and student success. Maintained commitment to scholarly work while supporting students and establishing partnerships with non-profit organizations. Collaborated to secure funding for programs that connected the public with opportunities to explore the arts.

"I am emboldened by your courage, inspired by your passion, awed by your talent, and touched by your humanity. Tonight I celebrate your incandescent artistry." — Colleague, Liberal Arts University

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Revitalized Infrastructure and Launched New Programs that Championed the Arts in Rural Iowa.

- **Played key role in design and build of multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art fine arts facility.** Served as intermediary between donors, administration, staff, and architects.
- **Spearheaded continuance of the “Clay Club” after founder’s departure.** Local artists now have access to first-rate facilities on a university campus and give back via studio upkeep and student mentoring initiatives.
- **Founded, staffed, and executed Fine Arts Camp and Art Academy,** grant-funded programs that provided 100+ local students with summer art offerings.

Led Program Overhauls and Restructures Leveraging Creative Innovation to Deliver a Sustainable Future.

- **Collaborated to pioneer first-year experience class that transitioned new students to college** while focusing on critical thinking and academic success. Proposal was approved and class remains core requirement 11 years later.
- **Secured university grant to fund book purchases for 12 colleagues to read, *Engaging the Imagination*.** Participants across disciplines met to discuss text and pledged to implement new idea in at least one course.
- **Modernized 10 courses to integrate new essential education themes.** All course proposals passed rigorous assessment from multiple committees before final approval.

Built Inclusive Culture of Empowerment Despite Organizational Challenge.

- **Partnered to launch faculty orientation process focused on relational model of community support.** In spite of massive change, program is still in effect 9 years later.
- **Addressed salary discrimination regarding gender, sexuality, and age-based inequalities.** Submitted edits to mission and objectives of Faculty Compensation Committee unanimously approved by faculty. Collaborated with committee on new salary formula embraced by administration that delivered a significant monetary change to faculty.
- **Won Excellence in Teaching award after promoting spirit of collaboration despite 40% budget cut.** Rallied stakeholders to drive support for student-led art activities and programs. Created environment that drove new foot-traffic into art building, secured free speakers, and empowered students to plan trips to St. Louis, Chicago, and Rome.
- **Created proposal and gained support to launch professional development offerings at faculty conferences.** Topics provided professors with information key in boosting student satisfaction scores.

EARLY CAREER

TEXAS MUSEUM OF ART | McDonald Intern | Somewhere, TX

TEXAS UNIVERSITY | Continuing Education Ceramics Instructor | Somewhere, TX

BOARD LEADERSHIP

MEMBER AND BOARD MEMBER, Print Club, Iowa Art Center • Somewhere, IA • 2018 to Present

BOARD PRESIDENT, Blue Frog Arts • Somewhere, IA • 2011 to 2014

Coordinated “Blue Frog Leaps,” an after-school program for 3rd and 4th grade students while serving as Board President

FOUNDER & MEMBER, Iowa Arts Alliance • Somewhere, IA • 2006 to 2012

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art • Texas University • Somewhere, TX

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Studio Art • Texas University • Somewhere, TX

For more art education and program initiatives, media mentions, exhibitions, and visual art awards please visit: www.artistportfolio.com

Project Notes

This amazing artist, teacher, and program director was ready to make the leap to the executive side of the art world and needed a document that would position her as a strategic program leader, agent of change, and community-minded fine arts executive.

The Challenge: The client had done an incredible job in producing art, growing programs, fundraising, and driving community engagement initiatives. She didn't see herself this way, however. Her paradigm at the time we worked together was more "professor" than executive. This mindset held her back from applying to the roles she really had interest in. To address this, I worked diligently with the client through a story-based intake process that encouraged her to share verbally and journal about her experiences. Together, we reframed experiences so that she could see what a huge impact she'd had and that she already had the executive skillset needed for many of the roles she had her eye on.

Another challenge was that she had stayed at the same institution for 20 years. We needed to break down her time in a way that would make sense and highlight key executive themes.

The Strategy:

- Create a document that immediately showcased her skill as fundraiser, program driver, and innovator to the reader. We highlighted key wins immediately at the top right after the branding statement and before the profile section.
- The "Leadership Impact" section focused on executive strengths and victories while pulling out specific examples of achievement.
- Quotes were included in this document to provide a more human and approachable "voice" that would appeal to a reader attempting to recruit a fine arts executive.
- Her long tenure was broken down into "chapters" of success demonstrating a strong performance record spanning 20+ years.
- The client was particularly attracted to the Gallup Strengths Assessment and asked that her top three strengths be communicated as part of her brand. I honored this request by simply using these within the branding at the top of the page.

The Design:

We knew that she was going to be applying to roles via her network and that in her case, ATS was not going to be a big concern. I wanted to give her a simple design that would be easy for her to edit as she wasn't sure at this point which roles she would be applying to. The only design tools that were used were simple lines, the shading tool, and one simple table. These, combined with a little color, give her the creative document she needed while still communicating her executive level.

The Result:

The client applied to 10 roles, was invited to eight interviews, and was offered two jobs. She made the shift from professor to executive successfully and took a role with with a nonprofit organization that awards millions of dollars in grants to nonprofit arts and cultural centers.