



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### November 2, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Maria Baird, Recreation and Community Services Manager – Events  
Anne Mannes, Recreation and Community Services Manager – Programs

**SUBJECT:** Interview and Appointment of Artist-in-Residence for two-year term

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#### RECOMMENDATION

Interview and appoint an Artist-in-Residence for a two-year term (Jan. 2017 through Dec. 2018).

#### DISCUSSION

Per the approved process, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) issues the Request for Proposals (RFP) and interviews the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) applicants. PARC then refers the top three applicants for the Artist-in-Residence position to the Council to be interviewed.

The standard term for the AIR has been one year typically beginning on July 1 and ending June 30. The Town Council appointed the current Artist-in-Residence, Sawyer Rose, on September 3, 2014, with her term expiring August 31, 2015. In July 2015, the Council approved the Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation to change this to a two-year term. In August 2016, the Council granted a 4-month extension to the current AIR agreement to allow staff sufficient time to issue an RFP (Request for Proposals) and interview potential candidates.

An interview panel (Panel) consisting of two Town staff members and one Park and Recreation Commissioner interviewed five candidates for the Artist in Residence position: Georgia Gibbs, Lela Shields, Sarah and Sierra Salin, Stephanie Mohan, and Melissa Briggs. While all candidates offered unique ideas and projects to bring to the community, below are the interview panel's assessment of the three top applicants.

Attached are the Applications, Interview Questions and Evaluation/Criteria the Panel used to conduct the interview process.

**Lela Shields** – is the business owner of Trouvé and has been part of the community for several years. She has a diverse background, teaching experience with community classes of all ages, strong community roots, a business in downtown, and an extensive amount of experience in exhibiting her work. Her primary art form would be painting and drawing. Lela lives in San Geronimo Valley (though is looking to rent or buy in Fairfax). She has limited experience working with seniors. She would need the loft space for her studio art work.

SPECIAL MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM # 1

**Melissa Briggs-** is a local mother of preschool and school aged youth and is an interdisciplinary artist who works internationally. She states her professional career bridges the gap between the privileged and marginalized, the professional and the creative, the academic and the practitioner. She has local roots, taught Rec classes before, and participated in Town Rec programs such as Fairfax Moms. She appears very energetic. She proposes to use theater and performance art as her primary art form. Her mission is to build bridges among disparate groups with an interesting form of art that is unique and would challenge norms. She would offer to all age ranges and apply on a town-wide basis. She would use the loft space as a work studio, but she could not use it for classes. An AIR focusing on performance art would be a change from the typical AIR activities.

**Stephanie Mohan** – is a downtown business owner of Stephanie Mohan Photography for over two decades. She is involved in school activities and has a strong community presence as evidenced by her participation in Chamber & civic events (i.e., First Friday, Streets for People). She is invested in the community with her child and business, highly skilled, and a creative thinker. Stephanie lives in San Anselmo. Her primary art form would be photography. It is unclear whether Stephanie would use the loft space and if access to equipment would be a limiting factor for participation by the community.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

AIR receives annual stipend of \$400.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. PARC Interview questions and evaluation form
2. Proposals (all proposals received are included for the Council's reference)

## Artist in Residence –October 2016

### Interview Questions

#### GENERAL:

1. Tell us about yourself and why you have decided to apply for this position?
2. What skills do you feel make you the best candidate for this position?
3. The AIR position requires a strong sense of initiative. We are in the process of re-defining the AIR position and want to work with the new AIR to help define it? Can you describe a project or idea (not necessarily your own) that was implemented successfully primarily because of your efforts.
4. What motivates you to do your best work?

*Youth and Community Work: Part of the AIR position is working to create and implement art classes and also to volunteer during the festival or town picnic to create art and craft projects?*

1. Give me an example on how you've played a role in creating community? What was required? How did you do it? How was it challenging/successful? How did it go?
2. Tell us about the experience you have had working with children and adults in a class setting? What knowledge and skills have you gained that will help you in this position?
3. An important part of the AIR role is to serve as a liaison to increase and strengthen communication between the Town of Fairfax, PARC and to the community at large. Understanding that you would be the face for the Town of Fairfax, how do you foresee yourself developing relationships with all the stakeholders involved?
4. As a working artist what skills or tactics would you see yourself avoiding or emulating to make this position successful?

# AIR Candidate Evaluation Form

## **Education / Training (ideal candidate would have BFA or BA)**

The candidate has the necessary education and/or training required by the position.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Needs a little more training

\_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't meet requirements

Comments:

## **Work Experience**

The candidate has prior work experience that is related to the position.

\_\_\_\_\_ Extensive experience

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Not related but transferable skills

\_\_\_\_\_ No prior experience

Comments:

## **Skills (Technical)**

The candidate demonstrated to your satisfaction that he/she had the necessary technical skills to perform the job successfully.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Needs a little more training

\_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't meet requirements

Comments:

### **Leadership Skills**

The candidate demonstrated to your satisfaction that he/she had the necessary leadership skills to perform the job successfully.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Needs a little more training

\_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't meet requirements

Comments:

### **Interpersonal Skills**

Communication: articulated ideas clearly both written and orally.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Needs a little more training

\_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't meet requirements

Comments:

### **Teamwork**

Demonstrated the ability to work well in a team and with superiors, peers, and reporting staff.

\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

## **Community Knowledge**

The candidate understands the Fairfax community and is willing to do outreach and projects that are relevant.

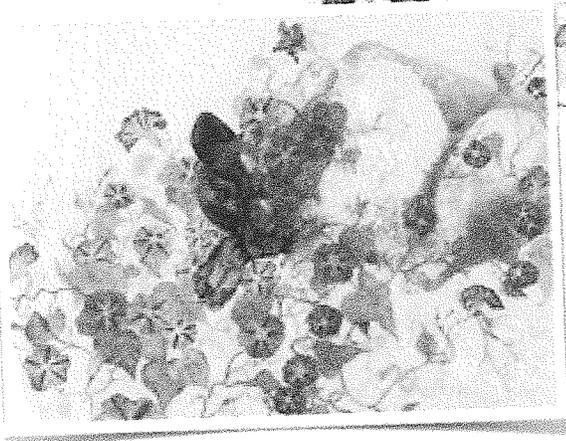
\_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Meets requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Needs a little more training

\_\_\_\_\_ Doesn't meet requirements

# Artist in Residence Application



Lela Shields

**References:**

1. *Kathleen Carroll* -

-Kat and her husband own several of my original paintings, they also own The Potting Shed and we have shared neighboring businesses for the past 6 years.

2. *Cary Richardson* -

-I have been friends with Cary since we were 17 years old and lived in New York City (we are 43 now). She is a biologist and therefore shares a love of nature (all of my work is nature inspired) Cary knows my work, process, Trouvé, and me as a person as well as anyone. She also owns several of my originals. Her daughters are my god daughters.

3. *Morgan Hall* -

-Morgan has been my landlord at Trouvé for the past six years. He knows that i am responsible, work very hard, and follow through with my commitments.

4. *Rowan Beach*

-Rowan works at Morgan Stanley in SF and is a serious collector and supporter of my work, he owns around 16 originals. He and his family have also become close friends.

5. *Lisa Swerling*

-I have exhibited Lisa's Glass Cathedrals in Trouvé for the past 4 years. She and I have shown in many cities together including NYC and London. She and I have put on many creative events at Trouvé including youth art competitions. Another highly motivated lover of the arts and a great helper in creating community.

## **Bio**

Lela was born and raised in London and attended several fine art institutions before graduating from *The School of the Art Institute of Chicago* 1996. She has had solo exhibitions in Denver, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sydney, Australia. She has shown internationally in England, France, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. In 2006, Lela was included in a group exhibition at The Louvre Museum in Paris, France. In 2009, Lela's work was short-listed for the *Jerwood Drawing Prize* – the most competitive drawing contest in the UK.

Lela relocated to the Bay Area in 2011 from London and currently lives and paints in her studio in West Marin County. She was represented by Hang Art Gallery in San Francisco before opening Trouvé, a small gallery featuring her own work as well as the work of many other artists and designers in the Bay Area. Trouvé is located in downtown Fairfax on Bolinas Road and is the place to view more of Lela's work.

## **Artist Statement**

Lela Shields strives to reveal the fragility of life, utilizing delicate line work and detailing, in an ultra-fine balance between human, animal and spiritual realms. Shields crafts subtle narratives while simultaneously playing with chance, technique and pure imagination. Each piece starts with a random spill or pour of ink that the painting then emerges from.

I have been an exhibiting artist since graduating from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 1996. I have run at least two businesses in order to afford an art studio over the past 20 years in various cities and even different countries. I have always worked for myself and have managed to lead a richly creative life and believe that painting is my way of serving and giving back. It is also part of my passion to teach and support other people to use their hands and learn how to support themselves creatively in today's digital world.

I lost my last painting studio of three years in San Geronimo 6 months ago and am currently working in my living room for the first time in my life. My work is large and not having a space dedicated solely to my painting has been detrimental to my work. I have a back log of large scale commissions as well as several exhibitions coming up. I would utilize and appreciate the artist in residency space more than anything in the world. I live and breathe art. I am completely dedicated not only to my own practice, but also to that of others. I mentor and teach people of all ages how to find their creative voices and how to paint and draw. I can not help but extend myself to anyone who shares an authentic passion for creativity. This is demonstrated through the unique beauty of Trouvé ([www.trouvestudio.com](http://www.trouvestudio.com)) I have nurtured local artists in Fairfax and the surrounding area for the past six years, it is a genuine passion. As we all know, Marin is shockingly expensive and I have been paying three rents (my home, Trouvé, and my painting studio) as a single female artist for the past 6 years. I am working constantly. I would love to continue to support other local artists through Trouvé **as well** as thrive in my own work through working in the pavilion.

Here are some bullet points of how I could easily and more than happily contribute to our community if I was granted this amazing opportunity:

- I would open the studio to the public at least once a year for Marin Open Studios if not more frequently.
- I would love to curate an exhibition of local artists in the space, perhaps an annual show- one in 2017 and one in 2018. My gallery, Trouvé, is tiny and is busting at the seams with art. This would be an amazing opportunity for us to include talented artists that I can not fit into Trouvé due to lack of space. I receive worthy submissions from artists wanting to exhibit in Trouvé daily so I have a backlog of artists to include into a larger situation. This would be a great draw for the town and we could hold the shows alongside of other events to attract more people and attention.
- I have taught children art since high school and would love to hold some classes for local kids. I love working with children, teens, and the elderly and would be happy to create a little curriculum for whatever age group needed it the most.
- I have wanted a space where I could hold "creative conversations" (**an art think tank**) for many years. An example of some relevant topics/questions would be **\*\*How can we support one another in leading successful and authentic creative lives? \*\*How does one find their own creative voice? How does one create their own creative foundation? What is it like being a full time artist in today's world?** These could start some creative and innovative discussions that who knows how they could/would positively impact the town of Fairfax's future.
- I would LOVE to host artist's nights where people of all disciplines (musicians, poets, dancers, fine artists alike) could present what they were currently working on to the group and could get some constructive feedback and support with their work.

## EXHIBITIONS

### Group Shows

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- 2016 **Many Natures.** Kuturfolger Art Space, Zurich, Switzerland  
**The Big Mini Show.** Trouvé, Fairfax, CA
- 2014 **Renegade Fair.** Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 **Renegade Fair.** Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA  
**West Coast Craft.** Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA  
**Moments of Magic.** Trouvé, Fairfax, CA
- 2012 **Renegade Fair.** Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 **Found in Flight.** Paxton Gate, San Francisco, C  
**Clear Water.** Secession Art and Design, San Francisco, CA  
**Action, Reaction.** Hang Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 **Bernal.** Inclusions Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
**Paper Girl.** Women's Center, San Francisco, CA  
**The Elephant Parade.** Soho Square, London, England
- 2009 **The Jerwood Drawing Exhibit.** The Jerwood Space, London, England
- 2007 **Twinkle, Twinkle.** Plus Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Faber Birren Color Award Show.** Stamford Art Association, Stamford, CT  
**Greenhouse.** The Kitchen, Boulder, CO  
**Transmute.** Object and Thought Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Juried Show.** Space Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Drawings.** Rhinoceropolis, Denver, CO  
**The Tenant Show.** Andenken Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Juried Show.** Capsule Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2006 **A Night of a Thousand Drawings.** Artist Space, New York, NY  
**Friends.** Andenken Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Expatica 2006.** The Louvre Museum, Paris, France  
**Stay Opening.** Stay Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Chain Letter.** High Energy Constructs, Los Angeles, CA  
**The Animal Within.** Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ
- 2005 **AAF Contemporary Art Fair.** Pier 92, New York, NY  
**Paper Two.** Thomas Werner Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 **NADA Art Fair.** Miami Beach, Florida  
**AAF Contemporary Art Fair.** Pier 92, New York, NY  
**The Matzo Files.** Streit's Matzos, New York, NY
- 2003 **A Study of Contemporary Landscape & Nature Photography.** Thomas Werner Gallery, New York, NY  
**Nelson.** And A, Tokyo, Japan  
**Sacred World.** The Shambhala Center, New York, NY  
**It's A Girl Thing.** Halcyon, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 **Open Studio.** West Chelsea Arts Building, New York, NY
- 1996 **Brain Wash.** Fluoride Factory, Sydney, Australia
- 1995 **Condemned.** Court House, Auckland, New Zealand  
**Lab Rinse.** Laboratory, Canberra, Australia

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**Solo Shows**

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- 2015 **The Arcane.** Paxton Gate, San Francisco, CA  
**Under Stars of Violet.** Trouvé, Fairfax, CA
- 2014 **Minerals.** Trouvé, Fairfax, CA  
**In Flight.** Paxton Gate, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 **All Things Bright and Beautiful.** Trouvé, Fairfax, CA
- 2007 **Beneath the See.** Space Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Alone in the Wilderness of Magic Disco Light.** Fancy Tiger, Denver, CO
- 2006 **The Golden Rupture.** Stay Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2005 **I Do See You.** Mandarin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 **Are You Still Cold?** Thomas Werner Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 **Drawings.** The Shambhala Center, New York, NY
- 1998 **I Gnow.** Point of View Gallery, Chicago, IL  
**Bouncing.** SAIC, Chicago, IL
- 1996 **Insideoneselfinsideoneself.** BFA Exhibition, Chicago, IL  
**Impermanence.** SAIC, Chicago, IL
- 1994 **Blood and Coffee.** SAIC, Chicago, IL

**PRESS**

- Kulturfolger Magazine,** June 2016  
**Juxtapose Art and Culture,** Jan. 8, 2014  
**Nashville Arts Magazine,** June 2014  
**Lamono Magazine,** July 2014  
**Fresh Rag,** 2014  
**Marin Independent Journal,** Dec. 2013  
**Eclectix,** Jan. 2013  
**The Rocky Mountain News,** Friday, Dec. 21, 2007  
**The Lumper,** Sunday, Dec. 2007  
**Sentient City Magazine,** Issue #2 Nov/Dec 2007  
**The Rocky Mountain News,** Friday, Nov. 10, 2006  
**RinoCrow,** Volume 5, November 2006  
**Los Angeles Times,** Friday, June 24, 2005  
**LA City Beat,** June 2, 2005

**ONLINE & SLIDE FILES**

- Drawing Center,** New York, NY  
**Artist Space,** New York, NY  
**Stamford Art Association,** Stamford, CT

## LECTURES

***The Unknown is Monstrous.*** Self Made lecture series, Denver, CO  
***The Animal Within.*** Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

***Stamford Award of Excellence.*** Faber Birren National Color Award Show  
Juried by Gary Carrion-Murayari, Curator, The Whitney Museum, New York, 2007  
***Grant for Residency Program.*** The Vermont Studio School, 2007  
***First Place.*** Space Gallery's juried show, Denver, CO, 2007  
***First Place.*** Capsule Gallery's juried show, Denver, CO, 2007  
***SAIC Grant.*** Chicago, IL, 1995-96

## EDUCATION

***The School of the Art Institute of Chicago,*** 1996  
BFA Major in Sculpture and Installation  
***The Canberra School of Art at the Australian National University,*** 1995  
Exchange Program  
***Savannah College of Art and Design,*** 1992  
***California College of Arts and Crafts,*** 1993  
***Rhode Island School of Design,*** 1991

# ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROPOSAL 2016

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MELISSA JONES BRIGGS  
Performer | Educator

Dear Fairfax Parks and Recreation (PARC) Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program Committee,

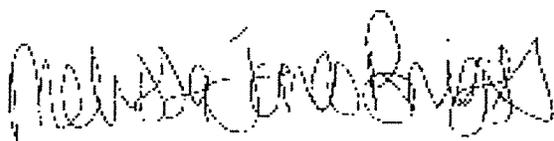
Hello Neighbors! Please consider my enclosed proposal for the role of Artist-in-Residence. As a local performer, my work integrates theatre and performance art as a tool for social change. It would be an honor to focus on, and contribute to, our community in this role.

As a performer and educator, I believe that if you shine a light on the vast chasms of empathy and communication - which exist on the street and in the kitchen, in schoolrooms and boardrooms, in halls of government and academia - the rifts will heal.

My work focuses on bridging the gap between the privileged and the marginalized, the professional and the creative, the academic and the practitioner.

Please find attached brief Proposal Outline, Biography, CV, Artistic Resume & References.

Warmly yours, in community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Jones Briggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with some overlapping letters.

## PROPOSAL OUTLINE

### **Fairfax Artist-in-Residence**

The Artist-in-Residence role serves as bridge between the community and the art form. In the current climate of divisive rhetoric, the practices of empathy and dialogue are weakening. Community building is inherent in the practice of performance - the passionate pursuit of an objective.

As AIR, I propose to offer residents a glimpse into that practice. And to craft both high and low-production-value opportunities to bring FX people together, across demographics, in passionate pursuit of an objective through performance

Through the AIR Program we can offer Fairfax residents multi-disciplinary opportunities to connect to performance in service of the community across generations, income and experience levels. Performance is a powerful tool to bridge gaps in community. It is interactive and inclusive. Acting is the art of bringing our personal experience to a role. We all play vital roles in our community. We are all acting, all the time. We are all infinitely creative, resourceful and whole performers, regardless of age or experience level. But we can often lose sight of this, and fall out of practice in the art of connecting. The practice of performance techniques can connect us to a broader range of civic behaviors, deeper reservoirs of empathy and enhanced connection.

### **As an Artist**

I am thrilled to share the performance making process with residents of Fairfax. I am constantly developing and rehearsing material. I'd love to continue the Open Studio practice established. I plan to schedule open rehearsals for interested folks to come learn the different processes of performance application. I am an interdisciplinary performer - so an Open Studio rehearsal night they might find me in the middle of any of these current projects: workshopping a film script - currently in development, a short slated to shoot (locally!) in Spring 2017; ongoing stand-up rehearsals; improv & sketch comedy groupwork; theatrical scenework; designed learning experience development, etc. I will share 2 formal performances, showcasing new work devised right here in Fairfax. I will also offer opportunities for the community to perform.

### **Children & Parents of Young Children**

As Fairfax AIR, I will coordinate with FOCAS on a bi-monthly performance Drop-In Class for school-aged kids. I will coordinate with the Fairfax New Mom's and FOCAS to deepen the child care offerings in coordination with local artist events so parents can deepen their connection to community and creativity during this vulnerable time.

### **Adults & Older Adults**

As an educator I am passionate about pushing the limits of performance application in everyday life. Drop-In Classes for adults showcasing diverse performance disciplines will provide a chance for adults to explore different methods of performance. Outreach to older adults will include collaborative artist and community visits to local retirement communities where we will engage in multi-generational creative play.

### **Local Artists**

My work hinges on integrated performance art forms as well as visual art forms and community activism. I plan to continue to engage local filmmakers, visual artists, comedians, actors and performance artists and musicians in collaborative projects. I plan to offer informal salon-style evenings of conversation for local Artists.

## Town of Fairfax

And I look forward to the opportunity to co-design and develop the AIR role and offerings with you all!

## RESUME

Please find attached CV & Artistic Resume.

## BIOGRAPHY

Trained in London and New York, Melissa Jones Briggs **performs professionally** live and on film. Her range as an actress spans contemporary and period theatre production, film, voice over work and improvisation. She teaches acting at Stanford University and elsewhere.

Credits include live theatre in NY and SF, short and feature length film, mentor artist positions with Youth in Arts and New Conservatory Theatre Center in CA, The 52nd Street Project in NYC, and The Williamstown Theatre Festival's Greylock Theatre Project in MA.

She also writes screenplays that have been produced and officially selected for screening on the international film festival circuit.

In the classroom Melissa **develops & leads educational theatre curricula** throughout the SF Bay Area as a Mentor Teaching Artist and Director. She is committed to empowering young people to express their authentic voice through devised original theatre production and other expressive arts techniques.

She specializes in working with **at risk and special needs youth**, students whose voices go unheard in their communities. She collaborates with non-profits in New York, San Francisco and beyond to grow programming for this vital demographic. Melissa brings together community leaders, professional performers, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and local businesses to uphold and celebrate the creative voice of emerging young artists.

Recent educational outreach work includes:

- The C Street Project: Performance + Visual Art = Community Integration, Director
- One Act Play Festival: Mixed Ability Theatre Project, Original Performance, Director
- Shakespeare Classroom Integration: San Rafael Unified School District
- Mixed Ability Dramatic Art Project: Summer Intensive, Original Performance, Director
- PlayMaking - Theatre & Literacy Curriculum, Original Performances: Novato Youth Center, Novato Unified School District (USD), West Contra County USD, Tam USD, Marin County Office of Education and more.

On Faculty at **Stanford University's Graduate School of Business (GSB)** Melissa works as a Lecturer in Organizational Behavior teaching *Acting with Power* with Dr. Deborah Gruenfeld. This extremely popular second year elective uses theatre technique to help students address their issues around power, authority and status. She also works as a Visiting Guest Lecturer at London Business School in the UK and Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland and the United States Naval Academy. A proud honors graduate of Wake

Forest University, Melissa also studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and The Actor's Center Conservatory in New York.

Off-stage and outside the academic classroom, Melissa works as a consultant, helping clients maximize interpersonal communication, leadership, and community integration. She offers personalized, one-on-one coaching, allowing her clients to fully expand their authentic range. She also delivers bespoke curricula, workshops, and full-scale programs in creativity, innovation, leadership, and design thinking rooted in thought partnership with colleagues at Ideo and Stanford's renowned *d.school*. Melissa's passion for working with women to break down barriers to their advancement, drives her focus and commitment. She often works with organizations designing and deploying diversity and inclusion programming.

Melissa works with executives, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, politicians, actors, directors, academics, attorneys and medical professionals. Client affiliations range from corporate and academic: Intel, Twitter, Cisco, eBay, Ubisoft, Lyft, Mozilla, Dechert LLP, the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Singularity University, Lorraine Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford Hospitals & Clinics - to nonprofit: Clinton Global Initiative, Watermark, Rise Up, The Public Health Institute, Invoking the Pause Foundation, The 52nd Street Project, StageWrite, Conservatory Theatre Ensemble, New Conservatory Theatre Center, Youth in Arts, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, among others.

Melissa is raising two small girls, and one large dog, with her filmmaker husband, Lee Briggs, in Fairfax. She is deeply committed to her Town community.

## REFERENCES

Three professional and personal references:

KAY KOSTOPOULOS

ACT | Stanford University

MCCOY DODSWORTH

Fairfax Parents | Fairfax Childcare Cooperative

KATIE ROSE

Fairfax Artist In Residence 2014-2016

# MELISSA JONES BRIGGS

## PROFILE

University lecturer, performer and consultant specializing in performance as a tool for social change. Leads client transformation as executive coach. Designs and deploys bespoke learning experiences and full scale programs for organizations around the globe. Directs theatre and improvisational arts curricula for the stage, classroom or boardroom with a focus on effective leadership communication and community integration. Teaches courses on acting, directing, and organizational behavior. Teaching and research interests include performance in everyday life, power and powerlessness, authentic performance, applied theatre technique. Writes screenplays produces film and rides single track.

## EDUCATION | TRAINING

**Wake Forest University** | Winston-Salem, North Carolina | 2004

BA with Honors: Theatre, Communications and Education

Jordan Scholarship Recipient

Primary Training: Cindy Gendrich, Sharon Andrews (Acting Technique, Directing), Mark Cohen (Acting, Movement), James Dodding, RADA (Mime and Alexander Technique), Brook Davis (Educational Theatre), Mary Wayne Thomas (Costume), Dianne Scishle (Modern), Debbie Spencer (Jazz), Nina Lucas (Dance)  
Thesis: "THE BRIDGE: Theatre Education for Children in Need"

**The Actor's Centre Conservatory** | New York, New York | 2006

Graduate Certificate: Acting | Professional Training Conservatory

Primary Training: Scott Freeman (Acting/ ACT, NYU), Grace Zandarski (Voice/ ACT, Yale), Felix Ivanov (Movement/ Vakhtangov Academy Theater Russia, Lincoln Center), Jane Nichols (Clown/ Yale, Julliard), Per Brahe (Mask/ NYU, Yale, Moscow Art Theatre), Janet Zarish (Acting/ NYU, Yale)

**Royal Academy of Dramatic Art** | London, England, UK | 2002

Certificate: Shakespeare Summer Intensive

Primary Training: John Adams (Director/ RADA), Nicholas Barter (Directing/ RADA, Royal Shakespeare), Adrienne Thomas (Vocal Training/ RADA, British American Drama Academy), Sheila Allen (Text/ Royal Shakespeare), Andrew Cuthbert (Speech/ RADA, National Theatre)

### Further Training

Coaches Training Institute (CTI) Co-Active Coaching Technique; Thiagi Facilitation Approach; Rosemary Harris: Shakespeare Intensive Workshop; Tim Miller: Master Class and Performance; Vocal Training: Jessica Walker, Teresa Radomski, Kay Kostopoulos, etc.

## RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE | APPOINTMENTS

**Stanford University**, Stanford, CA

**Graduate School of Business**

Lecturer in Organizational Behavior: 2014 - Present

Acting Coach: 2008 - 2014

Course Development Facilitator: 2008

Founding teaching team member for *Acting With Power* (OB333) course. Teaches acting technique to help students perform effectively within a hierarchy, a crucial determinant of professional and personal success. Course combines social science research and theory with practical application of acting training and skills. Empowers students by broadening their repertoire of physical, vocal and emotional tools to enhance their impact and connection in a leadership context. Leads exercises, directs intensive small group scene work, performs diagnostic casting as well as personalized coaching. 'Stanford's MBA program is the most selective, diverse and highest-ranking business school in the United States.' [gsb.stanford.edu](http://gsb.stanford.edu) Reference: Dr. Deborah Gruenfeld

**Department of Theatre and Performance Studies (T&PS)**

Substitute Acting Lecturer: 2014 - Present

Teaches T&PS course *Acting for Non-Majors* as needed based on Lecturer availability. Course designed for the student to experience a range of new creative skills, from group improvisation to partner scene work. Voice,

Movement improvisation, listening exercises, and theater games release the energy, playfulness and willingness to take risks. Interdisciplinary department integrates theory, criticism, and performance. Intensive, innovative, intellectual training in theater and dance as well as improvised and devised performances. Analytic skills & research-based scholarship 'focuses on doing as a means of understanding.' [taps.stanford.edu](http://taps.stanford.edu) References: Kay Kostopoulos & Dan Klein

### **Continuing Studies**

Instructor: 2016 - Present

***Roles We Play: Status & Power in Everyday Life*** Inspired by the GSB's popular *Acting with Power* curriculum, this course works on the following theory: If students explore the roles played in life like an actor does, they gain a fresh perspective on these roles, and learn to play them more effectively. From the first class, students are engaged in the actor's process, learning new physical and vocal techniques and exploring their own power 'comfort zone'. This performance course covers topics that include acting theory and methods, improvisation games, body and vocal expression and rehearsal-style scenework. The course is informed by emerging social science research that deepens students' understanding of relationships and the fluid status and power dynamics therein.

Assistant Acting Instructor: 2007 - Present

Casts and directs scene work, runs warm-up and theatre exercises. Facilitates course management, curriculum development support and teaching assistance and for the following Acting Intensive courses:

***Shakespeare Without Fear*** Workshop provides a substantial introduction to the craft of acting Shakespeare, and reinforces basic concepts for those who have previously studied Shakespearean acting.

***Awaken the Actor Within, Contemporary Scene Study*** and ***Contemporary Monologue*** courses demystify the acting process by finding a common vocabulary and practical application for the actor. Provides introduction and reinforces basic concepts of the craft of acting, including cold-read technique, physical and vocal exercises, audition coaching, scene and character analysis, among others.

'Continuing Studies shares Stanford's rich educational resources with adult students, to nurture a vibrant learning community, to nourish the life of the mind, and to promote the pleasures of intellectual exploration and exchange.' [continuingstudies.stanford.edu](http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu) Reference: Kay Kostopoulos

### **Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland**

Visiting Instructor: 2016

Strategic Influence & Leadership workshop. Power Intensive: includes real-world material, coaching and feedback. Explores the relationship of Power, Authority, and Status and how nonverbal communication can help achieve communication and leadership goals. Mari Rauhala & Petri Lehtivaara.

### **London Business School, London, England, UK**

Visiting Instructor: 2015, 2016

Interactive Power workshop. Communication tools and the effect of status on the ability to gain Authority and Approachability, the effect on Power in leadership roles. 'Experiential techniques increase executive presence and develop charismatic behaviors to give students a "secret weapon" in their competitive work lives.' Teaching team for Professor Gabe Adams & Professor Ben Hardy.

### **Youth in Arts, San Rafael CA**

Mentor Teaching Artist: 2009 - Present

Develops and directs educational theatre programming throughout the SF Bay Area. Director and Educator with strong skills in performance, student-devised production and team building with demonstrated leadership in the area of arts curriculum development and assessment. Facilitates collaboration between organizations, school departments and administrators. Specializes in underserved student demographics and classroom integration. The non-profit organization 'directly serves over 20,000 students annually and over 1 million students since its inception; provides students with high quality experiences and instruction in the visual and performing arts.' [youthinarts.org](http://youthinarts.org) Reference: Miko Lee

**The C Street Project**, Performance + Visual Art = Community Integration, Director: 2014 - Present

**Original One Act Play Project**, Tam High School CTE/ MCOE (Mixed Ability), Director: 2010 - 2015

**Shakespeare Classroom Integration**, San Rafael Unified School District, Mentor Artist: 2011 - 2014

**Mixed Ability Dramatic Art Project**, SF Bay Area wide YIA program, Director: 2013

**PlayMaking**, Novato Youth Center, Novato Unified School District, West Contra County Unified School District, Tamalpais Union School District, Marin County Office of Education: 2009 - 2014

### **Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE), Mill Valley, CA, Tamalpais High School**

One Act Play Festival: Mixed Ability Original Production, Director: 2010 - 2014; Advisor: 2015

Shakespeare Intensive for Advanced Acting Students: Sonnet Monologue, Director: 2012

Award winning theatre education program that spans a four year sequence of training in all aspects of theatre. CTE is based on an "ensemble" approach that emphasizes the group working as a team.

**Williamstown Theatre Festival**, Williamstown, MA, Greylock Theatre Project

Actor/ Director: 2004 - 2011

Replication of The 52nd Street Project in New York City (see below), the Greylock Theatre Project is an educational outreach program that is part of the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Works with at risk children living in rural western Massachusetts to provide playwriting and performance opportunities alongside professional adult theatre artists.

Award winning regional theatre festival produces classic and new plays. Training program enables emerging theater artists collaborative opportunities with accomplished mentors. Programming that serves to engage a diverse community includes cultural events including Free Theatre, Late-Night Cabarets, readings, workshops, and educational programs. honored with the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 2002 and the Commonwealth Award for Achievement in 2011.

**New Conservatory Theatre Center**, San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Unified School District

Instructor: 2007-2010

Provides the San Francisco community with high quality youth education programming, Queer & Allied theatre, children's theatre, and new play development with emerging artists residencies to support local and national artists.

**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project**, Hells Kitchen, NY

Actor | Dramaturge & Smart Partner: 2003 - 2007

Intern: 2003

As Actor/ Dramaturge, facilitated playwriting one-on-one with at-risk elementary age students. Directed the students' plays and performed with them on stage. Collaborated with Project staff, volunteers, and highly regarded NYC actors, directors and production professionals. As Smart Partner, helped children improve their self-discipline and focus their concentration to reap academic rewards. Addressed all facets of a child's life which affect school work, by providing tutoring, finding a quiet place to study, discussing school activities and grades and attending school meetings/ functions. 'The Project is dedicated to the creation and production of new plays for and by kids through a series of unique mentoring programs that match kids with professional theater artists.' 52project.org

**Private Acting Coach**, SF Bay Area, CA, Advanced Acting

Assistant Instructor: 2008

Leads exercises, warm-ups, directs intensive scene work, blocking, casting, coaching as well as administrative course and session maintenance.

## RECENT CONFERENCES | COACHING | CONSULTING

Coaching clients include executives, political leaders, actors, attorneys, educators, doctors, etc.

**Selected recent organization affiliations include:**

- Executive Program for Women Leaders: Stanford GSB Executive Education | Performance Coach
  - Clinton Global Initiative | Coach
  - Twitter | Design Lead, Performance Coach & Facilitator
  - Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University | Speaker Coach
  - Lyft | Performance Coach & Facilitator
  - Mozilla | Design Lead & Coach
  - Singularity University, Graduate Studies Program | Guest Speaker
  - Intel | Performance Coach
  - Ubisoft | Guest Speaker, Performance Coach & Facilitator
  - Stanford Hospitals & Clinics, Leadership Development Program | Coach & Facilitator
  - Forest City, 5M Project | Executive Coach
  - Stanford University School of Medicine | Acting Instructor
  - Stanford Alumni Association, Alumnae GSB Women's Circles | Guest Speaker
  - Stanford LPCH Pediatric Anesthesia Annual Retreat | Performance Coach
  - Dechert LLP, Global Intellectual Property Conference | Performance Coach
  - Stanford Travel/Study Annual Retreat | Workshop Director
  - Women in Cable Telecom Conference, Senior Executive Summit | Performance Coach
  - Global Women's Initiative Network Conference, eBay | Performance Coach
  - eBay, Executive Panel Workshop | Performance Coach
- etc.

**People Rocket**, San Francisco, CA

Consultant: 2014 - Present

Consults, coaches, designs curricula and manages internal and client-facing business development. People Rocket is a management design consulting firm. Combines Art and Science to accelerate people, teams, and cultures through coaching, designed learning experiences and organizational design programs. Delivers curricula, workshops, and full-scale programs, in innovation, leadership, and creativity.

**Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University**, Stanford, CA

Speaker Coach: 2015 - Present

Acclaimed Voice & Influence film series strives to empower women and men to be as effective as possible and to create organizations where all people can thrive. Institute creates knowledge and seeks to implement change that promotes gender equality at Stanford, nationally, and internationally.

**Singularity University**, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Guest Speaker: 2015

Co-lead interactive workshop on creativity and storytelling with power. Singularity University is a California public benefit corporation with a mission to educate, inspire and empower a global community of leaders to leverage exponential technologies to develop solutions to humanity's most difficult challenges. Community of changemakers is at the forefront of driving ideas, impact and change using exponential technologies to address humanity's grand challenges in their communities.

**Stanford Hospitals & Clinic**, Stanford, CA

Stanford Leadership Development Program

Guest Speaker & Performance Coach: 2016

Program jointly sponsored by the School of Medicine and Stanford Hospital & Clinics, learn the skills required to lead small divisions, sections or teams within an academic medical center. The program goal is to develop the leaders needed to implement institutional strategies and meet future challenges in academic medicine.

**Stanford University School of Medicine**, Stanford, CA

Performance Coach: 2014 - Present

Assistant Instructor: 2013

Performing with Power. Leadership in pioneering research, creative teaching protocols and effective clinical therapies; positioned to accelerate the pace at which new knowledge is turned into tangible health benefits.

**Ubisoft**, San Francisco, CA

Performance Coach & Workshop Facilitator: 2015, 2016

Ubisoft is a leading creator, publisher and distributor of interactive entertainment and services, with a rich portfolio of world-renowned brands. The teams throughout Ubisoft's worldwide network of studios and business offices are committed to delivering original and memorable gaming experiences across all popular platforms.

**Intel**, Santa Clara, CA

Performance Coach: 2015

Through computing innovation, Intel pushes the boundaries of smart and connected technology. Intel is one of the world's largest and highest valued semiconductor chip makers, based on revenue.

**Lyft**, San Francisco, CA

Performance Coach & Facilitator: 2015

Rapidly growing ride-share company Lyft operates in about 65 U.S. cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City, with plans to expand domestically and internationally. Lyft has raised more than \$2 billion from investors (1/16) and continues to grow.

**Stanford Alumni Association** Stanford, CA

Guest Speaker: 2015

Alumnae GSB Women's Circles enable members to learn, support, and inspire one another, both personally and professionally.

**Dechert LLP, Global Intellectual Property Conference**, Napa, CA

Performance Coach: 2014

Global specialist law firm with a deep bench of experts focused on sectors with the greatest complexities, legal intricacies and highest regulatory demands.

**Stanford Travel/Study Office Annual Retreat**, San Francisco, CA

Workshop Leader: 2014

Performing with Power workshop. Team Provides exceptional educational travel journeys to more than 80 countries each year; defined by exclusive experiences faculty-led lectures and on-the-go learning with regional experts.

**Women in Cable Telecom (WICT) Senior Executive Summit Conference, Stanford, CA**

Performance Coach: 2014

Acting with Power Workshop Coach. Preeminent leadership and professional development opportunity for cable professionals with particular attention to the dynamics of Power and Influence; program is invitation-only and designed exclusively for the cable industry's most senior women executives.

**eBay Global Women's Initiative Network Conference, San Francisco, CA**

Performance Coach: 2011

Brings together the top women leaders from eBay Inc. - nearly 200 people worldwide - identifying actions to build greater career opportunities for women.

**eBay Executive Panel Workshop, Palo Alto, CA**

Performance Coach: 2011

Networking, outside speakers, workshops and panel discussions to build a more diverse leadership team.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL | VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Fairfax Parents, Fairfax, CA**

Programming Director: 2012 - 2015

Community outreach for parents of young children. Offers a streamlined way for new parents to connect with the established community of parents in Fairfax, West Marin, San Anselmo, CA. Programming offerings and responsibilities include parent education (expert workshops, mindfulness training, newborn and prenatal care, etc.), social events and playgroups as well as building local networks and business partnerships. Partnership with the Town of Fairfax and Fairfax Open Circle Art & Sports.

**Riedel Research Group, NYC & SF Bay Area, CA**

Editor: 2007 - 2009

Firm provides equity research and analysis of companies across the full range of market capitalization to leading financial organizations. Managed and edited incoming financial reports and models for language, appearance and content from Riedel Research's 31 analysts in the 15 emerging markets they cover in Asia, Latin America and Emerging Europe. Coordinated and lead conference calls between US clients and analysts all over the globe. Assisted in running of the President's office, including scheduling, correspondence, preparation of internal and external meeting materials and minutes, organized global travel, maintained mailing lists, among other general administrative work.

**StageWrite, San Francisco, CA**

Actor/ Volunteer: 2008

Empowers youth to become actively engaged in their education and passionate about learning through the theatre arts. Builds skills in creative expression, collaboration and critical thinking: all necessary components of literate and engaged members of an equitable society.

**Toddlers' Drama, SF Bay Area, CA**

Director: 2011 - 2012

Created and implemented popular early childhood theatre class through the Town of Fairfax's Fairfax Open Circle Arts & Sports department. Little movers make a favorite children's book come alive each class using their bodies, voices and imaginations. Incorporated children's literature, contemporary music, movement, art and dramatic play.

**Independent Scenic Carpenter, New York, New York**

Carpenter: 2004 - 2006

Part-time, Non-union, Off-Broadway.

**University Theatre Scene Shop, Winston-Salem, NC**

Carpenter: 2002 - 2004

Works with team of carpenters to build sets according to designer blueprints. Experience with many styles of design, electrics, welding, painting, woodwork, most large power-tools and other materials.



**MELISSA JONES BRIGGS**

(917) 623-3513  
mcjbriggs@gmail.com

# MELISSA JONES BRIGGS

**Trained in London and New York, Melissa works as an actor on stage & screen. She is currently performing improv comedy regularly at the legendary Throckmorton Theatre in Marin and teaching acting & improvisation all around the SF Bay Area.**

## SELECTED FILM

Baby	Mother	Short/ Ind. CA/ Int'l Film Festival Circuit 2015/16
Rumpled	Handmaiden	Short/ Justin Whitney/ Ind. CA
Sunflowers	Witness	Short/ Paul Alexander/ Ind. NY
The Way Toward Dover	Eve	Feature/ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Stop Films NY

## SELECTED THEATRE

### San Francisco

As Bees in Honey Drown	Amber/ Ginny et al.	NCTC/ Andrew Nance
The Book of Liz	Elizabeth Dunderstock (US)	Custom Made Theatre/ Chris Jenkins

### New York

The Truth About Love	Rachel	Manhattan Theatre Source/ Christine Simpson
La Ronde	Parlor Maid	Time Square Arts Centre/ Greg Taubman
Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline	Julia	Gene Frankel Theatre/ Felix Ivanov
Loose Knit	Lily	Actor's Center Studio/ Julia Gibson
Morph for the Money	Big Tree	Stage 36/ The 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street Project
Apartment 3A	Annie	Playwrights Horizons/ WTF Showcase
Women in Motion	Libby	Playwrights Horizons/ WTF Showcase
The Wright Stuff	Amanda Honeywell	Ensemble Studio Theatre/ 52 <sup>nd</sup> St. Project
Short History of an Odd Day	Zombie Cheerleader	Ensemble Studio Theatre/ 52 <sup>nd</sup> St. Project

### Regional/ International

Only We Who Guard the Truth	Angel	Staged Reading with Tony Kushner
King Lear (RADA adaptation)	Fool/ Cordelia	Royal Academy of Dramatic Art: Studio, London
BILL	Dancer	Runnymede Drama Group, Surrey UK
Mind your Manners	Ensemble	National Theatre Workshop, London

## RECENT AWARDS

Official Selection	'Baby', Screenwriter	Mill Valley International Film Festival, etc.
Outstanding Acting	'Rumpled', Actor	Round 8 Film Festival, San Francisco, CA

## TRAINING

### The Actor's Center Conservatory

New York, NY

Scott Freeman (Acting/ ACT, NYU), Grace Zandarski (Voice/ ACT, Yale), Felix Ivanov (Movement/ Vakhtangov Academy Theater Russia, Lincoln Center), Jane Nichols (Clown/ Yale, Julliard), Per Brahe (Mask/ NYU, Yale, Moscow Art Theatre)

### Wake Forest University, BA with Honors

Winston-Salem, NC

Cindy Gendrich, Sharon Andrews (Acting Technique), Mark Cohen (Movement), James Dodding, RADA (Mime and Alexander Technique), Dianne Scishle (Modern), Debbie Spencer (Jazz)

### Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

London, UK

Summer Intensive: John Adams (Director/ RADA), Nicholas Barter (Directing/ RADA, Royal Shakespeare), Adreienne Thomas (Vocal Training/ RADA, British American Drama Academy), Sheila Allen (Text/ Royal Shakespeare), Andrew Cuthbert (Speech/ RADA, National Theatre)

### Further training includes:

Rosemary Harris: Shakespeare Intensive Workshop; Tim Miller: Master Class and Performance; Vocal Training: Jessica Walker, Teresa Radomski, Kay Kostopoulos; Thiagi Facilitation Approach, etc.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Stanford University</b>	Graduate School of Business	Lecturer, <i>Acting with Power</i>
	Department of Theatre & Performance Studies	Substitute Lecturer, Acting
	Clayman Institute for Gender Research	Performance Coach
	Continuing Studies	Lecturer

### Youth in Arts

### Conservatory Theatre Ensemble

### Williamstown Theatre Festival

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Mentor Teaching Artist/ Director  
Guest Artist  
Actor/ Director  
Acting Instructor

## SPECIAL SKILLS

Strong soprano voice \* Movement \* Dance (modern, period, ballroom and jazz) \* Dialects (native: American; auth.: British + US regional) \* Fluent French, Passable-ish Spanish \* Stage combat \* Tumbling \* Athletic \* Horse & MTB Rider \* Carpentry \* Drivers license \* Screenwriting \* Filmmaking \* Teaching \* Improvisation & sketch comedy

# Stephanie Mohan

1996

Received a B.A. from San Francisco State University in Photo Journalism.

Studio Photographer 1996 - Present

I currently have a portrait studio in Fairfax, CA.

- \*1996 - I worked as portrait photographer out of my home in Lagunitas.
- \*1997-2000 - I shared portrait studio at Redhill Shopping Center.
- \*2000 - I opened my current studio at 48 Bolinas Rd, Fairfax.  
I specialize in studio and natural light photography.  
I work with babies, kids, families, pets and headshots (both creative and professional).
- \*2001 -2003 - I opened a darkroom in Harry's Arcade.
- \*2001 - Present- I photograph five schools, three of which are in Fairfax (Cascade Canyon, Wise Acedemy and Manor School).

Teen Summer Photography Camp 2006 - Present

I teach basic photography where we begin by shutting off the automatic settings on the camera and learn how to use only manual settings. With the control you get with these settings, students learn to shoot stop action, blur, and adjust the depth of field. The photographers go on photo shoots every day, with different themes for each session. The last evening of camp, the kids put together slide shows with all their work.

Yearbook Mom at Cascade Canyon 2001-2013

I created the position of Yearbook Mom at Cascade Canyon School. I coordinated the 7-8 grade classes to shoot, design and edit the annual yearbook. Samples available upon request.

Photo Fundraisers

- \*Fairfax Flood
- \*Milo Foundation
- \*Whistlestop- Photographed by the teens in my photo camp.
- \*Rescue Dog project- Photographed by the teens in my photo camp.
- \* Created photos and website for Cat Angel Network

I have also created a personal project in which I photographed the faces of during the first Streets for People and can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA6JfWTgd5c>

In addition to being a photographer, I have a huge love for my seven rescue animals, my son's band MOBB and flea markets and garage sales.

# PROJECT PROPOSALS

## **Teen Photography Team**

Many times I am asked to shoot local events but I'm not available. This happened last year for the Streets 4 People event. I was able to call upon several of my students from my summer program and they were able to attend and shoot the event. Realizing how thrilling it is to have your first work published, I know many young photographers that would enjoy this opportunity. I would like to put together a team of aspiring teen photographers that would like to cover those events. In addition, I have a contact from the Patch and she has already published some of my students work. I would oversee this team, teach to edit and help them deliver the final product to the client.

## **Getting to Know Your Fairfax Officials**

During the last Fairfax meeting that I attended, I realized I was very out of touch with the folks who run our town. I was thinking it would be helpful to do a creative photo-montage of the people who have these important jobs. I would include police, council members, Chamber of Commerce officials, etc. I would include some verbiage of why they choose to work in Fairfax, or why they love this town. I think if this is seen by the town citizens, they might understand these people better and realize they have mutual goals. This could be posted on the town site and on Facebook.

## **Fundraising**

I have had great success fundraising as a photographer. I have set up my backdrop for several schools and it has proven to be a lot of fun. At the event, I photograph anyone who want to do a sitting. They last only a few minutes. A few days after the session, the photos are available online to view. They can purchase any of the photos they want, and a portion of the sales can go to a chosen Fairfax organization. I would love to do one fundraiser per year.

## **Fairfax First Friday**

Several years ago, I was part of a group of women who organized the First Friday. We did it monthly for approximately five months. I would love to start this up again quarterly. I would also like to include local artists who might not have a regular way to show off their work. My vision is, each participating merchant could host an artist in their store. As Artist in Residence, I believe I would be better able to promote this to the press.

## Personal References

Heather Bennett  
PTA of Manor

Valerie Teijeiro  
Business Owner (Original owner of Yeah Baby)

Patty Bruszewski  
Business Owner (Sherman's General Store)

Donna Renaud & Amy Saavedra

**Fairfax Artist in Residence Proposal**

SEP 1 2010

**Sarah Mays-Salin and Sierra Salin, Co-Artists**  
(This is intended as a co-application for a shared position)

RECEIVED

**Sarah Mays-Salin**

I have been a resident of Fairfax for most of 55 years and an artist for every one of those years. I grew up here amidst the cultural shifts of the 1960's and 70's and have rich memories of early Fairfax Festivals and the "Do Your Own Thing" ideal prevalent at the time. I am proud that Fairfax has retained and even improved on its small town charm while preserving the integrity of natural open space and an equal sense of openness to the unique expressions of its very committed locals.

As a local I've had many opportunities to participate as a volunteer sharing my fine arts education with the public. Included are:

**Yes Foundation:** Designing sets and leading parent volunteers in the painting of original backdrops and costuming. Participation as a project leader at Yes Fest art events for three years

**Ross Valley School District:** Building Creative Games for Manor School Winter Faire. In Class Volunteering in the Arts at Manor School

**Town of Fairfax Events:** Building Floats and costuming for the Fairfax Festival. Participation in Fairfax Haunted House at the Pavillion

Volunteer at town events art/craft booths Fairfax Festival and Town Picnic

As a textile expert I am aware of the cultural heritage represented in indigenous textiles from all over the world. Combining elements of tradition and point of view with materials and design derived from unique environments and experiences, cloth can tell the story of a people and a place. What would a local modern Fairfax textile look like? I'd like to share knowledge of natural dyes derived from local plants, and the construction of textiles from the fiber of local sheep, a project that could demonstrate the real cost, value and meaning of cloth.

I see Artist in Residence as an excellent vehicle to both commit more deeply to my own art practice and to take more of a leadership role in the town. Art is a great way to build community and encourage young and old alike toward greater self-expression – after all we are all born artists!

# SARAH MAYS – SALIN

## **Education:**

2002 California College of the ARTS, Oakland, CA – BFA, Textiles

1994– 2000 College of Marin, Kentfield, CA

1983 Pacific Basin School of Textile Arts, Berkeley, CA

1981-1983 California College of the Arts Oakland, CA

## **Exhibitions/Awards:**

### 2010:

«Tapestry Show», Invitational, Ann Street Gallery, Newburgh, NY

### 2008:

«Drawings», Downtown Art Center, San Rafael Drawing Show, Judith Foosaner  
Juror

«The Box Show» Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA

«Art Books» Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA

### 2007:

«California State Fair» Sacramento, CA 3rd place

«Marin County Fair» San Rafael, CA ( Best of Class)

« CCA100th Anniversay Alumni Show» Oakland, CA

### 2006:

«Changes» Solo Exhibition, SGVCC, San Geronimo, CA

«Marin County Fair» San Rafael, CA (first prize)

«Valley Artists Spring Show» SGVCC Geronimo, CA

«Clay and Cloth» With Patricia Yenawine and Sha Sha Higby, Yenawine Studio,  
Bollinas, CA

### 2005:

«Transformations» Solo Exhibition, San Geronimo Valley Community Center, San  
Geronimo CA

### 2004:

«Olive Hyde Textile Show» Olive Hyde Gallery, Fremont, CA

«Fiber Directions» Witchita Gallery for the Arts, Witchita, KS  
(Honorable Mention – Jason Pollen, Juror)

«Marin County Fair» San Rafael, CA, Fine Arts Division

« Best of Show» California State Fair, Sacramento, CA (Third Prize)

«The Fine Art of Craft» Artisans Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

### 2002:

«The Box Show» Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA «Transformations»  
North Gallery CCA, Oakland CA

### 2001:

«Things To Make and Do» IPW Gallery CCA, Oakland Ca

«The Box Show» Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA (2001- Present,  
Annual)

1999:

- «Identity Interpreted» Underground Galley, Art Center, San Rafael,
- «Student Show» (juried) College of Marin, Kentfield, CA
- «Fiber Dimensions» Invitational, Corte Madera, CA
- «Fiber Dimensions» Downtown Art Center, San Rafael, CA

**JURIED FINE CRAFT SHOWS:**

- 1997: American Crafts Council, San Francisco, CA
- 1996: American Crafts Council, Baltimore, MD
- American Crafts Council, Columbus, OH

**PUBLICATION:**

2004:

- ❖ Fiberarts Design Book 7, Lark Books, Ashville, NC

2002:

- ❖ [www.cca.edu/academics/textiles/](http://www.cca.edu/academics/textiles/) - online gallery

1998:

- ❖ San Francisco Chronicle - April 1 «What's Hot» Home section, S.F. CA

1997:

- ❖ The Complete Book of Scarves Jo Packham, Sterling books (One of several Feaatured Designers)
- ❖ San Jose Mercury News- August (work pictured in notice of SF ACC Show) San Jose, CA
- ❖ «Preview» San Francisco International Gift Fair Guide, (work pictured in «Handmade» Section

1996:

- ❖ San Francisco, Chronicle- October 15, (work pictured as worn by Shanna Morrison), Fashion Section, S.F,CA

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

2006 – 2010 Set Design and Costume details, various productions at Marin Academy, San Rafael, CA and Yes Foundation for Schools San Anselmo, CA

1999-2006 Color, Design and Industrial Production analysis for COYUCHI, Inc. Organic Cotton Bedding and Bath.

1988-1998 Self Employed Craft Artist-Sold original Production Work to Wholesale and Retail Audience Nationally and In Japan

1989-1992 Costume Design and Creation for Theatre Department Productions, South Lake Tahoe Community College

## Sierra Salin

I am a San Rafael native, former San Anselmo and have lived in Fairfax for most of the last 24 of my 56 years. We are and have been deeply involved with the town and community.

My artistic endeavors include skilled craftsmanship in wood, glass, metal, photography and video. Underneath all that I am a performance artist, constantly and spontaneously questioning convention and always underlining the effect we humans have on Nature. Sometimes this manifests through my self appointed role as Town Fool and in the mode of street theater, in parades, on street corners, and most anywhere I am.

My first and primary daily art practice is Photography, ongoing from birth. (Yes I was born with a camera in my hand.) I currently have a show hanging in Barton's Bagels in San Anselmo, I've regularly shown work in the Marin County Fair juried fine arts section. If I had a dollar for every picture I have taken which folks use as their Facebook profile picture.... My hard drives are full of the local environment, mountains, years of Fairfax Festivals, events, and people in town and across Marin.

As a volunteer, I've worked in Fairfax and other county schools sharing/demonstrating about honeybees, was a member Drake High School Leadership Council, was a founding member of Ross Valley Healthy Community Collaborative, have built creative games for Manor School's Winter Faire for a number of years and been a video documentarian at non-profit events.

One job of an "artist" is to share viewpoints, and perspectives and other ways of experiencing the world than our everyday known universes and business as usual. Some art hits us over the head and some art is a warm embrace and hot chocolate on a cold day. Some we hate, and some we love. Some is planned and some is spontaneous. I would like to do some pieces about now and then, around town, what is here now, what was here 200 years ago, what will be here in 50 or 100 years?

Consider perhaps, is the world flat? What did it take to get past that, or are we past that? It took vision, experimentation, along with persistence (and perhaps mental illness) important tools I carry and would like to bring to the post of Fairfax Artist in Residence.

### Selected works:

"John Cooper and ManWoman-Art And The Nature Of Reality" (video) was shown at the Fairfax Film Festival a few years back.

Fairfax Festival Parades entries: "Dragging 100 lbs of Plastic Trash," "Steaming Nuclear Reactor," "Homeland Insecurity," "Oil Barrel and Spill."

"Love Heals," my adventure with the legal system over my legal signature and freedom of speech.

"Everyday Christmas" standing in front of the Middle Earth with a basket of \$2 bills, a clapper-less bell, a dead Xmas Tree, and a small sign which said "take one and do something for someone else." It took me over an hour to give away \$120. People are interesting

"In N Out N As The Box," multiple years running at Town Picnics and Yes Fests, large boxes set up for painting by community.

"One Earth" painted plywood movable rings, installed at Town Hall for 4-6 months

"Chasing God's Tale" work in progress

Stained Glass in numerous pieces in private collections.

### **Joint Vision of Our role as Artists in Residence:**

As Artists in Residence we can potentially open the community's hearts and minds through public art works, discussions and salons that increase the sense of investment, awareness, and connection within our town. This investment comes from real community participation. To that end we propose to share events/classes/projects for the public, and especially involve children (kids of all ages actually!) with various mediums including photography, weaving, junk/found art, painting, etc.

As long time members of this community, we have connections with many gifted individuals in many eclectic arenas. We will share the "podium" and collaborate with the community, raising general awareness of the arts and artists. This might take the form of Artists Salons, documentary interviews with local artists and shared community public art projects.

### **References**

Frank Gonzales-  
Mark Squire  
Renee Goddard-  
Emily Dvorin -  
Terry Ciafrei -

Georgia Gibbs

**Town of Fairfax**  
**c/o Recreation & Community Resources Manager**  
Town Hall  
142 Bolinas Road  
Fairfax, CA 94930  
Phone: (415) 456-5652  
E-mail: mbaird@townoffairfax.org

October 5, 2016

To whom it may concern:

For me, teaching and sharing knowledge as well as learning from the creative expression of others provide equal gifts. Selection as the **Fairfax Artist in Residence**, would allow me to fully indulge in both of these pleasures. In addition, setting the stage for multi-generational engagement and creativity is an opportunity that would be hard to match as an individual and one that I would be privileged to spearhead.

Professional goals for this engagement:

I would like to use this time to do more stretching in my artwork and incorporate new or additional techniques to expand my creative vocabulary. My subject will focus on the 5 seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter, and spirit.

POSSIBLE PROJECT CONCEPTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

**Celebrate Your Inner Creative**

Creativity Workshops open to artists and non-artists; adults only.

2-day weekend workshops at the Pavilion, to be offered 1 - 2 times a year.

Explorations will be done using acrylics and mixed media.

**See Me, See You, environmental art program ongoing for entire term**

Introductory workshop held every 6 weeks for all ages (young children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult) to explain the concept and requirements. Participants collect all plastics or other objects from their home destined for landfill, wash it and bring it to the studio during open hours. Larger objects can also be dismantled and incorporated.

At the studio participants will have access to tools such as needle nose pliers, wire, string, hot glue, fishing line, and small drills. The objective will be to create strands from their 'findings'. Townspeople can also drop off clean 'trash' for inclusion and leave it for others to compile.

*Georgia Gibbs 415.261.8928*

Shorter strands will be compiled into long strands. Depending on the amount collected and the number of strands at the 13 month mark we can create a curtain or a series of circular drapes. At completion, the final piece can be hung in the downtown park or other central location as an art instillation created by the town. No statement will be made: it will speak for itself.

**Fairfax Town Portrait: - all ages: ongoing for entire term**

The town portrait will be multi-faceted. Smart Phone Photo Workshops will be held every 2 months with a short introduction to design basics, framing a photograph in the camera, and common filters to enhance the digital file. Each participant will need their own smart phone. Armed with their new knowledge, participants will disperse to photograph the town. The objective will be to create a 'portrait' of Fairfax – capturing the people, places, and candid moments of the town via smart phone photography. They can also capture short, 7-second or less video clips: candid and unscripted. Each piece can be submitted with the name of the artist/ photographer and a short statement: who, what, where, and when. This will make it useful for Fairfax's historical record. Video clips will be 'clipped' together and shown as a continual loop.

The "Town Portrait" can also support a tie-in with area school writing programs: poetry about life in Fairfax. Print versions would be available at the final viewing and budget and time allowing, each student reading could be recorded as an audio file and available for play.

The Town Portrait can be shown in full at the town library or other public space where it is easily accessible. The show would include printed images, video stream, and sound files of the recorded poems.

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**References:**

Laurie Berlinger  
Personal friend and collector

Claudia Chapline, Artist and Gallery Owner  
Mentor

Susan Lopes, Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Professional

## Georgia Gibbs



## Artist Bio

Living at the edge of a continent, the ground continually in a state of flux, is a running thread in Georgia Gibbs' artwork. The stories in her painting hint at shifting boundaries, their collision and the resulting interplay; a story told in nature and mirrored by the human experience.

Most of her life she's been physically anchored to the Pacific, perched on the coast or just inland. Her family moved from Utah to the coast in Southern California when she was just 3 years of age. College brought her to San Francisco in 1974. She moved to Mill Valley in 1981 after starting her family, shifting to Fairfax after her children were grown and had completed school.

Primarily self-taught, artists of today and the past inspire and teach her the art of painting. In the past she studied with *Chester Arnold*, a gifted artist, and teacher at the **College of Marin**. She has also taken a workshop with Nicholas Wilton, a noted bay area artist.

An emerging California artist, Georgia Gibbs took a circular route back to painting on her career path. Her first formal career was as a photo-stylist, working in commercial photography. More than a decade later, she transitioned to being a successful and award-winning designer specializing in digital devices, including interactive television applications. Today she runs a boutique design studio, helping her clients engage effectively in today's marketplace.

# Georgia Gibbs

## Shows / Exhibits

Saatchi Arts Online: Featured Artist, July 2016

**Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Juried Selection

Solo Show: May, 2016

**Marin Open Studios**

May, 2016

**Mill Valley 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Art Walk**

May 2016

**Guerilla Cafe and Gallery**

Berkeley, Californian, Solo Show

January – April, 2016

**Abrams Claghorn Gallery Store**

Albany California

Ongoing

Past Shows and Exhibits

**Stinson Beach Gallery**

*Guest Curator*

Cheryl Maeder / Julie Montgomery

June-September, 2015

**Stinson Beach Gallery**

*Guest Curator*

Tess Felix / Marco Delogu,

Claudia Chaplin / Georgia Gibbs

April-May, 2015

**Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History**

*Everybody's Ocean*, Group Exhibit

December 2014 -February 2015

**Mill Valley Art Walk - Alain Pinel**

**Show**

Tess Felix / Georgia Gibbs

March 2014

**Stinson Beach Gallery**

June 2014