

**Kimberleigh Aarn**  
**Open Top Creativity, Inc.**  
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**EXPERIENCE:**

**Open Top Creativity (Founder and Principal Consultant), 2013- Present**

Open Top Creativity is a consulting firm serving arts, education, non-profits, and community organizations with strategic planning, professional development, program development and group facilitation.

LA County Department of Arts and Culture: Arts Education Collective, 2013-Present

- Conducts strategic planning coaching and provides technical assistance to school districts engaged in developing strategic plans
- Facilitates the learning content for building the capacity of Arts Ed Collective coaches
- Facilitated the development of an arts and healing strategic plan for the LA County Probation Department's Community Reentry Center: Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions (D.O.O.R.S), and a community-based culturally responsive Strategic Arts Plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation, Earvin Magic Johnson Park.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2023)

- Facilitated a strategic planning process to assist the LACMA Education Division with reimagining program delivery as the department embarks upon new space and era.

Farm Sanctuary (2023)

- Co-facilitated a strategic planning process to support the organization with updating its vision and mapping a five-year strategic implementation plan.

Still Life Ceramics (2022-present)

- Provided the organization with team building, collaborative management strategies and partner relations.

The Museum of Contemporary Arts (2021)

- Conducted strategic planning supporting the Contemporary Art Start (CAS) teacher professional development program with the creation of a newly developed operational plan

826LA (2021)

- Provided coaching and strategic planning services as part of organizational leadership development

California County Superintendent Educational Services Association (CCSESA) (2021-2022)

- Designed and delivered an on-line professional development action planning workshop for County Arts Coordinators with a focus in addressing equity, arts integration, social emotional learning and key strategies for implementing arts education

LA City Department of Cultural Affairs (2019-20)

- Conducted strategic planning facilitation for the development of a new department five-year strategic operational plan

California Alliance for Arts Education (2017-2018)

- Conducted strategic planning facilitation for the development of the Amador County Unified School District arts education plan
- Co-facilitated an Insider's Guide to Arts Education Planning training for County arts coordinators

Entertainment Community Fund, Human Services Organization for Performing Artists, 2018- Present

- Curriculum developer and facilitator for the Career Center's Teaching Artist Intensive
- Facilitator of one-on-one coaching support in syllabus and lesson plan development

The Broad Theater (2017)

- Developed and facilitated arts integration trainings for The Broad Stage education staff & teaching artist roster

UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education Program (2013-2015)

*Guest Lecturer and Classroom-in-Residence at the Hammer*

- Conducted a comprehensive lesson planning practicum designed to support students with understanding the elements of lesson plan design connected to social and culturally relevant curriculum themes
- Supported the design and implementation of a collaborative arts integration lesson planning series with UCLA Community School educators to establish a curriculum for a week-long residency

**Los Angeles County Arts Commission: Arts for All, 2006- July 2013**

Senior Manager

- Developed and implemented strategies for school district enrollment into *Arts for All* significantly increasing by 53% over six years the number of school districts developing, adopting and implementing policies and plans for arts education
- Managed the school district arts education strategic planning process engaging with Superintendents, Directors of Curriculum & Instruction and community-wide stakeholders
- Developed customized coaching strategies for *Arts for All* school districts; managed seven coaches and designed forums to support coach development; managed coaching budget and contracts with school districts, coaches and consultants
- Designed and implemented a County regional collaboration model to support school district clusters with developing innovative action plans for implementing arts education priorities across designated regions.
- Spearheaded the cultivation of *Arts for All* partnerships with charter school organizations and recruited ICEF Public Schools and Green Dot as the first charter organizations to join the initiative
- Developed a professional development workshop series for school district arts coordinators; served as a facilitator and designer of sessions along with contracting local and national providers to deliver services in partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
- Developed the first *Arts for All* Artist-in-Residence Grant program which included creating comprehensive systems and protocols to support implementation and evaluation of program; managed and tracked the budget along with the allocation of grant funds to individual school districts
- Managed the first *Arts for All* Case Study profiling 10 school districts under the County wide initiative.
- Lead the recruitment and enrollment of new school districts into the *Arts for All* network

**The Galef Institute, Different Ways of Knowing, 2001-July 2006**

Senior Arts Educator/Coach

- Senior staff member assigned to supervise, coach, facilitate and provide professional development services to administrators, teachers and regional teams of consultants and educators in the school improvement program *Different Ways of Knowing*
- Planned, developed and implemented visual and performing arts tools for differentiating instruction; developed standards-based curriculum and assessments with a focus in arts integration
- Managed coaches, contracts and deliverables for school services (*California, The Arizona Arts Initiative, Florida, Michigan and Nebraska*)
- Project Manager for a Teaching American History Grant – LAUSD LD6 (13 schools) served on the district advisory board and delivered professional development services to administrators, teachers and artists with a focus in arts integration
- Selected from a national pool of arts educators to join a team of coaches to support the *Different Ways of Knowing* Middle School Initiative nationwide
- Worked closely with literacy, math/science, language arts and leadership experts to design and deliver an arts education professional development and strategic coaching model for program improvement schools and districts in California implemented over a 3–5-year time period

## **Kimberleigh Aarn**

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### **EDUCATION:**

Yale University, MFA in Acting, New Haven CT

Emerson College, BFA in Dramatic Arts, Boston, MA

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATES**

- Certificate in Technology of Participation Virtual Strategic Planning (2021)
- Certificate in Theory U, Presencing Institute Foundation Program (2018)
- Certificate in Technology of Participation Participatory Strategic Planning (2011)
- Certificate in Technology of Participation Group Facilitation Methods (2007)
- Certificate in Accelerated Facilitation Methods & Curriculum Design (2006)
- PassageWays Institute Training – Introduction to the Soul of Education (2005)
- Licensed Agape Spiritual Practitioner (2000)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Insider's Guide to Arts Education Planning, 3rd Edition (2016)
- Strategic Arts Education Planning Guide, 4th Edition (2022)

### **HONORS**

- Los Angeles County Executive Office Outstanding Leadership Award (2011)
- Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Award Nominee (2005)
- The American Theatre Wing Tony Award Nominee (1988)
- Drama Desk Award Nominee, Celebrating Excellence in Theatre (1988)

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- Creative Arts Center Gallery, City of Burbank, *Fired by Junzo Ceramic Art Exhibition* (2015)