

Application To: Somerville Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

Review the applicant information. The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click Home button in upper right corner to get to My Profile button.

Artist Name
Street Address
City, State
Zip Code

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$3,000

Project Discipline

Theatre

Project Title

Artist Fellowship

When will the project take place?

2024

Where will the project take place?

Somerville

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project.

25

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

I started my puppet career off as a freelance designer, builder, and performer. Soon, I broadened my scope to include directing and coaching. During the 20+ year period that I collaborated with other companies, I also produced and toured my own work. Slowly my practice became more streamlined, moving away from working for others in favor of creating my own work (mostly for adult audiences). Since forming **my company** in 2018, I now focus solely on creating accessible interactive puppet productions around Social Emotional themes that support kindness, equity, and inclusion. In collaboration with a team of artists, educators, and accessibility specialist I use a devised theater* method to produce new content.

* a process of collaboratively creating new work through experimentation and improvisation. The script emerges from the exploration and is then refined through a rehearsal period.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

N/A

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

N/A

How does the proposed project provide public benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the local community as a whole? Please address actions the proposed project includes to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or access.

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

If awarded funding, I will work with the Council to conduct a community benefit project.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

I am a professional puppet artist with over 20 years of experience producing and touring original theatrical productions nationally and internationally. I began my training by apprenticing under the acclaimed Canadian puppeteer Noreen Young from 1996 through 2001. I hold a BFA in "Theatre for Human Development" from Concordia University (Montreal, QC 2000) and an MFA in "Puppetry Arts" from the University of Connecticut (2004). In 2004/2005 I worked for Jumblies Theatre (Toronto, ON) as the assistant artistic director to Ruth Howard. Under Ruth's tutelage I learned many of the skills that are central to my current work as founding artistic director of **my company** (grant writing, team leadership, project development, ect.)

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

N/A

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

N/A

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Other (please describe)	Fellowship Funds to be used for "artists' time and art-related expenses (materials, space rental, etc.)"	\$3,000.00
		\$3,000.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

N/A

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

N/A

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

N/A

If you have applied to other Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

N/A

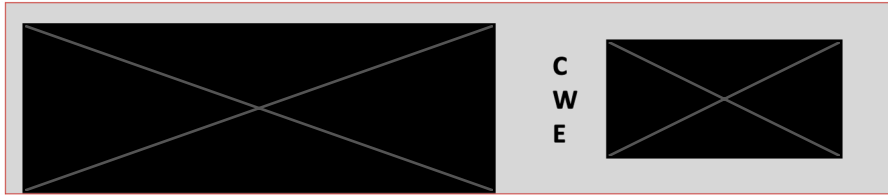
photo by: Chris McIntosh / C. McIntosh Photo

I believe that puppetry is a theatrical art form that embodies the poetry of dance and the fluidity of music. It is a kinetic visual world that relies less on language and more on metaphor to lead audiences down pathways to uncanny worlds that delight the senses, challenge the mind, and bite at the heart. I want my shows to make children squeal with delight and adults sigh with remembrance. Trained as an actor and visual artist, puppetry is the medium that allows me to scratch at my creative curiosity, stretch my artistic wings, and explore questions about our collective humanity.



Artist Statement





Founding Artistic Director | [REDACTED] (2018 – present)

[REDACTED] brings the art of puppetry to diverse populations through the creation of original puppet productions, artistic collaborations, and engaging residencies. www.cozyarts.org

Cozy PopUp: Outdoor festivals that included a puppet show, art activities, and storytelling (Summer, 2022)

Imagination Station: Series of six interactive puppet shows presented on Zoom (March 2021 - present)

Cozy Connect: Live interactive puppet show presented on Zoom (2020 – 2021)

Mr. Cuddles is Missing: Theater production that incorporates puppets, for family audiences (2018 – present)

Cozy Corner: Series of eight touring theatrical productions (2018 – present)

Artistic Director | Foreign Landscapes Productions (2004 – 2018)

Work created between 2004 - 2018 was produced under this company name that served both family & adult audiences.

Mama Light: Puppet Palooza, Somerville MA & Puppet in Paradise, Brattleboro, ME (2018)

I Spy Butterfly: Touring Production (2016 - Present)

Hiding from the Moon: Marionette Short, Oberon Theater, Cambridge MA (2015)

The Great Red Ball Rescue: Touring Production (2014 – 2018)

Star Sisters: (Co-production, Exit 4 Theater) PuppetsUp Festival, Almonte ON (2010)

Bird's Eye View: Summerwork's Festival, Toronto ON (2007)

By the Willow: (Co-production, Andi Rubinstein) International Touring Production (2004 -13)

Collaborations & Community Engaged Projects

A selection of recent projects | complete list of titles available upon request

Salome: Shadows, Devising/Performance, Canadian Opera Company, Toronto ON, 2023/2013

ISH: Outside Eye, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, 2021

A Story Beyond: Puppet Design/Direction, Liars and Believers, Cambridge MA, 2018

Icarus: Puppet Devising/Direction/Design, Liars and Believers, Cambridge MA, 2015

Orchid to Octopi: Puppet Design and Coaching, Tufts University, Medford MA, 2014

What the Moon Saw: Puppet devising /performance, Puppet Kabob, Touring, 2014

Collaborations & Community Engaged Projects cont.

Tokolosh & Abiyoyo: Puppet Design, Central Square Theater, Cambridge MA, 2012/2013

Giant Puppet Project: Project Development/Facilitation, Women Infant and Children (WIC), Worcester MA, 2011

Bridge of One Hair Project: Lead Artist - Direction/Devising, Jumbles Theatre, Toronto ON, 2004 - 2007

Names Project: Lead Artist - Design/Facilitation, Jumbles Theatre, Toronto ON, 2004/5

Teaching & Artist Residencies

A selection of institutions, puppetry techniques, and levels | complete list available upon request

Imagination Station Hybrid Residency: multiple schools throughout Massachusetts, 2021 - present

Humber College Puppetry Intensive: Faculty, Humber College, Toronto ON, 2013-2017

Contemporary Shadow Puppetry: PofA National Puppet Festival, UCONN, Storrs CT, 2015

Shadow & Rod Puppet Residency: Cambridge Friends School, Cambridge MA, 2015 - 2020

Shadow Theater Innovations: Puppet Showplace Theater, Brookline, MA, 2015

Hand Puppetry Residencies: VSA, Cool School - Condon, Boston MA, 2014 - 2019

Intro to Puppet Performance and Design: Guest Lecturer, TUFTS University, 2014

Puppet Design and Performance Residencies: Arthur Healey, Somerville MA, 2014 - 2020

Fundamentals in Hand Puppetry: SESC, Sao Paulo Brazil, 2013

MIT Puppet Workshops: Central Square Theater, Cambridge MA, 2010-12

Awards & Acknowledgments

Artistic Achievement Award (Great Red Ball Rescue) Puppeteers of America NE Region, '14

Dance/Theater Artist Fellowship Somerville Arts Council, 2014

Honorable Mention, Best Overall Design (Icarus), New York Musical Theater Festival, NY, '13

Outstanding Production (Bird's Eye View), SummerWorks Festival, Toronto, ON, 2007

Best Design (Bird's Eye View), Now Magazine, Toronto, ON, 2007

The K.M. Hunter Artists Award Nominee, Ontario Arts Council, 2006

UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence (By the Willow), UNIMA USA, 2005

Outstanding Original Work, (By the Willow), Ottawa Fringe Festival, 2004

Education & Training

MFA (Theater - Puppet Arts), University of Connecticut, CT, USA, 2004

BFA (Theater - Drama for Human Development), Concordia University, Montreal, QC, 2000

Puppetry Apprenticeship Noreen Young, Almonte, ON, 1997-2002

| SUPPORT MATERIALS

EXAMPLE OF FAMILY AUDIENCE PRODUCTION:

I Spy Butterfly (45 sec)

<https://vimeo.com/cozyarts/ispybutterfly>

My role: Producer, Lead Playwright, Co-Puppet Designer, Performer

EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGED PROJECT:

Cozy PopUp (5 min 45 sec)

<https://vimeo.com/cozyarts/cozypopup>

My role: Creator, Producer, Co-Playwright, Event Design, Puppet Performer

INTERNATIONALLY TOURING PRODUCTION FOR ADULT AUDIENCES:

By The Willow (1 min 10 sec)

<https://vimeo.com/cozyarts/bythewillow>

My role: Co-Producer, Co-Playwright, Co-Puppet Designer, Performer

Website featuring all facets of my artistic expression:

Website featuring the puppet company I founded & lead:



photo by: Kristen Little | puppet design & construction: