



Celestina Billington

Arts Administrator

Inspiring communities with innovative cultural programming and experiences

Contact

Phone

Can Provide #, please e mail first

Email

celestinabillington@gmail.com

Office Locations:

New York & Texas

10009 & 77023

Artistic Awards

2018 Our Town Grant

For role: Director and Producer

Award Institutions: The National Endowment of the Arts and Houston Arts Alliance

2021 City Artist Corps

For role: Director and Producer

Award Institutions: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

Expertise

- Community Engagement
- Cultural Events
- DEI
- Fundraising
- Customer Service & Client Relations
- Grant Writing & Fundraising

Language

English (Fluent)

Spanish (Intermediate)

Experience I

2019 - 2023

Community, Development and Productions in New York

Leadership Consultant and Producer for Arts Nonprofits

I have worked with WORTHLESSSTUDIOS, La Mama Experimental Theater Club, Leonardo Suarez Paz, Phil Hartman and for numerous independent artists. Tasks: event logistics, scheduling, invitations, advising to artists, outreach to, partners and stakeholders. Conduct events from front and back end, both in-person and utilizing online platforms. Manage communication efforts and implement the plans re: newsletters and web copy. Responsible for both the big picture and the little details. Oversee tech load in and break down, approve staff hours, contracts, hiring recommendations and more. Clients in New York & HTX.

2020

U.S. Census Bureau

Field Supervisor

Trained incoming staff on community data collection, protocols and safety measures established by the United States for the purposes of the U.S. Census which ensured funding for the underrepresented Chinatown district, Zone 1. Communicated expectations to staff with weekly check ins, oversaw and approved full time staff hours and work. Oversaw a team of 40 personnel that were part of an incredible feat of interviewing 53,000 New Yorkers in the district. Came to the role with previous relevant training in intersectional ethics and ethnography.

2016 - 2017

AmeriCorps VISTA New Bedford, MA

Artist in Residence Manager

Served as an AmeriCorps Vista Steward at the National Park Service. Coordinated between five major partners including museums, non-profits, city government and the National Park Service. Hosted workshops for the public, with an emphasis on access for local youth and senior groups. Oversaw programming which included exhibitions and talkbacks. Tracked attendance rates. Supported travel and event logistics. Selected and hired participating artists and advised on post-residency career options.

Education

Columbia University, Teachers College

MA in Arts Administration

Thesis Topic: Arts Equity & Covid-19 Cultural Policy

University of Houston

BA in English, Creative Writing

Minor in Women's Studies

Recognition: The Legacy Award, for Student Leadership



Project Directing and Artist Relations
Ex: Awarded by NEA to direct "S.V.O.B."



Producing and Networking:
Ex: Performance Melt at Gallery Petite



Public Speaking & Workshops
Ex: East End Mural Bike Tour



Multidisciplinary Collaboration
Ex: The School for the Movement of the Technicolor People

Please visit www.celestina.online to view my full portfolio archive.

2018 - 2024

New York City Galas, Auctions and Grassroots Organizing

Grant Writer & Fundraiser

I have worked as a fundraiser and grant writer for Liz Bickley LLC, Mitchell Crisp and MALACARNE. Tasks: script writing for phone banking, cold calls and follow up communications to pre-existing and potential donors, letter appeals, crowdfunding, client relations. Conduct events such as galas and auctions from front and back end, both in-person and utilizing online platforms. Manage communication efforts and implement the plans re: development, grant research, patron outreach.

2015-2021

Projects relating to social justice and Canvassing

Civic Organizer

President of The Student Feminist Organization at the University of Houston: led voter registration drives, co-developed college policy i.e. anti-harassment training that became mandatory for all future incoming freshman, and led the group to travel to New Hampshire for the Conference for Civil Liberties and Reproductive justice. Additionally, organized sex education workshops on campus as well as joined the door-to-door campaign for the first lesbian mayor in the U.S.--Houston's Annise Parker. Later, I was a Team Lead of grassroots canvassing at Amnesty International's Manhattan operation, and in 2020 I consulted for New York City's Good Old Lower East Side.

2015 - ongoing

Creative Work

Artist and Writer

Internationally exhibited artist, writer and producer. Projects primarily relating to media arts and performance, with cross-over work with actors, set builders, and musicians for interviews and collaborations. For example: In 2020, I led a team of musicians in an artistic collective, "Ourna," for the purposes of creating an original experimental musical movie, which was later recognized with a grant award from the NY Department of Cultural Affairs and which triple-premiered at the historic Clemente Soto Velez, TXRX Labs and at Fusion Festival. My artistic work has received major awards.

Training

Assets for Artists

American University of Paris Creative Writing Workshop

Theater Conservatory Training at The University of Houston and Stages Repertory

Pentacle Internship

La Pocha Nostra Performance Residency

AmeriCorps VISTA Stewards

Texas Freedom Network



Celestina Billington

(She/her)

Demonstrated sincere commitment to equity, with results

Client and Community Testimonials

Contact info of referrals provided pending interview invitation

Portfolio

Website

www.celestina.online

Archives

Portland State University
Social Practice Archive

Published Articles In

The Independent and
FreePress Houston

Exhibitions

Museo de Arte Moderno

Performance Artist - La Pocha Nostra

CICA Museum

Featured social practice photo artist

Houston Art Car Museum

Featured social practice photo artist

Counter Current Festival

Performance Artist - Zoukak Theater

DiverseWorks

Performance Artist - Taisha Paggett

Alley Theater

Playwright

Software

- Microsoft Suite
- G Suite
- Hootsuite
- Facebook Analytics
- MailChimp
- Wix, Wordpress
- Resy, OpenTable
- Eventbrite, GiveButter
- Adobe PDF & Reader
- Square
- Salesforce
- ChatGPT
- Nord VPN
- iMovie
- Canva

○ Innua Maria Robinson, Black Female Artist in New York

Celestina recommended my work to The Lockerroom residency in New York. This led to my first group exhibition in Manhattan. Celestina is committed to supporting black artists, women of color, and other artists from marginalized groups. Celestina demonstrates a commitment to equity that is genuine, ongoing and which actually delivers real results.

○ Mitchell Crisp, Female Artist in Arkansas

Celestina wrote my application to the Catalyze grant in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her keen eye and attention to detail helped me stand out against the crowd of applicants, as I was ultimately awarded \$10,000 by the Mid America Arts Alliance. What wows me about Celestina is that she can put into words what many of us fellow artists cannot, and advocates for art in a professional, friendly manner.

○ Elisa Gonzalez, Latina Civic Leader in Houston, Texas

East Lawndale Civic Association was grateful to all who were a part of this successful endeavor (re: Celestina's 'Sacred Voice of the Bayou') and we hope to see more of these types of projects introduced in our community.

Audience metrics: 500 persons on day of unveiling.

Artist metrics: Solely local artists were hired for fabrication, performances, and sound. Artists were paid above area industry standard.

Additional Skills

Photography

Portraits, behind the scenes, travel images and experimental film shot on a Sony a6300 mirrorless camera and on iPhone.

Sales

Two years of experience in luxury sales and styling for the red carpet at Herve Leger, SoHo. Additional experience in ready-to-wear at Scotch & Soda and Michael Kors.

CELESTINA BILLINGTON

ARTIST, ARTS ADMINISTRATOR & PRODUCER

WRITING SAMPLE

SPONSORSHIP PITCH FOR SOCIAL PRACTICE ARTIST,
FORMER CLIENT: MALACARNE (ALICE GOSTI)



Dear [Sponsor's Name],

Subject: Partnership Opportunity: Supporting the Immigrant Voice in Experimental Dance

I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of Alice Gosti and MALACARNE, I am reaching out to explore a potential partnership with [Sponsor] in support of Alice's pioneering work in experimental dance and her unique perspective as an Italian-American immigrant.

Alice Gosti, an acclaimed choreographer and hybrid performance artist, has been pushing boundaries in the dance world since 2008. Her powerful performances and innovative approach have garnered recognition both nationally and internationally. We believe that Alice's work as a solo artist and with her dance company MALACARNE aligns strongly with [Sponsors] commitment to cultural funding and support in [place of sponsor], as well as their dedication to equity.

As an immigrant artist, Alice brings a rich and diverse perspective to her creations. Her artistic vision challenges conventional norms, sparks dialogue, and invites audiences to engage with complex themes of identity, history, and resistance. Through her immersive performances, she has captivated audiences, leaving a lasting impact.

We invite [sponsor] to partner with us in supporting Alice Gosti's upcoming projects, which will continue to push the boundaries of experimental dance and provide a platform for the immigrant voice in the arts. By aligning with MALACARNE, [sponsor] will not only contribute to the growth and enrichment of the artistic landscape in [sponsor's locale] but also demonstrate a commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the cultural sector.

We propose a collaboration that includes financial support [in the amount of X], co-promotion of events [on social media/newsletters, etc], and acknowledgment of [sponsors] commitment as a key partner. This partnership will enable Alice Gosti and MALACARNE to reach broader audiences, amplify their impact, and further establish Seattle [or other place*] as a hub for groundbreaking experimental dance made for the public eye.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this partnership further and explore how we can mutually benefit from a collaboration. We believe that together, we can make a significant contribution to the cultural fabric of King County [or other place] and beyond. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working together to support the arts and promote equity through Alice Gosti's extraordinary artistic vision.

Sincerely,

Celestina Billington

Celestina Billington

832-212-8625
www.celestina.online
celestinabillington@gmail.com
TX 77023 & NY 10009

2024

References:

Wednesday Derrico -
Producer, Liz Bickley LLC
& Worthless Studios
Relationship: Former
Supervisor

- *Has excellent communication, organization & hospitality skills*

I have a bachelors in writing and two years of theater conservatory training, this education prepared me well to be an excellent communicator: useful skills for newsletters, social media, e mail correspondence, phone banking, presenting, hosting and more. Willing to travel and work weekends as necessary. Valid DL.

Noni Ford, Program
Manager at Georgetown
University
Relationship: Former Peer
at Columbia U.

- *Has a strong interest in art & artistic communities*

I am a contemporary public and social practice artist specializing in live works. My work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico City, etc. and awarded major grants by the National Endowment of the Arts, DCLA, etc. I have a broad multidisciplinary background in public art, theater, film, ethnography and JEDI.

Gina Chen - Former
Manager, US Census
Bureau
Relationship: Former
Supervisor

- *Has 5+ year of experience coordinating*

programs/events/screenings &/or workshops in leadership role
I have over ten years of experience coordinating events and educational programs for nonprofits, civic institutions and arts organizations. I've also personally hosted workshops at universities, galleries and for civic groups. I've served in leadership roles on multiple major projects, accumulating over 3 years of leadership experience and responsibility for reports.

*Reference contact
information to be provided
following first interview
pre-screen*

- *Is self-motivated and able to work independently and as part of a team, including in a hybrid office & remote work schedules*

Currently, I work as a hybrid consultant and I have ample experience working in a myriad of environments and collaborating with professionals with all kinds of personalities, backgrounds and visions. I am comfortable in offices and in the field. I maintain composure under pressure and present with a professional smile--whether I'm dealing with an artist, student, gallery walk-in, major patron or a board member. I have canvassing experience!

- *Ability to prioritize & manage multiple deadlines & teams*

I have a MA in Arts Administration from Columbia University where I was a scholarship student. Maintaining the financial support from the institution required political astuteness and excellence in scholarly output. Beyond academia, I have over a decade of real-world working experience in the creative industry field, having produced works for artist residency programs, galleries, theaters, operas and festivals. I have management and supervisory experience of artists, volunteers and even government employees!

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