



Carron Little's Press Kit 2022

photo by Doug Fogelson



Portrait of Carron Little performing *If my body were you*,
Woerdz, a Spoken Word Festival, 2018
Photo by Franca Pedrazzetti

Carron Little's Biography

Carron creates interactive experiences that fuse poetry and performance. She co-founded the public performance program Out of Site Chicago in 2011 to create interactive public performance to facilitate a dialogue directly with the public about cultural ideas. In 2020 she trained Out of Site artists to live stream building a platform to present live public performance from around the world. This new platform is called Open Flow and launched in Summer 2021.

Little has taught in the Performance Department at School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 2014 to 2018 and was faculty Shapiro Research Fellow from 2016 to 2017. She gives workshops on interactive public performance, visiting artist lectures on her solo work and Out of Site nationally and internationally.

In 2016 she was Chicago / Swiss Artist in Residence supported by Chicago International Sister City and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago in Lucerne, Switzerland. Most recently, she was artist in residence at Burren College of Art, Ireland, Visiting Artist at Sarajevo Winter Literary Festival, Bosnia, guest artist at Woerdz Festival 2018, Lucerne, Switzerland, artist in residence at Montgomery Community College, Maryland and mentor to international artists from Japan, Switzerland, Turkey, Austria and Bulgaria at the Water Tower Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the Fall of 2019 she was a visiting artist at Paradox Symposia at Riga Art Academy, Latvia where she presented the performance *If my body were you* and a performance workshop entitled *Ecologies of Care*. (This was inspired by the water fountains in Sofia, Bulgaria that spurt water in a spiral - exquisite!)

In 2020, Carron moved her solo performances online devising an interactive ensemble project with local residents in Luddington, Michigan, entitled *Gie Ben Ilka Gill | To Give In Each Measure*. She organized the *Flow, embody in site* online public performance symposium and was commissioned to create a new live stream performance called *Microcellular* with the Spar2c Research Center at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Carron also writes public art policy sitting on the Arts Committee for Wicker Park and Bucktown since 2010 and in 2018 she was elected onto the College Arts Association Committee of Women in the Arts to serve a three year term. Carron believes in the blossoming power of art in public space to facilitate dialogue about culture with the public.



Portrait of Carron Little at Chicago Cultural Center, photo by Brooks Hall

Artist Statement

The transformation of public space is at the heart of Carron Little's work as an artist and curator. She creates civic engagement projects for cities and neighborhoods weaving poetry and performance. In 2020 she built a public performance platform to share the work of Out of Site artists. This community of artists have reenvisioned this platform and we are now presenting live public performance from around the world.

Carron's artwork and performances are fused together in what has been defined as an aesthetic of utopia. This visual aesthetic was inspired by her childhood experience moving between the dystopic environment of Easterhouse, Glasgow and the Isle of Iona, an island off the west coast of Scotland. This experience informed her commitment to working in public space and she has been producing public performances for the last four decades.

Seminal civic projects include Neighborhood Magic, Dream Minds, City Alive with Dreams and the most recently, Spare Rib Revisited. In adapting her civic engagements projects to an online format during the pandemic she created an interactive performance for the community of Luddington, Michigan entitled Gie Ben Ilka Gill | To Give in Each Measure. This performance fuses public poetry with a specially commissioned new poem written in auld Scots.

The current performance research stems from humanist concerns of what does utopia look like? How can we construct modern day utopias thinking about economics, equity, diversity, care, and community? Inspired by philosophy, mathematical systems and a daily movement practice Carron is currently investigating the links between the body and time. All of her practice is integrated where the costumes inspire the fine art paintings that construct the digital visual worlds defining the aesthetic space for live public performance.

Carron has a long term collaborative practice with Berlin-based artist, Daniela Ehemann creating public and digital performances and video works.

For more information about Open Flow please visit: <https://www.flowsymposium.org/>
Here is the archive website of [Out of Site](#)



Panel at Columbia College with Baraka de Soleil, Krista Franklin, Carron Little and Marie Casimir, photo by Nohemi Rosales

Press Samples

"Little has made a career of championing public performance, through her own performance work as well as her co-founding of Out of Site. Her personal performances are multi-layered. She has often based her work on oral histories she has completed with different populations including septuagenarians in the Beverly neighborhood in Chicago, members of Chicago's Women Mobilized for Change in the mid-1960s to 1970s, or women of all ages in Switzerland. From the oral histories, she'll write poems and create visual pieces - sculptures, collages, and paintings, and then integrate them into the performances."

by Elisa Shoenberger

FF2 Media Blog, *How performance can adapt to Covid-19*, February 4, 2021

"That kind of exchange is necessary to establish trust. And agency for the participant. You give them the final word on what goes out into the world."

By Lise McKean

Bad At Sports, *Palette of Utopia*, March 29, 2017

"I think what you're doing is making so many things accessible: artists working with artists; local artists working with international artists; artists with community; community with artists; community with each other, awareness and experience. All these things to me are about accessibility and what a great way to do it through this channel of performance....What you are doing is bringing art as an experience to our regular lives, to our everyday life to help us to ask questions about the things we experience and the things we do as a community and I think that's amazing."

By Sergio Gomez

Podcast Interview for The Artist Next Level, January 19, 2015

"There were four stages of the piece from the north lobby to the GAR Rotunda, another room, and the south entrance of the Cultural Center. It felt like a pilgrimage that ended in enlightened and personal song.... One aspect of the work is the interest and consideration of the cities as bodies, people as part of the larger whole. I feel that this collective song creation was a metaphor for the city at large, lots of pieces working together to make a whole."

By Elisa Shoenberger

City Alive With Dreams Part 3, Not Without My Bowler Hat Blog, August 20, 2014



Video Still from *Gie Ben Ilka Gill | To Give In Each Measure* by Carron Little

Gie Ben Ilka Gill | To Give In Each Measure

Commisioned by West Shore Community College, February 2021

The question of how to create interactive performance work in pandemic times became a problem to solve. In developing this work in conversation with the curator, Eden Unluata-Foley they wanted me to incorporate participatory elements so I asked him to reach out to local community members in Luddington, Michigan to write poetry. Three people were asked to respond to their respective genders, men to women, women to men and trans-gendered people to straight people. These public poems where incorporated into the visual composition of live stream public performance on February 25, 2021 created live on Carron Little's twitch channel.

The poem I wrote for the piece is written in auld Scots language and was constructed thinking about the five elements. Its very difficult to write in a language you don't know so I selected sonorous words and went with sound, concept and meaning with each stanza composed as a haiku. Creating a musical structure for the work really helped the rhythm as the work evolved.

There were alot of moving parts to the work. I made five performance art objects and there were five sequences for the performance, an intro, the people poetry, and then my vocal performance along with the translation. The audience tuning in were invited to email me their addresses and they received artwork in the mail. Each piece of artwork was handprinted and had a stanza of the poem hand stitiched into the print along with its corresponding element. I chose elements that I thought each person needed to receive.

Please find the performance documentation [here](#).

Big thanks to Barbara Fogue, Sean Henne and Duff Norris for participating in this project and Eden Unluata-Foley.



In Eight Acts by Carron Little
Live Stream Performance on November 22, 2020
with Field Chicago on Experimental Sound Studio quarantine concert series

In Eight Acts

The poem was written the week of the USA election and is lyrical in form. It was created with artwork and animations by Carron Little. The poem engages the audience in questions of how we can live in love with towards each other after such a divided election? In the tradition of 'Makar poets' this piece responds to the times we are living in.

Through experimentation in Field Chicago I developed the poem into a live stream performance using my paintings and prints to develop the digital aesthetic of each stanza along with animated transitions and layered effects. The poem was refined and adapted in rehearsals and the performance was created in a process of digital collage on Experimental Sound Studios quarantine concert series.

The performance is a celebration of living while also acknowledging the darkness we have to struggle with in order to stay positive. Harlan Rosen kindly said I was a "webpunk woodland digital ghost sprite and all of that." This performance was created in response to the time we were living in the history of the US. We had lived through nine traumatic months of pandemic, the ramifications of ongoing systemic racism and political precarity. This performance was created to provide a light to people in these bleak times.

Here is a link to the video [documentation](#).

Big thanks to Jane Jeradi, Carole McCurdy and Harlan Rosen who organize Field Chicago
And a special thanks to everyone at Experimental Sound Studio



If my body were you, Interactive Public Performance, by Carron Little
Truth as a Contested Concept curated by Indira Johnson
Women Made Gallery, November 23, 2020

If my body were you, 2018 - 2019

This interactive performance was developed in Field Chicago and created in response to the experience of being a woman living in the U.S, under Trump and being part of the collective social body impacted by Brett Kavanaugh's election to the Supreme Court. The ongoing misogynistic rhetoric towards women and our bodies in the USA inspired this performance. The performance makes visible the invisible physical feelings that entered our bodies at the time of Trump's election.

The piece was first performed at the Sudpol in Lucerne, Switzerland for the Woerdz Festival, a spoken word festival in October 19, 2018. I then traveled the work to different locations in the USA and Central Europe. When I was invited to perform it on the Germantown Campus they set off the fire alarm and all the students rolled out of classes to witness the performance. At the Riga Art Academy in Latvia there was a lot of debate about the work and it became a point of reference throughout the Paradox symposium. One person said to me after the performance that it spoke about what is invisible. The last performance was curated into an exhibition at Women Made Gallery called *Truth as a Contested Concept* curated by Indira Johnson. I also had an interactive sculpture in the exhibition that was a companion work leaving a trace of the poetry shared in the performance. The public participants began to dance as part of the work. Their embodied response became a transformative part of the work.

This performance is forty minutes to one hour and includes two poems that I have written. The first piece is a Poem for Rose Hernandez called *A Taste of Honey* and the second piece is a Poem for Sylvia Hikins entitled *A Long Road* that was written as part of the *Spare Rib Revisited* project in Liverpool, U.K. To view excerpts of this performance please click [here](#).

Big thanks to Andre Schurmann, Amanda Miller, Basia Sliwinski and Indira Johnson for supporting this performance and Darius Thomas for documenting the work.

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vita activa, 2019

fabric, foam, sculptmold, acrylic, jewels, diamond dust and mixed media
13 x 12 in.

The concept of truth is culturally perceived and in my study of ancient philosophy and religion, I recently came across the notion that ancient Buddhist monks from 700 BC believed in the notion that there were seven perceptions of the truth linked to any one incident. For those of us who have siblings, we've probably had a conversation where their perception of an event was completely different from our own. Living in the wise understanding that there are multiple truths to each incident allows us to live with patience for difference and creates space for listening to other perceptions of what is true. We are living in a time when this is much needed.

I work predominantly as a performance artist creating interactive performance in public plazas, or on the sidewalk and I have been invited to perform a piece called If my body were you at the closing on November 23, 2020. This interactive sculpture contains part of the poem that inspired the performance that I will perform. The poem is written for Jose Hernandez, who now goes by Rose Hernandez called A Taste of Honey. Please read and rewind the poem back up when you have finished. The action of unrolling and rewinding the scroll, reading the poetry will hopefully become a meditative act that transports you to a contemplative state.

Big thanks to Deb Flagel, Women Made Gallery and Indira Johnson



Portrait of Lendon Sadler, May 8, 2016, Ridge Historical Society, photo by Jamie Gannon

Neighborhood Magic, Beverly, Chicago 2015 - 2016

This project was created for the neighborhood of Beverly, on the southside of Chicago and it was supported by Beverly Arts Alliance. Carron proposed to interview eight residents in Beverly over the age of 70 about their life stories. She transformed the oral history interviews into poetry and worked with a choir to compose the poems into song. On Sunday September 27 we held a private concert at Beverly Arts Center for the participants and their families to hear the work and get their feedback before it went public. Each participant chose the location of their sculptural mail box that marked an important moment for each participant. On October 3, 2015 the choir and public roamed through the neighborhood singing the songs and sharing the personal stories of the eight participants. On December 16, 2015 we held a private screening of the documentary at Norma Flynn's home who was one of the participants.

In 2016, Carron was invited back to Beverly, installing eight interactive public sculptures in the garden and a exhibition at Ridge Historical Society. Throughout the month the public could post their important moments and receive poetry in the mail. These were delivered on handmade prints. The poems written throughout the month were performed at various social occasions throughout the month and a screening of the project in 2015 was also shared. Ridge Historical Society hosted a garden party at the end of the month where I shared the new poems and original Neighborhood Magic participants got up and shared songs and poetry.

One of the poems was written for Lendon Sadler who was a member of the Cockettes in San Francisco in the late sixties and early seventies. He was also part of the Gay Liberation Theater and had a fascinating childhood growing up in the historic Civil Rights District in Atlanta, Georgia. Norma Flynn was an original member of a women's collective in Chicago called Women Mobilized for Change and I created a touring performance about this work in 2016 that toured Chicago Parks. In having open conversations about queer culture, growing up gay in the sixties and revealing the real experiences of people involved in the Civil Rights Movement and living in segregated neighborhoods this project raised awareness and shared local history with a transgenerational audience. Several of the young people who were in the audience have since come out and in sharing Lendon's story and my own story it created a space where difference is celebrated and not ostracized. You can hear Lendon talk about this in his own words: <https://vimeo.com/157048069>



Neighborhood Magic, Interactive Public Art Project, Montgomery College, April, 2019
Photo by Amanda Miller

Neighborhood Magic III

Neighborhood Magic traveled to Montgomery Community College, Maryland in 2019 where four sculptures were installed for one month and the public could scan QRcodes attached to each sculpture and listen to the poem created for each person. I also worked with the students to devise interactive public performances on campus and visited lots of classes giving workshops and gave one more formal artist presentation in the Fine Art Building. On April 10, 2019 I performed *If my body were you* on the Germantown campus and just as I started my performance the alarm bell went off and hundreds of students came out of their classes.

Big thanks to Amanda Miller and all the Fine Art Faculty



Lucerne Participants, 2016: From left to right: Claudia Bucher, Heidi Rebsamen, Laura Laeser, Hilda Weiss, Othella Dallas, Blerta Berisha, Abilasa Leuenberger and Verena Haller.

Liverpool Participants, 2017: From left to right: Amina Baraka, Delia Brady-Jones, Sylvia Hikins, Ann Roach, Amirah Scarisbrick, Pat Ambrose, Laura Hobson and Betty Keating.

Spare Rib Revisited Project **Lucerne, Switzerland | Liverpool, U.K.**

Carron was selected to be the Chicago Swiss artist in residence in 2016 supported by Chicago Sister Cities International and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago. She visited Lucerne for one month interviewing eight women between the ages of 20 to 100. She wrote and gifted each woman a poem after the interview and a print. The participants were invited to a dinner party at the end of the month long residency hosted at Heidi Rebsamen's home. Prior to traveling to Lucerne, Carron asked the hosting city to arrange a performance that was booked at the Loge Theater. Several participants attended this performance and randomly self-selected themselves to participate in the project. In 2018, I was supported to return twice to Lucerne, once to perform the poetry for the participants and their families and secondly, at the Woerdz Festival, a spoken word festival in October, 2018. I created four performances, one public interactive performance in Helevetia Plaza where I interviewed the public and mailed poetry to their homes. An interactive poetry performance at Loge Theater on October 18 and two interactive performances at Sudpol, Lucerne weaving Spare Rib Revisited poetry into the score of the performances.

In 2021, Isa Fontbona Mola incorporated the poem I wrote for Abilasa Leuenberger on Juneteenth, 2021 into a public performance in Girona, Spain. Juneteenth is national holiday in the USA to commemorate the end of slavery. Abilasa experienced severe racism in the school system in rural Switzerland and the poem was written as a gift for her to use her talent in writing to help talk about these issues.



Poster for Liverpool, by Carron Little, 2017

Spare Rib Revisited, Liverpool, U.K., 2017

In 2018 I have toured a performance in the USA and Central Europe with Sylvia Hikins' poem. The research inspired a workshop entitled *Ecologies of Care* I've toured along with the performance called *If my body were you*. The poetry in this collection is a mirror to the city and after hosting a dinner party for the participants at the end of residency it revealed the systemic issues of race, class, and divisionism that are so prevalent in the city of Liverpool. The project revealed a tolerance for corruption at a city level and how residents are being poisoned by bad social housing and environmental issues. On a positive note the city is trying to come to terms with its slavery history but in terms of addressing racism today it has a long way to go.

I have written an article about the profound experience of visiting the Mosque which was shortly after the bombing in Manchester and I highly recommend visiting Liverpool. It hosts the best cafes I've ever experienced that sell the most delicious homemade cakes you will ever eat, there is music everywhere and I went to the warmest poetry event at Everyman Theater called *Lovely Words* that was the most special experience as a performing poet.

Big thanks to the Swiss Benevolent Society, Beatrice Weiss, Claudia Willi, Andre Schurmann, all the participants, Isa Fontbona Mola, The Cathedral in Girona, Spain, Cafe l'Arc and the wonderful audiences and publics who have come and participated in the work over the last few years.

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Carron Little fuses poetry and performance with a visual arts practice and organizes public performances.

Education:

The University of North East : Graduate Teaching Program
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago: Master of Fine Arts, Pass
Goldsmiths' College, London: BA (hons) Textiles, 1st Class Honors
Bradford and Ilkley Community: Art and Design Foundation, Merit Pass

Public Engagement Projects:

Out of Site, Curatorial Project, organizing and producing public performances in Chicago, 2011 - ongoing
Spare Rib Revisited, Lucerne, Switzerland (2016 - 2018), Liverpool, U.K. (2017)
Neighborhood Magic, Beverly, Chicago, Interactive Public Performance curated by Beverly Arts Alliance, 2015 - 2016
City Alive with Dreams, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Artist in Residency, 2014 - 2015
Uptown Trilogy, Chicago, Interactive Public Performance curated by Eden Unluata, 2013 - 2015
Dream Minds, Durational Project, 2010 - 2013

Selected Exhibitions and Performances:

- 2021** Spar2c Research Center, University of Alberta curated by Beau Coleman, Microcellular, Live Stream Performance, October 22
Out of Site curated by Martine Viale, Life in Circles, Live Stream Performance, September 5
Girona Cathedral, Spain, collaborative public performance with Isa Fontbona, Gilding Gold in the Cracks of the Fragmented Self, June 19
West Shore Community College, Luddington, Michigan, USA, Gie Ben Ilka Gill | To Give in Each Measure, Interactive Live Stream Performance, February 8
- 2020** Field Chicago in collaboration with Experimental Sound Studio, In Eight Acts, Live Stream Performance, November 22
Chicago Women's History Center, Spare Rib Revisited poetry, Live Stream Performance, August 26
University of Nanterre, Paris, France, Touching Infinity, Interactive Public Performance, June 11 (postponed)

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- 2019** Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, USA, If my body were you, Interactive Performance, November 23
Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, Illinois, Flowers and Flies, Interactive Performance, October 20
Paradox Fine Art, Riga Art Academy, Latvia, If my body were you,, Interactive Performance, September 12
Water Tower Festival, One Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria, Spare Rib Revisited, Interactive Performance, August 23
Montgomery Community College, Germantown Campus, If my body were you, Interactive Public Performance, April 10
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, Spare Rib Revisited, Poetry Performance, March 11
- 2018** Woerdz 2018, Spoken Word Festival, Lucerne, Switzerland, Four interactive Performances, October 16 - 21
Loge Theater, Lucerne, Switzerland, Spare Rib Revisited Performance, June 13
Performing Arts Festival, Berlin, Collaborative Performance with Daniela Ehemann, June 8
Sarajevo Literary Festival, Bosnia, Interactive Poetry Performance, February 16/17/18
Burren College of Art, Ireland, Interactive Poetry Performance, February 7
- 2017** Hatch Art, Detroit, USA, Interactive Poetry Performance, November 11
The Florence Institute, Liverpool, U.K. Interactive Poetry Performance, August 1
Liverpool, U.K, Spare Rib Revisited Residency, June 25 - August 2
Harold Washington College, Screening of Women Mobilized for Change Documentary 1966 - 1974, April 25
Chicago Cultural Center, Screening of Women Mobilized for Change Documentary 1966 - 1974, March 4 @ 50th Anniversary
Gallery A + D, Spare Rib Revisited performance and solo exhibition, February 8 - March 8
- 2016** The Bridge, A Transmission from the queen of luxuria, November 20
Chicago Park District, WMC Ensemble, August 13, 20 & 27
Loge Theater, Transmission from the Land of Luxuria, Saturday June 21
Forward16, What is the Definition of Territory? Saturday, June 18
Swiss Residency in the city of Lucerne sponsored by the Sister City and Swiss Benevolent Society, June - July

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The Artist Palette selects four artists to contact with a Chicago Collector's Circle
Chicago Home Theater Festival, Unto Each Their Own Safe + More, May 19
Ridge Historical Society, Neighborhood Magic Exhibition, April 8 - May 8

2015 Beverly Arts Alliance, Screening for Participants, December 16
Beverly Art Walk, Neighborhood Magic, October 3
Beverly Art Center, Choral Performance of Neighborhood Magic, September 27
Ridge Historical Society, Meeting with Neighborhood Magic Participants, August 16
Buttercup Park, LOVE over MONEY, July 18
2nd Floor Rear Festival, City Alive With Dreams, February 7

Curatorial Projects

Organizer of Flow • embody in site 2021 online public performance symposium, April 22 - May 9, 2021 culminating in the live streaming of 22 live public performances
Artistic Director of Out of Site Chicago, 2011 - now
Acts of Gravititas, Group Drawing Exhibition, August - September, 2013
Magical Curiosities - Sculpture by Ken Gold, June - July 2013
1968 Chicago - Photography by Stan Rosenstock, April - May 2013
Assisted with funding for Rapid Pulse Performance Art Festival 2012/2013
Unbound - Paintings by Claudia Bauer, March - April 2013
Silence Kills - Photography by Brian Leli, February 2013
It's Time to Look Forward - Group Show, November - December 2012
You Can Never Go Back - Paintings by Julia Haw, October 2012
Assisted in the development of The Orange Wall Project, 2011 & 2013
Joyce Grant Proposal for Hebru Brantley, 2012
Sonic Sounds - Group Exhibition in Pop Up Space in WPB, April - May 2010

Interviews, Lectures and Publications

Artistic Research in Public Space panel facilitated by Beau Coleman, Spar2c Research Center, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, October 22, 2021
Publication of Poem for Sylvia Hikins with music composition by Erin Gernon, Antelope Literary Magazine, Vol 2
Live Streaming Training Workshop - Columbia College, Chicago, November 10, 2020
queen of luxuria and Out of Site artists published in Queering Urban Space by Laurence Gervais, Fall 2020
Visiting Artist Workshop: Ecologies of Care - Paradox Fine Art Symposium, Riga Art

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Academy, Latvia, September 14, 2019
Visiting Artist Lecture - Sofia Maker's Space, Bulgaria, September 1, 2019
Visiting Artist Lecture - Grand Valley State University, October 25, 2018
Visiting Artist Lecture - Burren College of Art, Ireland, January 26, 2018
Visiting Artist Lecture - Ohio University, Athens November 13, 2017
Visiting Artist Lecture - University of Chicago, April 11, 2017
Artist as Cultural Producer edited by Sharon Loudon, Published by The University of Chicago Press, Article, 2017
N-Paradoxa - Article on Spare Rib Revisited, Volume 39, 2017
Interview - Dreifach Radio, Lucerne, June 31, 2016
Visiting Artist Lecture - University of Chicago, April 25, 2016
Visiting Artist Lecture - Chicago Architectural Biennial, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, November 2, 2015
Visiting Artist Lecture - Chicago Architectural Biennial, Defibrillator, Chicago November 1, 2015
Visiting Artist Lecture - SAIC Performance Department, Chicago March 17, 2015
Visiting Artist Lecture - Columbia College, Chicago February 17, 2015
Visiting Artist Lecture - Oklahoma State University, March 5, 2014
Visiting Artist Lecture - Fred Jones Museum of Contemporary Art, Norman, March 5, 2014

Boards and Committees

Jury Panel for Illinois Arts Council, 2019
College Arts Association Committee of Women in the Arts, 2018 - 2021
WPB Arts Committee 2010 - present
Defibrillator Performance Art Gallery 2010 - 2013
Jury Panel for Lakefront Public Sculpture, 2012, 2018