

Richard Fritz

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Richard Fritz holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Kansas City Art Institute. He is an accomplished fine art painter and has won several commission paintings and public art projects. Richard's experience as an executive level non profit arts administrator and a proven community projects artist qualify his skills in art project management, creating budgets, proposal and grant writing, leading and training staff. With a strong skill set in technology specifically video/audio presentations, Richard is well suited to create and lead programs as a professional artist and technology manager.

Richard has received several grant awards as an artist including most recently an Inspiration Award from the ArtsKC Fund and a Rocket Grant Award funded by the *Charlotte Street Foundation* in Kansas City, MO and the *KU Spencer Museum of Art* in Lawrence, KS, in partnership with the *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts*.

As a fine artist, Richard's paintings and sculptures have been purchased by Will Shields of the Kansas City Chiefs, Rolling Ridge Elementary school, and private collectors in California, Missouri and Kansas. Richard worked several years as lead scenic painter for Kansas City's New Dinner Theater; his paintings have since been loaned to prominent theaters in New York.

As a non profit arts administrator and community projects artist, Richard maintained a role as key artist in various projects including 1% public arts mural project at the Kansas City International Airport, implemented project management and curriculum development, staff training for a Kansas City contract in creative curriculum development for the U.S. Department of Education and with a contract for the Environmental Protection Agency Educational Department. He has served as lead artist for multiple large scale murals displayed in the Kansas City area and assumed the role as Creative Projects Manager in multiple creative programs for Kansas City area school districts.

As a videographer and technology manager, Richard creates video products utilizing traditional documentary style scripting as well as animation, motion graphics and green screen technologies. Richard strives to utilize new technologies in his own work and in his creation of commissioned private and public artworks. Richard's expertise with industry standard audio and video technology gives him the edge needed to prepare commercial grade presentations and artwork. Richard's pursuit as an artist directs him in innovative projects utilizing new software and cutting edge hardware to reach audiences.

Employment

1990 - Present Art By The Yard Partner

Creative Director, Multimedia specialist, Media Production, Fine Arts development. From concept to final output, coordinates and manages clients, assets, and personnel.

2005 - Present Creative Consultant for ArtsTech

Consults on Multi-Media projects and implementation, Fine Arts project development, Entrepreneurial Innovation and Prototype development, Creative programming and dissemination, funds development through grant writing.

1997 – 2010 Operations Officer for Storytellers Inc.

Nonprofit; 1-10 employees; Fine Art industry: presently creative consultant

General Operations Non-Profit, Project Management, and Creative Specialist

1999 - 2003 New Theater Production House

Scenic painter, stage and set carpenter

Education

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO.

Bachelor of Fine Art

Memphis Art College, Memphis, TN

Transfer Credit Program

St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley, MO

Transfer Credit Program

Exhibitions/Public Art/Scenic Painting

2009-2010 Kansas City Rescue Mission 1520 Cherry st.

Working with the homeless's shelter Kansas City Rescue Mission at 1520 Cherry St., Richard facilitated a 7 panel mural to create a series of photo- collage panels that represent the journey of the homeless from hopelessness to recovery. Each picture, from burned out campfires to train yards and graffiti-covered bricks, forms a part of the larger journey each man has undertaken. Article: [Pitch weekly online Sep. 4,2009 by Casey Lyons]

2008-2009

“A Voice” North East Mural

Lead Artist and project manager on mural execution and installation in coordination with Storytellers Inc., the City of Kansas City MO, Combat, and Sentenced to the Arts Program of Jackson County. North East Corridor Mural, a commissioned project developed and designed through interviews with modern refugees from around the world who have settled in the Kansas City northeast corridor. The mural measured 8' x 35' installed on exterior panels at the City Union Mission building in the North East Corridor of Kansas City MO. The mural depicts the symbolic integration of United States values with native values of the numerous cultures and their aspirations to one day return to their native lands.

2005-2007

KC Futures 150 – Sentenced to the Arts Program (STTAP)

Therapeutic art programming for adjudicated youth in Family Court residential facilities. Responsible for project management of art programs under Storytellers Inc.'s contract within the Family Court residential facilities; prepare contracts; administer employee evaluation, train staff in the areas of curriculum planning, mentoring and classroom management; facilitate youth programming as needed.

2004-2007

U.S. Department of Education

As a key member of the creative team Storytellers Inc. Richard coordinated the efforts and managed the receipt of a grant from the **U.S. Department of Education** totaling \$750,000, Art in Education Model Development Dissemination program and was responsible for project management of artistic pilot programs; interviews, hiring and training staff; research and purchase equipment; develop and assembled multimedia presentations for integrated art curricula; work in creative teams to create and pilot artistic lessons in the classroom.

Recent Exhibitions

October 2012 Hook Gallery; 1711 W. 45th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
Group Exhibition

June 2011 MOD Gallery; 1809 McGee, Kansas City MO

October 2011 ArtsTech Gallery, 1522 Holmes Kansas City, MO
Group Exhibition

April 2007 ArtsTech Gallery, 1522 Holmes Kansas City, MO
Group Exhibition

June 2007 Open Studios Show; 1522 Holmes ArtsTech Gallery; Kansas City, MO
Group Exhibition

Film/Animation Exhibitions

- 2008-2012 **Broken Circle Documentary Series**, a series of documentaries of the youth of Kansas City who find themselves in violent environments and what they do to cope with daily challenges at school, on the street, and in their homes over the past four years.
- 2007-2011 **Producer, Director, Production Director** for educational videos, public service announcements, and community webcast forums for Jackson County Family Court.
- 2009 - 2010 **Produced Max Molar story**, a short video with animation to educate young children and their parents on the importance of daily oral hygiene. This video animation touches on the key tips of proper brushing, flossing, dental hygiene and checkups. Max a main character in the video describes his troubles as a molar tooth in the back of Jamie's mouth. Mom and Jamie take a visit to the dentist and are enlightened on the key facts of how and why parents should play a prominent roll in a young child's dental hygiene practices.
- 2007-2010 **Produced Animation Series**, a series of animation projects for social justice and better living. Flash and the 2012 dental hygiene project, Obesity education animation, Max Molar dental hygiene animation for children their parents.
- 2007-2011 **Co-Producer, Co-Director, Production and Art Director** for the documentary series Broken Circle. An investigation into Kansas City's local inner city youth, the personal struggles in their lives, and the disconnections with their community.
- 2006-spring **Katrina Project** - Combining art therapy and collaborative art healing in an event setting for families relocated to KC via the Katrina Storm, September 27, 2006 Richard Fritz and his collaborative partners of Storytellers Inc. spent the afternoon conducting video interviews with Katrina Storm refugees at the event. Footage was used to create a audio documentation of where families were on their way to recovery and where they hoped to go into the future.

Honors/ Awards

2012

Rocket Grant Award, Richard Fritz received a grant award to produce an online audience participation creative story where by the main characters discuss their storyline situations with the audience and through feedback from the audience the story characters then make decisions that propel the story further along.

2011

Inspiration Grant Award, Richard Fritz received a grant award for an art project collaborating with three local artists, creating unique book art that culminated into a group show in a local Kansas City Gallery.

As a key member of the Storytellers Artist Collaborative, Richard Fritz has been instrumental in the collaborative's achievements.

Storytellers Creative Team Awards:

Excellence in Positive Youth Programming
KCK Urban Academy

Distinguished Service Award for Arts & Disabilities
Accessible Arts Inc. & Kansas State Board of Education

Award for Outstanding Leadership in Positive Youth Development
Youth Development and Leadership Corps

Award for Excellence in Extended Day Programming
U.S.D. 500 Public School District

Outstanding Service in Extended Day Programs
The National Housing Authority Association

Environmental Excellence in After School Programming
E.P.A Region 7; Children's Protection Agency

Environmental Excellence in Business
Bridging the Gap; Kansas City, MO

Award for Outstanding Leadership in Positive Youth Development
Youth Development and Leadership Corps

Award for Excellence in Extended Day Programming

U.S.D. 500 Public School District

Outstanding Service in Extended Day Programs
The National Housing Authority Association

Outstanding Efforts in Community Arts Programs
The Greater Kansas City Community's Foundation

The Colgate and Palmolive Bright Smile Bright Futures Award
for outstanding service in working with children

The Bernie Hoffman Award
for outstanding community service