


Cathy Drakes

 617-913-6116

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Professional Profile

Accomplished visual artist and educator with extensive experience educating diverse students of all ages. Comprehensive ability developing specialized curriculum and behavior management techniques. Aptitude for empowering students and fostering safe, creative learning environments for self-expression. Influential instructor with a proficiency for implementing effective strategies for adults, student and community programs. Multi-faceted and innovative artist, with a dexterity to reason abstractly, effectively solve problems and think strategically to positively influence student engagement, parent involvement and community partners.

Education and Credentials

Masters of Education - Cambridge College, Cambridge MA

Bachelor of Arts Film/Education - Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Boston MA

Massachusetts Professional Educator License, Visual Art, PreK - 12 Valid Through 2026

License #34082 - MEPID - #50171816

Professional Experience

Boston Public Schools, Boston, Ma

Visual Art Teacher - 2001 - 2018

Pioneered comprehensive, socially-conscious, learning experiences spanning diverse educational landscapes, using project-based visual art curricula. Provided personalized guidance to a heterogeneous student body within an inclusive school model in PreK-8. Adapted artistic instructional benchmarks for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, those in Structured English Immersion (SEI) programs, and those with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) backgrounds. Fostered heightened student engagement and achievement in artistic pursuits by applying pertinent methodologies, directly evaluating learning outcomes through the assessment of student-generated artworks and performances. Crafted developmentally suitable lesson plans with precise objectives and student learning targets. Introduced an innovative art-driven behavior management framework tied to incentives, seamlessly integrated into both classroom and school-wide rules.

- Established first K-8 Annual Arts Showcase to fund all art disciplines. Empower students to be leaders by fostering self-confidence and maintaining strong connections with families. Work closely with community partners for public service opportunities and visiting artists.
- Wrote and awarded Art Expansion Grant adding arts programming for all grade levels in every discipline yearly. Co-authored Disney Theater Grant to developed first large-scale set design program for school-wide use in plays, musical productions, and performances.
- Developed first curriculum for emerging technologies in middle school implementing Adobe Creative Suite, Google and professional animation applications for middle school elective classes in animation, gaming and graphic design, photography and website design using student input.

Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Boston Ma

Supervising Practitioner, Graduate Level

Prepared graduate level students with a strong background in studio work to teach in PK-12 public or private schools, museums, social service, and community agencies. for teaching practicum students who have completed required coursework towards professional level teaching license.

- Prepare students to facilitate pedagogical theory in curriculum development.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the diverse cultural, historical, and experiential issues expressed and inherent in one's own artwork, in one's teaching.
- Assist student teachers in development, documenting, and practicum portfolio and assessments.
- Supervise student-teaching for semester-long practicum. While classic preparation for the initial license mandates a minimum of 150 hours of student teaching, MassArt requires 300+ hours of classroom experience for professional teaching license

Professional Experience continued

The COMPASS School,(Community Providers of Adolescent Services) Boston, MA
Classroom Teacher/ Art Teacher/ Outreach-Worker

Developed pioneering visual art program for students in a substantially separate day program (.5 Chapter .766 school) for behavioral and emotional at-risk individuals requiring both emergency and long-term placement. Prioritized equitable academic engagement by integrating robust social/emotional support and stabilization techniques. Employed a personalized teaching approach that remained responsive to each student's evolving requirements and actively engaged with their families through outreach initiatives. Introduced an innovative incentives and behavior management system, fostering a sense of belonging and value within the classroom and the broader community.

- Secured grants to fund the first visual arts position within the organization delivering academic and social services to high-risk children across Boston and neighboring areas.
- Pioneered yearly violence prevention murals across Boston, garnering coverage in prominent publications including The Boston Sunday Globe and Boston Herald.

Boston Educational Development Foundation and Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA
Independent Contractor, 2016

Collaborative team member of Expeditionary Learning and the Arts Working Group for Boston Public Schools

- Developed collaborative teaching and learning curriculum for educators across BPS
- Co-authored curriculum using the Expeditionary Learning modules currently used in grades 3-5

Community Contributions

Edvestors, Boston, MA

Lead Designer, "Thomas W. Payzat, School on the Move Award"

- Created and designed all artwork for 2006 – 2010 Annual Gala events.
- Supervised student created art work for over 60 sculptures presented to high profile event guests

The Boston Foundation, Boston Schoolyard Initiative, Boston, MA
Community Organizer/Art Teacher, R. G. Shaw Middle School

- Co-authored grant that Facilitated revitalization of schoolyard.
- Served as project manager and community liaison between school, local residents and business owners.

Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA

Conference Speaker, Facilitator "Say It Write"

- Appointed workshop speaker and coordinated for annual "To Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Essay contest; A conference teaching empowerment through writing and artistic expression to young Black and Brown women ages 6-12

Skills and Training

Adobe Creative Suite

Google Suite

Microsoft 360 /Aspen/Gradebook

Cori checked and State Fingerprinted 2022

Social Media - LinkedIn / Facebook / Instagram

Mela-O test administrator for Ell's in Sheltered English Immersion
CPI trained/Crisis Prevention Intervention Non evasive restraint policy
Center For Restorative Justice -Trained in Best Practices exp 2007
CPR/AED: Adult, Child, Infant+ Standard First Aid (BLS) exp.2020

National Art Education Association
Massachusetts Art Education Association

Museum of Fine Arts Educator Member
Mass College of Art Alumni Association

Cathy Drakes

Educator/Artist

CONTACT

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