

# Melinda Zacher Ronayne

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## EDUCATION

[Doctor of Education Candidate](#), Leadership and Learning in Organizations, *expected December 2024*  
Vanderbilt University, Peabody College of Education and Human Development

[Master of Art in Art Education](#), Maryland Institute College of Art

[Bachelor of Fine Arts](#), Cum Laude, Maryland Institute College of Art, Major: General Fine Arts

## BOARD EXPERIENCE

[Arts Schools Network](#), Board of Directors, 2018 – Present

Executive Committee Treasurer, Membership Committee Chair, Governance Committee

[Great Lakes Children's Museum](#), Board of Trustees, 2014 – 2021

Executive Committee Secretary, Education Committee Chair, Capitol campaign and facilities committees,

[Westwoods Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization](#), Board of Directors, 2020 – 2022

Vice President of the Board, Member of the Executive Committee

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Interlochen Center for the Arts](#), Interlochen, MI, 2010 – Present

[Director of Visual Arts](#)

In this position, I provide innovative leadership in the direction, evaluation, and development of all visual arts programming, pedagogy, and curricula at Interlochen Arts Academy, a premier pre-professional boarding school of the arts with 575 students, Interlochen Arts Camp, the nation's oldest arts camp with over 3000 summer students, Interlochen College for Creative Arts and the newly developed Interlochen Online. In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I am the Visual Arts Thesis I and II instructor.

*Major Accomplishments:*

- Cultivated meaningful relationships with key donors, contributing to the successful acquisition of over \$3 Million in grants, endowments, and donations for the Visual Arts Division, including the National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant. Manage an annual department operational budget of approximately \$90K, along with separate restricted endowment and grants totaling approximately \$3 million;
- Co-created and secured grants from the Dow Foundation for a new interdisciplinary major between Visual Arts and Film and New Media in Animation;
- Pioneered and secured grant funding for a Public Art program that professionally fabricates [student-designed sculptures](#) for campus and sister locations, including immersive one-of-a-kind student artist-designed hotel rooms in the Stone Hotel on Interlochen's campus, rooms by [Leo Cohen in 2022](#), [Holland Haeck in 2023](#), and Maggie Morris in 2024;
- Secured grants and funding to develop cutting-edge visual arts facilities, which include the equipment and supplies in 12 studios within three visual arts buildings, ranging from traditional tools to state-of-the-art equipment like a Potterbot Scara V4, Epilog laser cutter, Torchmate CNC Router, Formlabs 3D printer, 3D scanners, Oculus Virtual Reality headsets, and Canon 44" large format printers;
- Created and implemented a Citizen Artistry and Arts and Medicine (Aesthetics of Health) curriculum in the Visual Arts Division, establishing partnerships with the Cowell Family Cancer Center, Munson Medical Center,

Great Lakes Children's Museum, 20Fathoms, Grand Traverse Veterans Affairs, and Traverse City Light and Power;

- Co-created interdisciplinary collaborative projects with outside organizations, artists, and other arts divisions, including *Edmonia Lewis Opera with Bill Banfield* (2024), *Mukti with the NY Philharmonic* at Lincoln Center in New York, NY (2023), *One at the New World Center in Miami, FL* (2020), *Resolve at National Sawdust* with Sydney James Harcourt (2019), The *Art of Ecology* with *Watershed Sculpture* and Wilson Art (2018); *Son Lux* (2017), *Sleeping Bear Dunes* with Shadow Light Productions (2016), Gina Patterson Voice Dance Company (2014), and *Orpheus Chamber Ensemble* (2013);
- Successfully secured, engaged, and scheduled internationally renowned artists for lectures, workshops, and gallery exhibitions, fostering valuable interactions with Interlochen's students and faculty. Recent guest artists include Floyd Norman, Nathalie Meibach, Deb JJ Lee, Elaine Heumann Gurian, James Volkert, Bill Zheng, Julia Pott, Kenyatta Hinkle, Christopher Wray-McCann, Valerie Dillon, Oaklee Thiele, A.F. Oehmke, Zahra Almajid;
- Expertly curated professional artist and student exhibitions in a 1,515 sq. ft. professional gallery, the historic Red Schoolhouse Gallery, and alternative exhibition spaces. Managed contracts, shipping, signage, and oversaw the installation and de-installation of exhibitions;
- Pioneered the development of the Richardson-Spica Fellow Artist-in-Residence and collaborated with Eastern Michigan University to establish the Jean Parsons Artist or Scholar in Residence at the Parsons Center for Arts & Sciences;
- Established high school summer program majors in Portfolio Development (2019), *Citizen Artistry* (2018), and *Experimental Fashion* (2017), as well as the Junior Visual Arts Major for ages 8 – 13 in 2015. Introduced four new visual art one-week institutes, including Comics and Graphic Novels, Precious Metals, Digital Fabrication, and Experimental Drawing and Painting;
- Innovatively designed and implemented virtual content for both the Academy and Interlochen's online summer program, adapting to the evolving landscape of education;
- Expanded the Visual Arts Division in the Academy by increasing instructors from three to seven and raising enrollment from 45 to 67 students;
- Taught two Presidential Scholars in the Arts (2015, 2022), four Presidential Scholar Nominees, 27 Finalists in the National YoungArts Competition, two National Gold Portfolio Medalists, and 47 National Gold Individual Medalists in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. The Visual Arts Department received 20 total national awards, making it the most recognized program of any one school in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards;
- Established Interlochen's annual Portfolio Review Day in 2013, hosting an average of 33 national and international art colleges;
- Assisted in the establishment of an international exchange program with the School of the Arts, Singapore;
- Drove the institution's artistic and educational direction, programming, and organizational strategy as a key member of the Supervisors Council and Administrative Council.

#### **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, 2006 - 2008**

*Coordinator of Scholarship Programs, Admission Counselor*

*Accomplishments and Responsibilities:*

- Co-manager for NYC National Portfolio Day, Jacob Javits Convention Center, contracted in 2010 – 2012
- Managed the distribution of \$30 million in scholarships and grants; organized and ran portfolio presentations with faculty juries for Merit Scholarship competitions.
- Organized and supervised the 2006 and 2007 Atlanta National Portfolio Review Days
- Matriculated the largest incoming class of National YoungArts Finalists to one school in 2007;
- Managed recruitment for eight states, scheduled school visits, lectured in 500+ schools, fostered relationships with feeder schools, and reviewed 5,000+ visual art portfolios;

#### **Design and Architecture Senior High School, Miami, FL, 2008 – 2010**

AP 2D Studio, AP Drawing Studio, Portfolio Development, Painting III, Women of Tomorrow

Mentor & Scholarship Program Coordinator, Head Cross Country Coach 2009 – 2010

#### **Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami, FL. 2009 - 2010**

Community Partner Program through DASH, Instructor for AP 2D Studio

**Cranbrook Summer Art Academy**, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 2008

Instructor for the Portfolio Development Course

**Forest Hill Community High School**, West Palm Beach, FL, 2003 - 2006**Art Department Chair, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Instructor**

Provided leadership and guidance for all student visual art, music, and theater programs at a Title I community school of 2400 students. I wrote and proposed the International Baccalaureate Arts curriculum while the school went through approval for the IB Diploma Program. In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I was the instructor for AP Drawing Studio, IB Art I & II, and Pre-IB Art. I sponsored the National Art Honor Society and was the Head Varsity Track and Field Coach.

**Boca Raton Community High School**, Boca Raton, FL, 2002 – 2003

Instructor for AP 3D Studio Art, Ceramics I - III, 3D Comp I & II

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads, National Association of Independent Schools, 2019 – 2020

Essentials of the Business Office Online Course, National Business Officers Association, 2019

Undoing Racism for Survival and Beyond, The People's Institute - New Orleans, LA, 2018

ISACS Academy for Division Heads: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Chicago, IL, 2018

National Center for Creative Aging Online Artist Training, 2017

Teaching for Experience Symposium – Dobbs Ferry, NY, 2015

Apple Training for Education, Cupertino, CA, 2011

International Baccalaureate Training - St. Petersburg (FLIBS), Kansas City, Vancouver, 2003 – 2006

College Board Advanced Placement Training – Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 2005

**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE AND TRAINING PRESENTATIONS**

"Please Touch the Artwork: How teaching young artists to engage their audience can lead to civilizing the museum"

Co-presenter with Elaine Heumann Gurian, Senior Museum Consultant  
National Arts Schools Network Conference, Las Vegas, NV, October 2022

High School Educational Level Meeting, Co-Moderator

National Arts Schools Network Conference, Chicago, IL, October 2021

Virtual Round Table Discussion for the Central Region, Lead Moderator, Arts Schools Network, 2020

Virtual Round Table Discussion for Visual Arts, Co-Moderator, Arts Schools Network, 2020

"Teaching Visual Arts Virtually" Professional Development Workshop

PVA Magnet Programs in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, MD, September 2020

"Leader to Leader: Building Relationships at the Top" (Co-presenter)

National Association of Independent Schools Conference, Philadelphia, PA, February 2020

"The Need to Develop Socially Engaged Artists: Reimagining your Curricular Goals"

"The Missing Human Element: Using Outreach to Promote Environmental Empathy"

National Arts Schools Network Conference, Orange County, CA, October 2018

"Exploring the Intersection Between Science and the Arts through Forest Regeneration"

National Art Education Association Convention, Seattle, WA, 2018

"The Power of Outreach: Shaping the Next Generation of Empathic, Innovative Artists and Thinkers"

"Using Land to Investigate the Intersection Between Science, the Arts, and the Community"

National Arts Schools Network Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2017

"The Aesthetics of Health"

Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Leading Ethical Improvement in Healthcare Symposium, McCombs School of Business, Austin TX, 2017

"Taking Care of Caregivers: Intergenerational Outreach"

National Arts Schools Network Conference, Dallas, TX, 2016

"The Aesthetics of Health- Teaching Arts Leadership in a Medical Setting"

"Preparing a Portfolio for College and National Competitions"

"Restructuring Studio Curriculum to Maximize Student Learning"

Michigan Art Education Association Conference, Traverse City, MI, 2016

"New Terrain: Submitting Performance, Installation and Time-Based Student Work"

National Art Education Association Convention, San Diego, CA, 2014

"Preparing a Portfolio for College and National Competitions"

"From Big to Small: Creative Student Exhibition Opportunities"

Michigan Art Education Association Conference, Mackinac Island, MI, October 2013

Figure Drawing Masterclass, School of the Arts, Singapore, 2012

"Exhibiting Beyond the Community"

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Teacher Toolbox, 2012

"Developing Metaphoric Imagery in Student Portfolios"

National Art Education Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2006

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022	Director's Sabbatical, Interlochen Center for the Arts
2022, 2015	US Presidential Scholars Program Distinguished Teacher
2019–2020	National Association of Independent Schools Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads
2019	Merrill Presidential Scholar Most Influential Teacher, Cornell University
2018	National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works Grant Recipient
2018	Webster Foundation Grant Recipient
2017	Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Grant Recipient
2009 – 2023	Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Distinguished Educator

## EXHIBITIONS

2020	<i>Restricted</i> – Brunner Family Gallery, Interlochen, MI
2010–2022	<i>Interlochen Arts Academy Faculty Exhibition</i> – Interlochen, MI
2010–2022	<i>Interlochen Arts Camp Faculty and Staff Exhibition</i> - Interlochen, MI
2017	<i>What's Important</i> – Brunner Family Gallery, Interlochen, MI
2016	<i>How Long is This Going to Take?</i> – Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, MI
2011	<i>Northern Michigan Juried Exhibition</i> - Dennon Museum, Traverse City, MI
2006	<i>15 x 15 Alumni Exhibition</i> - Pinkard Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD
2005	<i>Today and Tomorrow</i> - Boca Raton, FL

2005      *Master's Thesis Exhibition* – Fox Gallery 3, MICA, Baltimore, MD

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Arts Schools Network (Board of Directors)

National Association of Independent Schools

College Art Association

American Camp Association

Americans for the Arts

National Art Education Association

The Association of Boarding Schools