

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER

ARTS EDUCATOR, ARTS ADMINISTRATOR, THEATREMAKER

- aretta.baumgartner@gmail.com
- 513-470-2690
- <https://aretta.baumgartner.com>
- Atlanta, GA (open to in-person, remote or hybrid positions)

SUMMARY

Passionate and motivated arts administrator and arts educator dedicated to leading teams and students to success by listening, learning, connecting and inspiring. Specific interest in theatre, educational organizations and non-profits. Twenty-five years of proven success in creating high-quality, engaging programs and the systems that support them. Broad background in community outreach, staff management and training, organizational operations, strategic thinking and Board engagement. Recognized for optimism, collaboration, innovative ideas, maximizing resources, connecting stakeholders, empowering and mentoring staff and positive culture creation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2011 – 2024** **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR**
Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, GA
Programming, staffing, budgeting, advocacy and all related operational support for the Education Department at the nation's largest puppetry arts non-profit organization.
- 2016 – 2022** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Vice President 2018-2019, President 2019-2022)**
Puppeteers of America
Organizational operations, advocacy and leadership of the Board of Directors and staff of Puppeteers of America, a national non-profit organization founded in 1937 to provide information, encourage performances, and build a community of people who celebrate puppet theatre.
- 2000 – 2011** **ARTISTIC & MANAGING DIRECTOR / TOURING PERFORMER**
ImagineNation
Creating, booking and implementing puppet, movement, drama and mask programs (residencies, workshops, performances—emphasis on youth arts and arts integration) for schools, libraries, camps, festivals and museums for an independently-owned and self-run arts regional arts company.
- 2007 – 2011** **PROGRAM COORDINATOR/FOUNDER**
Let It Shine, After-School Performing Arts Program
Co-creating and leading a state-funded, grant-based arts-infused 21st Century Community Learning Center embedded in a public elementary school system in Northern Kentucky.
- 2001 – 2011** **EDUCATION/OUTREACH MANAGER**
Performance Gallery
Coordinating and implementing educational theatre programming, including the "Books In Action" initiative in collaboration with Cincinnati Public Schools (monthly drama and literacy programming in 32 Head Start preschool classrooms) and the PG (Professional Growth) Series of Artist-led and Artist-inspired professional development workshops for a Cincinnati-based theatre company.
- 2006 – 2007** **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
Imago for the Earth
Coordinating restructure, retention and recruitment efforts for the volunteer program for an urban environmental education center. *A one-year grant-funded position.*
- 2004 – 2006** **OUTREACH COORDINATOR & PRESENTER**
Cincinnati Museum Center
Scheduling, creating and performing school programs across the Midwest for a multi-museum National Historical Landmark and presenting floor programs for the Cincinnati Children's Museum.

ARETTA BAUMGARTNER

2000 – 2023

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY (“NKU”)

Theatre Manager 2000 – 2004

Coordinating publicity (posters, programs, brochures), public relations (marketing, press communications), front-of-house operations (box office, house management), departmental budget, management/supervision of Theatre Manager & Box office staffs, internal communications (school performances, archives, facilities scheduling, communications with university community), special events, volunteer staffing, guest artists for the theatre department (BA/BFA) of a large state university in northern Kentucky.

Teaching Faculty 2001 – 2006 and Guest Artist 2006 – 2023

Creating and teaching courses in puppetry, mask and movement for the actor. Teaching courses in Creative Expression (acting for non-majors). Guest artist work in movement, mask and puppetry.

1992 – 2022

MADCAP PRODUCTIONS PUPPET THEATRE

Touring and Special Events Puppeteer, 1992 – 2022 (Tour Manager 1995 - 1998)

Communications Coordinator 1998 – 2000

Management of publicity, public relations, special events, membership program, volunteers, residencies and in-house school programming for the largest touring youth puppet theatre in the Midwest.

1991 – 1992

BOX OFFICE MANAGER AND GROUP SALES COORDINATOR

Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati

Managing Box Office/Group Sales and supervising House Staff at an award-winning regional theater.

Bachelor of Arts

Theatre Arts

summa cum laude

Ashland University

(Ashland, OH)

May 1991

Master of Arts

Communication Arts

summa cum laude

University of Cincinnati

(Cincinnati, OH)

December 1993

Certifications:

Arts Integration Boot Camp
(Institute for Arts Integration and
STEAM) February 2021

Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta
February 2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Alpha Psi Omega
- ART Station (Board of Trustees)
- ArtsBridge Foundation Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards (Adjudicator)
- Atlanta Cultural Educators
- Atlanta Puppetry Guild (Scholarship Chair)
- Educational Theatre Association (Teaching/Guest Artist)
- Educational Theatre Foundation (Advisory Committee)
- Georgians for the Arts
- Phi Mu Fraternity
- Puppeteers of America (New Works Fund Chair, Puppetry in Education & Therapy Committee)
- Teaching Artist Alliance (Executive Committee)
- Union Internationale de la Marionnette USA

*Performance résumé (puppetry and theatre), professional presentations list
and references available upon request.*