

December 10, 2009

Dear Community Friends and Partners,

I am honored to become the Interim Director for an extraordinary organization, Kulture Klub Collaborative.

As you know, KKC is strong in its mission to foster an authentic art experience between youth experiencing homelessness and professional artists. What makes this experience unique is that, from the start, it is reciprocal between the youth and the artist and eventually, then, an audience –*a true give and take, from the ground up.*

As a working artist and teacher, I welcome situations where hierarchy in a learning environment does not exist. I believe the important work of creativity does not occur in an academic model, or alone in one's studio. It happens here, where individual ideas and talents are shared and celebrated, regardless of social footing. In the creative think tank that KKC provides, social status and economic situation are left at the door. We are breeding a new kind of privilege.

Since 1995, I have been engaging children and young adults in art experience, through Days of Creation: Arts for Kids in Columbus, Ohio, and since 2003 teaching studio arts at the University of Minnesota and Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I've also produced several local and international exhibitions and "open work" focusing on idea exchange in contemporary art, most recently at the Soap Factory and Art of This gallery in South Minneapolis.

The work accomplished this past year by the young artists and the KKC organization is *impressive*: from the Home Is Where You Make It project with Lauri Lyons (NYC) and Tish Jones (MPLS) in conjunction with the Walker Art Center to the Art Car project with Jan Elftmann. Underneath these larger Artist-in-Residence tenures lie the small ways KKC vibrates its basement laboratory on a daily drop-in basis with the youth.

The dedication and commitment of outgoing director Mike Hoyt leaves its mark on this place every day, and I am honored to carry that love through KKC's new incarnation. I'm energized to join a strong veteran staff of Amy Snyder and Sue Pohl, as well as the Board of Directors, in their excitement and ideas for how the organization can grow. It is a new time for KKC, and while its vision may be evolving, the mission remains the same.

Looking forward,

Patricia Healy McMeans
Interim Executive Director
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