

Why do I want to attend CCS Bard?

I am ready for a change.

Two and a half years ago, I decided to seriously pursue curation and art. Since then, I have curated over a dozen art events, programs, and educational opportunities¹.

During this time, I have also continued to work full-time in a commercial real estate firm. I am ready for a transition. I want to curate full-time. Attending CCS Bard will give me the foundation to pursue a curatorial career

How do I curate?

I curate with compassion and an open-mind to explore reality through the arts.

This curatorial philosophy has led me to form Reality Club², my curatorial vehicle.

Through Reality Club, I organize and execute a wide range of curatorial endeavors. I handle all of the curatorial responsibilities, often times in the form of a collaboration. In other words, I am responsible for: marketing, graphic design, research, writing, installation, and logistics.

One of my recent projects, *Pissarro IV*³, is a good example of how I curate.

Pissarro IV was part of the *Aeronautic Visual Arts Program*, a project by artist, Ben Wills⁴.

For *Pissarro IV*, Wills launched an aircraft powered by a weather balloon into the stratosphere. Attached to the aircraft were various scientific instruments and a drawing machine.

As curator, I effectively completed a broad variety of tasks ranging from creating a webpage to finding a canoe. I feel that *Pissarro IV* was inclusive, public facing, and supportive. I say all of this to display that I have a familiarity with many aspects of curatorial programming.

¹ <https://www.alpert.online/>

² <https://www.alpert.online/realityclub>

³ <https://www.alpert.online/pissarroiv>

⁴ <https://benjamintoddwills.com/>

How do I curate? *cont.*

I also want to highlight the diversity of programming that I curate. In addition to art events like *Pissarro IV*¹, I curate a monthly film screening², a series of rare book tours³, a writing competition⁴, and a monthly reading group⁵. I take an expansive approach to curating. I do not limit myself to placing art objects in a space.

How have I prepared?

I seek out artistic education in four ways.

- Informal Education
- Formal Education
- Curating
- Volunteering

My informal education includes going to museums, galleries, art spaces, talks, films, performances, studio visits, and workshops. It includes reading, listening to interviews, and watching documentaries. I am dedicated to this pursuit. I have experienced a large amount and variety of contemporary art. These moments range from going to see Rebeka Pech Moguel's work in an unfinished house⁷ to listening to an interview with Nayland Blake⁸.

For my formal education, I attended Occidental College. I majored in economics, but I took a wide variety of classes outside of my major. I was not the most motivated student at the time, and I am excited to attend a graduate program with a new sense of direction and motivation.

I have curated and continue to curate a wide variety of arts events and programming. These hand-on experiences have been DIY. By DIY, I mean that I am working on my own with very limited financial resources. As a result, I know a great deal about working with artists in the early stages of their careers. I also know a great deal about utilizing free or inexpensive resources.

¹ <https://www.alpert.online/pissarroiv>

² <https://www.alpert.online/realityclubfilmseries>

³ <https://www.alpert.online/rarebooktour>

⁴ <https://www.thismuch.org/>

⁵ <https://www.alpert.online/realityclubreads>

⁶ <https://art.nelson-atkins.org/advancedsearch/objects/searchTitles%3Acricknet/images?page=1>

⁷ <http://openhouse.space/same-pero-diferente>

⁸ <https://manpodcast.com/portfolio/no-418-nayland-blake-ann-hamilton/>

How have I prepared?

cont.

I volunteer for two organizations, Stray Cat Film Center¹ and the Arts Council of Johnson County².

Stray Cat Film Center is a microcinema and events space. At Stray Cat Film Center, I help with concerts, parties, and film screenings. I run the concessions stand, set up the films, and work the door. I love Stray Cat Film Center, and I am hoping to continue working with microcinemas.

I sit on the governing board of the Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC), most recently as Vice President. ACJC is an arts advocate and provides arts education and programming. This being my first board experience, I have learned a great deal about the structure and operations of not-for-profits, especially in the arts. I have supplemented this experience by participating in the Mid-America Arts Alliance's Arts Engage program³. Through ACJC, I have also learned about working in a politically conservative community (Johnson County voted for Donald Trump in 2016). How we frame our narrative and how we contextualize our work has to adjust accordingly in order to be successful. At the same time, we have to uphold our values and mission.

How do I want to curate?

In the future, I want to continue to pursue my curatorial philosophy. I want to have a broader understanding of art history, critical theory, and more traditional curatorial practices.

Sitting in on Theory and Criticism in Contemporary Art with Evan Calder Williams, I realized how much work I need to do. I am lacking formal training. I feel confident in my ability to create and facilitate programming, to market and publicize, and to work with and support artists. I want to become better at writing, critical analysis, and contextualization.

CCS will give me the necessary foundation to pursue my curatorial career, wherever that career goes.

¹ <https://www.straycatfilmcenter.com/>

² <http://www.artsjoco.org/>

³ <https://www.maaa.org/professional-development/engage/>