

Dave Harper

he/him | Brooklyn, NY | daveharper.us

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A highly accomplished nonprofit administrator and cultural programmer with nearly two decades of professional practice in the visual and performing arts with a focus on public engagement and a lifelong commitment to both visionary ideas and the reexamination of lost histories.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Strong nonprofit management background, with a proven ability to multitask, prioritize, problem solve, communicate effectively, and maintain exceptional skills in organizing and self-directing a complex program of work that involves significant coordination with artists/creatives, contractors, and internal and external stakeholders.
- Dynamic and widely recognized programming practice with experience in global contemporary art, and in particular the commissioning of public art, as well as dance, theater, and music.
- Diligent fundraiser with demonstrated success in cultivating support from individual donors, foundations, corporations, government funding agencies, and through innovative earned income opportunities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Executive Director, New York City AIDS Memorial, New York, NY **JUN 2019-PRESENT**

- Envision and apply strategic, progressive, and engaging leadership to expand and reimagine the social and cultural reach and impact of the organization founded in 2011 to remember and honor the 100,000+ New Yorkers impacted by the AIDS crisis.
- Conceptualize, curate, execute, or commission contemporary public visual and performing arts, cultural, and educational programs with notable creators including Avram Finkelstein, Steven Evans, Jim Hodges, Jean-Michel Othoniel, Neil Greenberg, Pamela Sneed, Arthur Russell, and others, including all logistics, partnerships, and management of press, communications, and marketing.
- Owner of all development projects including the execution of several earned-income fundraising projects, including a year-long strategic campaign, grossing nearly \$8MM, and management and development of individual and corporate giving of public and government grants.
- Oversight of all aspects of administration, including communications, capital projects, financial management, strategic planning, and management of relationships with community and government agencies.

Director, Events, ACRIA Artists Ending AIDS Fund at GMHC, New York, NY **OCT 2017-JUN 2019**

- Successful management of the ACRIA Artists Ending AIDS Fund, harnessing the creative community to raise earmarked funds via artist-driven projects, edition production, auctions, art fairs, and brand collaborations.
- Oversight of a robust calendar of cultivation/fundraising events and galas, donor relations, corporate partnerships, and sponsorships with an annual team fundraising goal of \$7MM.

Director of Art, Communications, and Events, ACRIA, New York, NY **JAN 2017-OCT 2017**

- Provide leadership on culture-related projects, development, and special events for this national AIDS research and education nonprofit.

- Fundraising through envisioning and executing events at all scales including art auctions, production of artist multiples and editions, special projects, and other creative partnerships.
- Management of all communications, individual giving, and digital presence.

Director, Artist & Institutional Relations, Paddle8, New York, NY **JUN 2013-MAY 2016**

- Management of strategy for global expansion, particularly in the US and Western Europe, including the execution of new business opportunities and conceptualizing new fundraising models and creative partnerships with cultural institutions, nonprofit organizations, artists, brands, art fairs, and auction houses.
- Manage a portfolio of top individual clients, including directing property to auction and providing other primary and secondary market sales opportunities, as well as curating several thematic auctions.

Guest Curator, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, New York, NY **JAN 2009-SEP 2011**

- Curator or co-curator of three exhibitions: “The Seen and The Hidden,” with Martha Kirszenbaum (2009), “NineteenEightyFour” (2010) with Martha Kirszenbaum and David Komary, and “Fünf Räume (2011).

Visual Art Curator, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY **NOV 2006-JUN 2013**

- Envision, execute, and project manage a calendar of annual exhibitions and commissions of both temporary and permanent public art installations including fundraising and logistics
- Head visual art fundraising initiatives raising \$5MM+ during tenure through auctions, major gifts, events, grants, member cultivation, and the creation of numerous fundraising editions

EDUCATION

MS, Theory, Criticism & History of Art, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY **SEP 2004-OCT 2006**
BFA, with Honors, History of Art, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA **SEP 2000-MAY 2004**
Ella Munsterberg Award for Excellence in Critical Studies

SELECTED SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

Member, West Side Cultural Network, New York, NY **APR 2023-PRESENT**
 Member, STONEWALL-50 CONSORTIUM, New York, NY **JUN 2019-PRESENT**
 President, Board of Directors, Shandaken Projects, New York/Catskill, NY **MAY 2012-PRESENT**
 Advisory Board Member, NurtureArt, Brooklyn, NY **JAN 2008-JUN 2019**
 Guest Curator, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, New York, NY **FEB 2009-SEP 2011**
 Member, New Art Dealers Alliance, New York, NY **JUN 2008-PRESENT**
 Docent, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY **SEP 2005-NOV 2008**

TECHNICAL & OTHER SKILLS

- Software (Mac and PC): Expert: MS Office Suite, Squarespace, WordPress, GiveLively, and all social media platforms; Proficient: Adobe Photoshop, ArtSystems GalleryPro, Tessitura, Insightly, Raiser’s Edge, Salesforce, and other CRMs; basic knowledge of HTML