

JOSEPHINE F. ROSS, M. Ed.

josephineflorenceross@gmail.com | 612.991.2284

WORK EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS:

Graduate Assistant | *Northeastern University* | Boston, MA | 2025 - Present

Served as graduate assistant for the Data Theatre Collaborative at Northeastern University. Provided dramaturgical support for *The Numbers*, a devised play working in conjunction with Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Sustainability. Trained a team of research assistants to take ethnographic notes on production and collect data from the run. Transcribed and encoded videos from the production's run. Led data-theatre workshops with non-profit organizations throughout Boston.

Theatre Coordinator | *Hyde Square Task Force* | Boston, MA | 2023 - Present

Selected to serve as coordinator for Hyde Square Task Force's Theatre program. Designed and implemented theatre curriculum for 200 elementary, middle school, and high school Afro-Latin youth. Wrote and directed original, bilingual plays for events hosted throughout the country. Created multiple community-wide collaborations with other non-profits and universities (including, but not limited to): designing and facilitating a program in which Tufts School of Medicine students learned improv to improve bedside manner, creating a program in which Emerson College Theatre Education students in the Teacher Training program to practice teaching in bilingual classrooms, collecting stories and narratives for park renovation/data theatre project with Tufts University, etc.

Research Project Coordinator | *Tufts University School of Medicine* | Boston MA | 2024 - 2025

Received a grant from the Tisch Fund at Tufts University to develop improvisational theatre workshop targeting the empathy skill development of medical students. Hired and trained 6 Afro-Latin youth in improvisational theatre to co-design and facilitate the experience. Preliminary data suggests increased social skill acquisition in the medical students. Publication is currently under review.

Administrative Coordinator | *The Ladder* | Boston MA | 2024-2025

Hired to consult in administrative, fundraising, and curriculum efforts of the Boston chapter of the Ladder. Assisted in building connections between high school youth from underserved backgrounds to careers in medicine. Hired 15 youth mentors for the program and built a senior mentoring team including 10 family medicine doctors associated with many different academic institutions.

Graduate Assistant | *Emerson College* | Boston, MA | 2022 - 2025

Selected to serve as the Graduate Assistant for two programs within Emerson College's Student Affairs program: Housing & Residential Education and Student Engagement & Leadership. Work centered around creating development and training for over 200 student staff members, recruiting new students, engaging and advising student performance groups, and hosting Student Conduct Rule violations meetings. Supervised 20-person student staff in each academic year. Created curricula and led research studies for training of residential assistants and international student peer mentors.

Summer Residence Hall Director | *Emerson College* | Boston, MA | 2022 - 2023

Hired to lead Pre-College Summer Program's Housing and Residential Education efforts. Assigned and coordinated over 100 high school youth housing needs from around the world to attend college-level courses for 6 weeks. Organized and facilitated move-in and move-out weekends for the groups. Created daily programming and weekly field trips to align with program goals. Hired and supervised 20-person student staff to serve as Resident Assistants for the duration of the session.

Operations Coordination Assistant | *Berklee College of Music* | Boston, MA | Summer 2022

Serving as a part of the Campus Life and Housing leadership teams, specific duties included working directly with over 500 high school students and their parents. Lived as a part of the residential hall community and provided overnight and emergency coverage. Duties also included office administration, crisis management response, and housing resources and needs for parents and high schoolers.

Research Associate | *Harvard's Project Zero* | Cambridge, MA | 2021 - Present

Under the guidance of Dr. Ellen Winner, selected to design a study comparing the changes in social skill acquisition that occur after playing improvisational comedy games and practicing traditional theatre text analysis exercises. Ongoing project with several higher education institutions.

Team Coordinator | *High School for the Recording Arts* | St. Paul | 2021 - 2022

Hired to serve as the research assistant for High School for the Recording Arts. Supported the launch of *Hip-Hop Genius 2.0*, a book that highlights the trajectory of the school's existence over its tenure. Tasks included creating website materials, designing social media content, producing publicity materials, researching and composing grant applications, and organizing events for the book's release.

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Department of Admissions | Swarthmore College | Swarthmore, PA | 2018 - 2021

Fellow | Tour Guide | Group Information Session Leader | Admissions Intern | Hosting Intern

Hired for several different roles in the Admissions Department. Served as a tour guide giving over 300 tours during academic and summer sessions. Worked as a Group Information Student Presenter (GISP). Selected to serve as a coordinator of on-campus overnight visits, arranging matches between incoming and current students based on academic interests. Selected as a Fellow who worked as part of the Admissions team; conducting interviews with applicants and holding information sessions for parents. Served as an office assistant for the department; answering calls, handling walk-in visitors, scheduling meetings and department events, coordinating on-campus events, assisting with maintenance of inventory of supplies used by the office staff.

Teaching Assistant | Swarthmore College | Swarthmore, PA | 2020 - 2021

Chosen to serve as the teaching assistant for an introductory writing course, *Theater and Performance*. Role included translating the course into online medium, leading class warm-ups, conducting class-wide discussions, and tutoring individual students on writing assignments. Assisted with recording and calculating grades, coaching and providing feedback, and creating evaluations for students. Created multimedia content for meetings.

Research Assistant and Program Coordinator | New York University | New York, NY | Summer 2019

Awarded a research grant to pursue study with 2 professors in the Steinhardt School at New York University. Worked as a research assistant on University's *Listening Project*. This three-year project focused on how adolescents can understand their own feelings and stories by acquiring interviewing skills. Specific duties included analyzing data and coordinating logistics for the staff.

Teaching Assistant and Administrative Coordinator | Epic Theatre Ensemble | New York, NY | Summer 2019

Selected to serve as a Teaching Assistant for Epic Theatre Ensemble at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Worked with Epic NEXT, a program designed to aid teens in learning about theatre and creating a passion for justice utilizing a comprehensive, individualized approach to artistic and youth development. Specific duties included teaching 40 teens about theatre arts, serving as an assistant to teachers, and coordinating daily logistic tasks for the program.

Research Assistant | Catholic Schools Center of Excellence | Minneapolis, MN | Summer 2019

Hired to coordinate a special project focused on providing services to 80 elementary schools in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Serving as part of a team created through the award of grant, the project focused on establishing a group of community agencies comprised of exceptional learning specialists who provided free consultation to school administrators, teachers, and parents. Worked as a research assistant and administrative coordinator for the consultant who secured the grant funding and then found and secured a group of exceptional learning specialists working in the area. Specific duties included researching groups, interviewing possible providers, and creating a database of information on exceptional learner resources.

Teaching Apprentice | Children's Theatre Company | Minneapolis, MN | 2014 - 2016

Hired to work as a Teaching Apprentice for the Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company's Theatre Arts Training Program. Assisted Teaching Artists with camps and theater productions for two consecutive summers. Worked with over 400 students with a primary focus on children with special needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Outreach Intern | The Playwrights' Center | Minneapolis MN | 2020 - 2021

Selected to coordinate a program for the Center's *New Plays on Campus* program. Researched and created a database of possible connections from around the world; eventually connecting the Center to universities and colleges worldwide. Hosted focus groups with students throughout the nation to gather feedback regarding new courses and initiatives of the program.

Engagement Coordinator | Team Sunshine Performance Corporation | Philadelphia, PA | 2018-19

Hired to coordinate audience experience for company's third iteration of *The Sincerity Project*, a 25-year long production that tracks the lives of 6 theatre makers. Worked with the Artistic Team to design activities to engage 500 audience members with the production before and after each performance.

Production Intern and Community Outreach Intern | Jungle Theatre | Minneapolis, MN | 2017

Selected as a Production Intern for *The Oldest Boy: A Play in Three Ceremonies*. Also, worked as Community Outreach Intern for the production. Helped in creating accessibility programs for the Tibetan community, including free, community events that invited the audience to meet and work with the actors and to study the craft of puppet making which was a central element in the

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production. Presented ‘talk back sessions’ before and after performances, including information about the production and Tibetan culture.

Accessibility Team Member | *Mixed Precipitation Picnic Operetta* | Minneapolis, MN | 2013 - 2016

Worked with a theatre company with a primary mission of making opera more accessible. Travelled around the Midwest to give free performances in community gardens. Created videos and supplemental materials that audience members could use to gauge the accessibility of each location. Networked with community groups and resources to ensure full accessibility and outreach to local agents.

Social Media Manager and Production Intern | *Other Tiger Productions* | St. Paul, MN | Summer 2015

Selected as Social Media Manager for *The Palabras Project*, an immersive musical and theatrical experience at the Park Square Theatre. Hired as Production Intern for the project, which celebrates the work of Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca. Created social media events and posts to engage with the larger Twin Cities community.

ACT One Accessibility Assistant | *Children’s Theatre Company* | Minneapolis, MN | 2014 - 2016

Participated in an intensive training program as an accessibility assistant for the theatre company. Provided services to families with special needs during theatre performances and for students with special needs participating in Theatre Arts Training programs. Aided the company in implementing a program to stage sensory-friendly productions which welcome people with sensory issues into the theater space.

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Workshop Artist | *HowlRound – Emerson College* | Boston, MA | 2024

Hired to lead a plena workshop for Latinx Commons HowlRound conference. Facilitated session in which current theatre artists leaned on folkloric style to create their own scenes and songs regarding current issues they are facing as artists and members of the Latinx community.

Keynote Presenter | *National Guild for Community Arts* | Washington, DC | 2024

Selected to create the keynote performance for the National Guild for Community Arts annual conference where over 1000 community artists convened. Wrote and directed 10 high school youth to present play centered around themes of family, cultural placekeeping, and righteous indignation when facing injustice.

Teaching Artist | *Wheelock Lock Family Theatre – Boston University* | Boston, MA | 2022 - Present

Selected to serve as a teaching artist in the theatre’s educational program. Taught 5 individual classes on creating theatre; leading over 200 students between the ages of 3 – 18 years. Topics of instruction included Devising, Comedy, Theatre Fundamentals, Characterization, Dance and Song, Scene Work, Improvisation, and Directing.

Teaching Artist in Residency | *The Croft School – Boston University* | Jamaica Plain, MA | 2022 - 2023

Chosen to direct the first Theatre Artist in Residency at the Croft School. Taught and directed 60 1st and 2nd graders. Created curricula that focused on Literacy, Theatre Fundamentals, and Social Development. Along with teaching the students, produced a devised show based on Cale Atkinson’s *Off and Away*.

Teaching Artist | *American Repertory Theater* | Cambridge, MA | 2021 - 2024

Selected to serve as a teaching artist for the theater’s Education Programs (Kids Company). Work included creating curricula in accordance with shows for the theater’s season and leading classes for 200 students. Collaborated with Cambridge Public Library to address children’s literacy goals. Created and taught curricula for several seasons.

Director | *The Park School* | Brookline, MA | 2022 - 2023

Chosen to serve as a staff member for the Drama program in a K – 8th grade school. Served as the director of the first 5th grade production at the Park School. Led 30 students in performing and producing *Transyl-mania*, a spooky Halloween play focused on belonging and community. Designed and taught courses, including but not limited to instructing 5th – 8th grade students Improvisation, Direction, and future steps as young theatre makers.

Theater Research Assistant | *Swarthmore College* | Swarthmore, PA | 2020 - 2021

Selected to serve as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Theater. Work included gathering information on potential shows for the Department’s next artistic season. Research included critiquing performances, dramaturgical work, and community networking. Also, created multi-media pieces for publicity. Work resulted in the choice of 6 shows for the College’s theatrical season.

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Artistic Intern | *Team Sunshine Performance Corporation* | Philadelphia, PA | 2018 - 2019

Selected to serve as an intern for a year with Team Sunshine Performance Corporation, a theatre company focused on exploring the complexities of the human experience. Work included writing grants, performing in theatrical events, coordinating logistics and special services for actors, and organizing community engagement programs for the company's productions.

Advancement Intern and Rehearsal Assistant | *Interact Center* | St. Paul, MN | 2017 - 2018

Worked as an Advancement Intern for an arts organization for adults with disabilities. Planned and arranged 5 fundraising events for the 2017-2018 season. Served as a graphic design liaison for the company. Secured grants and donations from local companies totaling over \$5,000.

Assistant Director | *Stages Theatre Company* | Hopkins, MN | 2017 - 2018

Selected to serve as the Assistant Director for the world premiere production of *Frederick*, a theatre piece for young audiences. Led warm-ups, delivered actors notes, and blocked portions of the show.

Stage Manager | *Perspectives Theatre Company* | Minneapolis, MN | Summer 2017

Hired as the Stage Manager for the devised piece *Stranger*, which was chosen for the 2017 Minnesota Fringe Festival. The theatre company's mission is to create space for untold stories and to validate multi-dimensional identities. Work included taking notes, organizing rehearsals, and calling shows.

Assistant Director | *Fidgety Fairy Tales Theatre Company* | Minneapolis MN | 2015 - 2016

Worked for several seasons as a part of Fidgety Fairy Tales produced by the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health and the Minnesota Children's Theatre Company. Served in several roles for Fidgety Fairy Tales, a company that stages musical productions to reimagine myths and legends to raise awareness about children's mental health. After performing for two seasons as an actor, hired as Student Director for a season.

Director and Student Representative | *Chaska Valley Family Theatre* | Chaska, MN | 2013 - 2017

Elected for three terms as Student Representative to the theatre company's Board of Directors. Selected as Artistic Director of a 120-person cast production of *Shrek the Musical*. In conjunction with the show, created a special anti-bullying program, including raising over \$3,000 for local students to attend a special matinee performance. Educational program included development of classroom materials for teachers to use regarding the anti-bullying messages in the production.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Northeastern University | College of Arts Media and Design | PhD

- Interdisciplinary PhD in Arts, Media, and Design
- Concentration in Applied Theatre, Education, and Community Engagement

Harvard University | Harvard's Graduate School of Education | Master of Education

- Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology
- Concentration in Arts and Learning

Swarthmore College | Bachelor of Arts, High Honors

- Honors Major in Theater, Educational Studies and English Literature
- Honors Thesis: Community Engagement in Online Theatre Settings

CONFERENCES

Association for the Theatre in Higher Education | Baltimore, MA | 2026

Selected to present and sit on panel at the annual conference, Activating Imagination in/and Community. Presentation centered around how to build relationships between large institutions and community groups and how to utilize resources in both settings.

American Alliance for Theatre Education Conference | Boston, MA | 2025

Selected to lead presentation at the Amplify & Ignite: Creative Practice in and With Communities Symposium. Presentation (titled "IMPROVing Medicine: A case study on Afro-Latin youth-led, theatre interventions for medical students") describes findings in a paper that is currently under review at the *Youth Theatre Journal*. Collaborated with Afro-Latin teens to create and co-facilitate presentation.

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National Guild for Community Arts | Washington, DC | 2024

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HowlRound – Emerson College | Boston, MA | 2024

Hired to lead a plena workshop for Latinx Commons HowlRound conference. Facilitated session in which current theatre artists leaned on folkloric style to create their own scenes and songs regarding current issues they are facing as artists and members of the Latinx community.

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

- Center for the Arts Affiliate, *Northeastern University*..... 2026
 - Selected to serve in the inaugural class of affiliates for the Center for the Arts. Helped to shape the center's evolving interdisciplinary research agenda, developing projects and programs in Boston and Oakland starting in Fall 2026.
- Creative Youth Development Teaching Artist Fellow, *Linde Fellowship* 2025
 - Named in 2025-2026 cohort of teaching artist fellowship. Received a \$750 stipend to train throughout the year with a creative youth development approach.
- Tisch Fund, *Tufts University*..... 2024
 - Received a grant of \$1,000 to fund a research project between Tufts University and Hyde Square Task Force in which youth led the medical community through improvisational theatre games in hopes to impact empathy levels.
- Leedom Fellowship, *Swarthmore College*.....2021
 - Received a fellowship of \$5,000 to continue graduate study in the area of Educational Studies.
- Kaori Kitao Humanities Research Fellowship in Theater (\$4,800), *Swarthmore College*2020
 - Completed individual research centered around the cultivation of online theatre communities. Secured a cast incorporating members of the Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, and nationwide theatre communities.
- Joanna Rudge Long Award for Research in Educational Studies (\$4,800), *Swarthmore College* 2019
 - Conducted research at New York University to investigate how adolescents can learn to decipher their own and others' feelings through interviewing workshops
- Summer Scholar, *Tri-College Identity, Equity, and Social Justice Institute*
(Swarthmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr Colleges) 2017
- National Winner, *Heart of the Arts Award*, National Federation of High School Associations..... 2017
- Outstanding Performance Honor, *Hennepin Theatre Trust*, Minneapolis, MN 2016 - 17
- Community Access Grant, *Minnesota Regional Arts Council*, Minneapolis, MN 2016
 - o Grant supported an effort to raise funds to establish an audience access program to secure ASL interpreters for each production that a community theatre organization created