

Christina Catanese

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CAREER VISION: to inspire curiosity, empathy, and connection through creative encounters between people and nature, in service of a more vibrant, just, and sustainable planet.

EDUCATION: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Master of Science in Applied Geosciences, Hydrogeology concentration; May 2010

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Political Science, minor in English; May 2008

CURRENT SUBJECT EXPERTISE & INTERESTS

- Environmental art
- Art and social change
- Geomorphology and riparian pathways
- Science communication
- Environmental education
- Arts administration and leadership
- Mosses and lichens
- Aquatic science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI), Grand Valley State University, *Education Specialist*. Muskegon, MI 2021- present

- Leads education and outreach programs on aquatic science and freshwater ecology, reaching several thousand annually
- Oversees hands-on science field trips onboard AWRI's research vessels on Lake Michigan and adjoining lakes
- Manages all aspects of the outreach program's administration, including budgets, attendance tracking, and online presence
- Supervises team of 13 science instructors
- Designs, organizes, and delivers teacher professional development workshops
- Collaborates with AWRI scientists on multidisciplinary projects

Dance Exchange, *Partnering Artist*.

2018 - present

- Co-lead artist on *Future Fields*, an exploration of climate change and agriculture in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Multi-year interdisciplinary performance investigation starting Fall 2020. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.
 - Served as faculty of Dance Exchange's inaugural Climate Institute, focused on the role of artmaking and creative engagement within the climate movement. Summer 2023.
 - Collaborating on *Moving Farm Tours*, an integrated dance performance, science engagement, and guided tour of urban food growing. Piloted at Sankofa Farms (Philadelphia, 2024) and Eco City Farms (Bladensburg, MD, 2023).
 - Co-led "Research Reimagined," an interdisciplinary engagement series exploring the soil microbiome and ways of presenting microbiology research. Commissioned by the American Society for Microbiology, 2023 & 2021.
 - Co-led "Moving Field Guide: A kinesthetic approach to environmental education," and "Dancing your environment," lecture/demonstrations on art and science tools to integrate movement into place-based learning at schools. W.K. Kellogg Biological Research Station's K-12 Partnership, Michigan State University, Summer 2021.
 - Co-led online teaching residency, University of Idaho Dance Department, Fall 2020.
- Curatorial lead and performer in *Remembering Water's Way*, an animated nature walk at the Schuylkill Center, 2018.
- Collaborator on performances during Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens' Lotus and Lily Festival, National Park Service, 2018.

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, *Director of Environmental Art*. Philadelphia, PA February 2014 - July 2020

- Oversaw all aspects of a rich environmental arts program at a 340-acre nature center within the city limits. Lead creative projects that support the mission to inspire meaningful connections with nature.
- Curated and implemented indoor and outdoor exhibitions which interpret current topics in environmental science & conservation. Lead the process from concept development and artist selection through planning and installation.
- Developed and managed programming in support of exhibitions, including opening receptions, workshops, and lectures.
- Managed LandLab, a residency where artists explore remediation of environmental issues on the Center's property in collaboration with scientists, staff, and other experts. Supported artists and facilitated projects on site.
- Collaborated closely with Communications staff on marketing and promoting exhibitions through various media.
- Led fundraising for the art program, including researching, writing, and managing grants.
- Served on senior staff team, the leadership team that guided the operations and policies of the organization.
- Coordinated integration of art across the organization, contributing to key efforts like Master & Strategic Plans.
- Hired and supervised Exhibition Coordinator staff member and environmental art department interns.

Brown University Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL), *Instructor*, Providence, RI 2002-2016, 2021-2024

- Worked and taught at 12 day summer outdoor residential pre-college program, offering experiential education and inquiry-based academic learning to empower students to enact social change in their communities.
- Developed and taught online course for Summer@Brown titled "You Can't Spell 'Earth' without 'Art': Art & Environmental Leadership" from 2021-2024.

Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River (AWE), Senior Project Strategist.

2017-2021

- Served as lead of steering committee for *Lenapehoking~Watershed*, a public art project to build relationships between communities, local waterways, and the 23 nature centers in the AWE network. Guided project from concept through three years of planning and fundraising. Wrote and managed \$650,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation, the lead funding of the project. Continued to serve as project advisor as the project was implemented and evaluated in 2021.

Environmental Leadership Program, Senior Fellow

2018

- Participated in 2018 cohort of the ELP's Delaware River Watershed Network.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Physical Scientist, Philadelphia, PA

July 2010- February 2014

- Water Protection Division, Office of Program Support. Science communication work emphasized making key environmental information, messaging, and data understandable to the public and available to internal staff.
- Coordinated social media outreach. Designed and updated Water Protection websites.
- Managed the Healthy Waters Blog, a public blog focusing on water issues in the Mid Atlantic Region.
- Created GIS and geospatial projects, performing spatial analysis, and creating maps to inform decision-making.

SELECTED ART & ECOLOGY PROJECTS (more available in website portfolio)

***Illusions of Grandeur*, Grand Rapids, MI**

June 2021

- Conceived, choreographed, and directed short modern dance film at Fish Ladder Park on the banks of the Grand River.
- Selected for screening at the 2021 Gifts for the River Film Festival at Central Michigan University.

***Field Notes on Remembering*, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA**

Spring 2019

- Co-created animated nature walk experience with modern dance elements exploring the ginkgo tree, deep time, memory, fossils, and related themes. Performed on site at the largest ginkgo tree in North America.

Signal Fire, Mt. Hood National Forest, OR; Superstition Mountains, AZ

August 2018, March 2019

- Participant in juried trip, *Writing in the Pulse*, focused on writing in response to cataclysmic change in the landscape; as well as juried alumni trip. Signal Fire provides opportunities for artists to engage with nature through facilitated wilderness treks.

Works on Water Artist Cohort, New York, NY

August 2018, October 2019

- Participant in artist residency on Governors Island, for artists whose interest or practice involves a deep investment in working on, in, and with bodies of water as both site and material. Explored New York waterways and climate change.

Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, Santa Fe, NM

March 2017

- Awarded month-long artist residency under theme of Water Rights to develop choreography, visual art works, and integrated curriculum planning around modern dance and southwest river system morphology.

SciArt Bridge Residency, virtual residency, SciArt Center

Fall 2016

- Participant in cross-disciplinary residency program pairing artists and scientists. With remote sensing scientist David Lagomasino, developed choreography to music derived from geophysical data around the Susquehanna River.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **The Meandering and Managed Mississippi**, with Jessica Norriss. Co-created new map of historic and current channels of the Mississippi River. Developed for *Water: An Atlas*, Guerilla Cartography, 2017.
- **Globalization: The Crucial Phase**, Brian Spooner, ed. Co-author to Chapter 15: *Academically Based Community Service Learning*, with Joseph S. Sun, John D. Keegan, Megan Dougherty; Penn Engineers Without Borders. 2015.
- **Masters Project Design**, May 2010. "Pennypack Creek Stream Assessment Survey: Sandyford Run Subwatershed." Worked with Philadelphia Water Department.
- **Teaching Assistant**: Introduction to Environmental Analysis (Fall 2008), Introduction to Hydrology (Fall 2009), Green City, Clean Waters: Using water science, politics and outreach to create a more sustainable Philadelphia (Spring 2010).
- **Undergraduate Thesis**, May 2008. "The Role of Transboundary River Systems in Political Conflict and Cooperation."
- National Science Foundation Research for Undergraduates program, Luquillo Long Term Ecological Research Station (LTER). Conducted hydrological research in the tropical rainforest of Puerto Rico, 10 weeks, Summer 2007.

OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Highly proficient in Microsoft Office and Google Suite; Trained in use of ArcGIS; Michigan Master Naturalist (2020); City of Philadelphia Registered Tree Tender (2008); Extremely strong writing, speaking, research, and planning abilities; Fast and curious learner; Creative thinker and maker; Proficient in Italian; Beginning Spanish and American Sign Language.