



## **Helen Lessick**

HelenLessick.net

c.v. 2024

Los Angeles, CA

Helen Lessick is an artist and public art consultant, specializing in artist-led public programs, policies, procedures and projects. She seeks and develops opportunities to empower arts in the public square.

### EDUCATION

Masters of Fine Art in Studio Art, University of California, Irvine

Bachelor of Art in Art, Reed College, Portland, OR

### SKILLS

- Art administrator with broad experience in community art policies and public engagement practices
- Excellent administrative, fiscal and organizational skills
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills
- Specializing in public art programs and project commissions
- Published writer, accomplished presenter and experienced facilitator
- Working studio and public art practices

### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Civic Arts Consultant

1989- current

Public art plans, policies, program development and project and exhibition management for clients including:

Cities of Austin, TX; Carlsbad, CA; Dublin, OH; Norfolk, VA; Oklahoma City, OK; Portland, OR; San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Tacoma, WA; Ventura, CA; States of Oregon and Washington; Institutions including Portland State University; Socrates Sculpture Park; United Indians of All Tribes; University of Southern California.

City of Inglewood, CA Art Consultant

2012 – 2024

Planning and facilitation of all phases of art policies, programs and projects, developing annual artists' program for permanent, temporary and performed works to activate civic spaces; art collection standards, descriptions, accession numbers; led assessment of Civic Center art works; oversaw conservator treatments. Inaugurated a public art education web site drawing on civic and commercial art and architecture as [Inglewoodpublicart.org](http://Inglewoodpublicart.org).

Director of Civic Art + Design

2008 – 2009

Houston Arts Alliance, TX

Lead staff for public art planning and commissions for the non-profit organization contracted by the City of Houston. Developed program, projects and annual work plan; hired, trained and managed staff of five; issued RFQs for artists and contractors. Created monthly work and fiscal reports. Managed \$5M contract commissions regional and international artists. Developed 3 exhibits and 4 panels on public art; oversaw conservation and maintenance of City art collection. Reported to Board and committees monthly.

### MASTERPLANS and PUBLIC ART PLANS

City of Dublin Public Art Masterplan, Dublin Arts Council, Dublin, OH, 2019, 2024

Public Art Annual Plan, City of Inglewood, CA, 2015, 2016, 2017

Houston Arts Alliance Civic Art + Design Annual Plan, Houston, TX, 2009

Waterfront Park Master Plan, public art within EDAW master plan, City of Portland, OR. 2002

Public Art/Portland State University, public art plan with M. Taylor & C. Lee, Oregon Arts Commission, 1992

Artists Opportunities in Transit Facilities, Metro Art, Metro Regional Transit, Seattle, WA. 1991

## REPORTS & ASSESSMENTS

It Takes A Village: Inglewood, Arts Engagement in American Communities, National Endowment for the Arts, 2022  
Scissortail Park and Convention Center Artists' Opportunities, City of Oklahoma City, OK, 2017 - 2019  
Collection Assessment, Recommendations for Collection & Policy Analyses, City of Austin, TX, 2009  
Public Art: Artists' Handbook, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, San Diego, CA, 2008  
Master of Public Art Studies Internship Program: Enhanced Goals & Guidelines, University of Southern California, Roski School of Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA. 2007  
Public Art Collection Memorabilia & Monuments Assessment, Cultural Affairs Department, Norfolk, VA. 2007  
Program Assessment and Opportunities, USC School of Fine Art: Graduate Program in Public Art 2006  
Waterfront Park Master Plan, public art section, EDAW master plan, City of Portland, OR. 2003  
Metro Art Collection Annual Assessment, LACMTA, Los Angeles. 2003, 2004.  
King County Art Collection Annual Assessment, Seattle, WA. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998  
Artists Opportunities in Transit Facilities, Metro Art, Metro Regional Transit, Seattle, WA. 1991

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS and ARTS WRITING

'20 Years of Making: Inglewood Percent for the Arts, 2004 – 2024.' 152 pgs. Published by City of Inglewood, 2024.  
'Beta Test; San José's Mineta International Airport,' Public Art Review Issue #44, St. Paul, MN. 2011  
'Golden State Alchemy,' Public Art Review Issue #33, J. Becker, ed. St. Paul, MN, 2005  
'Greening of Ventura's Public Art,' Cultural Affairs Quarterly, City of Ventura, CA, Spring 2007  
'Ground Work: Restoring R. Morris' earthwork,' in Conservation and Maintenance of Contemporary Public Art, Hafthor Yngvason, Editor; Archetype Publications, Cambridge, MA, 2002  
'Inglewood Arts and Culture Walking Tours,' Inglewoodpublicart.org, Inglewood, CA, 2022  
'Process and Product: Palimpsest at Art Basel Miami Beach,' Surface Design Journal, Sebastopol, CA. 2010  
'Public Art for Community Change,' chapter in Building Communities, Not Audiences, Dr. Doug Borwick, editor. Arts Engaged, Winston-Salem, NC 2012  
Public Art 101: section contributor, Barbara Goldstein, editor. Americans for the Arts, 2002. Reprinted 2007  
'Putting the Artist in Public Art,' International Sculpture Center, Sculpture on-line, Glenn Harper, editor. April, 2015  
'Still I'll Rise: Public Art in the Time of Furloughs,' Public Art Review Issue #44. Spring 2011  
'You're in the Public Now,' Sculpture on-line, G. Harper, ed. Washington, D.C., October 2010

## SELECT PANELS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

2024: Presenter, Public Art and Ideas, ArtX Creative Flagstaff, Flagstaff, AZ  
2024: Advisor, Web Resources for Art in Public with University of Michigan Information Science graduate program  
2022: Juror, Public Art commission for Venice Community Housing, Santa Monica, CA  
2018 - 2019: Juror, Public Art Commissions for Scissortail Park & Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK  
2017: Panelist, Arts Organization Operational Grants, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, CA  
2013: Co-juror, 'Year in Review,' Florida Public Art Coalition, FL  
2010: Co-juror, 'Year in Review,' Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts, Baltimore, MD  
2008: Juror, 'Zone 5 in the City,' site-related environmental art projects, Arroyo Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
2007: Juror, Commission for Downtown Civic Space, Public Art Program, City of Phoenix, AZ  
2005: Juror, Promenade Public Art commission, Santa Monica Arts Commission, Santa Monica, CA  
2004 - 2007: Silver Lake Parks and Open Space Committee, Los Angeles, CA  
2003: Juror, Main Street Promenade Public Art Commission, City of Ventura, CA  
1995 - 2002: Art Committee, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA  
1991 - 2000: Advisory Board, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, NY

## BIOGRAPHICAL

Helen Lessick was born in Philadelphia, PA and educated in the American west. A creative catalyst, she participates in contemporary public art and culture programs across the United States from her Los Angeles offices.