



**HELEN LESSICK**

**CV 2021**

SKILLS

- Civic arts catalyst expert in art projects and programs
- Excellent administrative, fiscal and organizational skills
- Outstanding communication skills: written & verbal presentations
- Staff management including hiring, training, retaining arts workers
- Experienced in reports and grant management
- Expert in art program management, policy and temporary and permanent art projects
- Art collection manager and curator, with planning and object assessment expertise
- Expert authority file development and archiving of digital assets

EXPERIENCE

Public Art Manager 2012 - current  
City of Inglewood, CA

Planning and implementing of all phases of public art program and project development for this small, multi-cultural community lacking a cultural arts department. Through a series of annual contracts, I developed civic initiatives for facility construction; artists' projects; collection records and standards; partnered with regional governments and institutions on public art presentations; led assessment of Civic Center art works and oversaw conservation treatments. Developed on-line public art education materials for civic and private art and architecture as [inglewoodpublicart.org](http://inglewoodpublicart.org), and wrote local, state and federal grants for Artist Residencies exploring community diversity.

Civic Arts Consultant 1989- current

Planning, policies, program and project development and temporary exhibits for clients including: Cities of Austin, TX; Carlsbad, CA; Dublin, OH Norfolk, VA; Portland, OR; San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Tacoma, WA; Ventura, CA. States of Oregon and Washington. Institutions: Kounkuey Design Initiative; Pilgrim School; Portland State University; United Indians of All Tribes; University of Southern California.

Director of Civic Art + Design 2008 - 2009  
Houston Arts Alliance, TX

Lead staff for public art planning, conservation and commissions 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 diverse public art collection.

Senior Contracts Manager 2004 - 2005  
The J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, CA

Managed contracts for international conservation and research services for the cultural non-profit; tracked contract performance and payments; supervised one employee.

- Metro Art Senior Public Art Officer/Collection Manager 2002 - 2004  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority CA  
Developed public art transit planning for projects; lead staff for conservation and maintenance of agency art collection, created exhibits and interpretive materials for diverse general audiences.
- Gallery Manager & Public Art Collection Manager 1994 - 1998  
King County Office of Cultural Resources, Seattle, WA  
Managed the municipal art gallery program of contemporary exhibitions and the County art collections of portable and permanent works in municipal facilities cross the 4,000 square miles. Major conservation of the 1979 Robert Morris earthwork won national recognition from the Smithsonian Institute. Oversaw staff of 3.
- Project Manager 1990 - 1993  
Art in Public Places Program, Washington State Arts Commission  
Managed all aspects of public art commissions in Departments of Corrections, Labor & Industry, and small colleges. Supported regional art purchases and installed artworks and labels.
- Project Facilitator 1985 - 1990  
Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, NY  
Assisted artists in the creation and placement of temporary, site-related sculptures in a 5-acre riverfront lot. Participated in curatorial reviews; inaugurated facility archive; managed indoor gallery program. Worked with co-founders Mark diSuvero and Noguchi Studio team.

#### RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- Feb. 2021: 'Public Art | Public Action,' United Arts Council of Collier County, Naples, FL (*scheduled*)  
April 2019: 'The Sweeper Project,' Cypress College Art Gallery, Cypress, CA  
Oct. 2017: Moderator and Panelist, 'Art and Forest Resources,' Pinckey Center for the Arts, Bend, OR  
April 2016: Presenter, Creative Catalysts, Glassell Park Community Center, Los Angeles, CA  
Sept. 2015: Presenter, International Public Art (IPA.org), Shandong University, Jinan, China  
July 2015: Presenter, International Public Art Awards, University of Auckland, New Zealand  
June 2014: Co-presenter, 'The Future of Public Art,' Public Art Network, Nashville, TN  
Spring 2014: Curator and Moderator, Accumulation + Action: Public Art collection management, 4-part webinar, Americans for the Arts/Public Art Network, Washington, D.C.  
April 2013: Moderator, Visual Resourcefulness and the Public Art Challenge, Visual Resources Association national conference, Providence, RI  
May 2012: Panelist: 'Artists Advocate for the Environment,' Gershman Y Galleries, Philadelphia, PA  
Sept. 2011: 'Creative Processing,' Lewis + Clark College, Portland, OR  
June 2011: 'Artist-Initiated Projects,' panelist, Public Art Network, San Diego, CA  
April 2009: 'Systems of Sustainability' panelist, University of Houston, TX.  
Oct. 2008: 'Public Art: Site & Context,' International Sculpture Center conference, Grand Rapids, MI.  
Jan. 2008: "Memorials & Monuments' panelist, State of the Arts conference, Richmond, VA  
Oct. 2005: "Temporal Projects, University of Southern California, School of Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
March 2005: "Physical Thinking," Central Oregon Community College, Bend, OR.  
April 2002: "Resident Houses," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA.  
Oct. 2001: "Ground Work: Maintaining Robert Morris' untitled Earthwork" Cambridge Arts Council, MA  
"The Temporary and Ephemeral in Public Art," Seattle Arts Commission, conference. WA

## RECENT REPORTS & ASSESSMENTS

Artists' Handbook: Public Art Program, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, San Diego, CA. 2008  
Collection Assessment, Recommendations for Collection & Policy Analyses, City of Austin, TX. 2009  
Dublin Public Art Master Plan, Dublin Arts Council, Dublin, OH, 2019  
Inglewood Public Art Annual Plan, City of Inglewood, CA. 2014 - 2018  
Master of Public Art Studies Internships: Enhanced Goals & Guidelines,  
University of Southern California, Roski School of Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA. 2007.  
Public Art Collection Memorabilia & Monuments Assessment, Cultural Affairs, 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 and 2004

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS and ARTS WRITING

'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  
'Inglewoodpublicart.org,' community public art education website, with Stuart Allen Art Services, City of Inglewood, CA 2019  
'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/Private: a blueprint for temporary public art projects. Tacoma Arts Commission, WA. 1994  
Public Art 101: multiple articles, Seattle Arts Commission, Barbara Goldstein, editor. May 1999. Reprinted  
'Putting the Artist in Public Art,' International Sculpture Center, Sculpture on-line, April, 2015  
'Still I'll Rise: Public Art in the Time of Furloughs," Public Art Review Issue #44. Spring 2011  
Voice of Experience, monthly arts and culture articles, City of Inglewood, CA. 2015 - 2019  
'You're in the Public Now," Sculpture on-line, G. Harper, ed. Washington, D.C., October 2010

## CURATION

'Civic Duty: Building Art, Building Houston," Houston Center for the Arts, TX. Maquettes and drawings for nine public art projects in progress with Houston Arts Alliance, Feb. 2009.

Ida Appelbroog: solo exhibition of paintings, works on paper, Vollum Gallery, Reed College, Portland, OR. Works borrowed from private collectors and Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York. Autumn 1989.

King County Art Gallery Exhibition series. Managed 44 solo exhibitions by regional visual artists through a program developed to give practitioners their first solo show. Advised four historical institutes on annual History Month exhibitions. King County Arts Commission, Seattle, WA 1994- 98.

Love, Inglewood Portable Public Art Collection, City of Inglewood, CA. 2020

Michael Knutson: Recent Works, by the Northwest painter, Reed College, Portland, OR. Spring 1990.

'More Than Words Can Say: Lettered Paintings, Texted Sculpture," 6-artist show, Soil, Seattle, WA.

“Paradise Regained: Visionary Ecology and the Terrain of Ideals’ Center for the Arts/Eagle Rock, Los Angeles CA. 6-person exhibition of southern California environmental artists. Spring 2007.

“Salmon in the City,” Seattle Arts Commission, WA. Multi-site, 15-part exhibition created over 10 week period to explore the impact of the federal listing of salmon as an endangered species in Seattle. 2001.

‘Sculptors at Work,’ Vollum Gallery. 2-person exhibit of small sculpture and drawings by Jodi Pinto and Richard Nonas. Reed College, Portland, OR. Works from the artists’ studios. Winter 1989.

#### SELECT BOARDS, COMMITTEES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

2018 - 2019: Juror, Public Art Commissions for Convention Center + Scissortail Park, Oklahoma City, OK

2017: Juror, 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

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.

#### RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Americans for the Arts

Friends of the Los Angeles River

International Sculpture Center

Public Art Coalition of Southern California

Socrates Sculpture Park

#### EDUCATION

University of California/Irvine • Master of Fine Art in Studio Art 1982

Reed College, Portland, Oregon • Bachelor of Art in Studio Art 1976

#### BIOGRAPHICAL

Born in Philadelphia, Helen was educated in the American west. She participates in civic art programs and artists’ projects across the United States and in Europe, Asia and Africa. She is based in Los Angeles.

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