

Maria P. Tuttle

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Professional Profile

As a dedicated educator, writer, and artist of color based in Richmond, California, I have a strong foundation in the arts, coupled with a deep commitment to social justice and community empowerment. With a BFA from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, I possess a solid technical training in art that continues to inform my identity as an artist and educator. As a Colombian-American immigrant, I dedicated over a decade to my role as a full-time English faculty member at Los Medanos College. I developed and implemented innovative curricula that centered on holistic, social-emotional learning and fostered resilience among marginalized students. My experience in curriculum development, program design, and leadership has equipped me with the skills to create effective and engaging educational programs. Beyond my academic interests, I have a passion for using the arts as a tool for social change. My leadership experience includes founding and directing both Sketch Odyssey East Bay and the Children's Art Studio Richmond / Taller de Arte Para Niños Richmond. These programs provide accessible arts education to historically excluded children and families, demonstrating my commitment to fostering creative expression and community engagement in the Richmond community. My commitment to community engagement, social justice, and cultural equity drives my work as an educator, artist, and community leader. I am dedicated to using my skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on the lives of others and to create more equitable and inclusive communities.

Relevant Work Experience

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR | CHILDREN'S ART STUDIO RICHMOND | MAY 2023 – PRESENT

Mission & Description: [Children's Art Studio Richmond / Taller de Arte Para Niños Richmond](#) provides free, high-quality, bilingual art education to underserved children (ages 2-5) and their families in Richmond, CA, nurturing creativity, fostering social-emotional development, and strengthening community bonds.

Evidence of Leadership & Impact:

- Successfully secured major grants from prestigious organizations such as the California Arts Council, Chamberlin Education Foundation, and Richmond Arts & Culture Commission.
- Cultivated strong partnerships with key community organizations to identify funding opportunities, secure endorsements for grant proposals, and engage potential donors, significantly enhancing fundraising efforts.
- Demonstrated a strong commitment to community impact by increasing access to arts education for historically excluded communities, fostering children's creative expression and social-emotional development, and strengthening family engagement.
- Successfully served over 100 children and families in 2024.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Program Oversight:**
 - Oversee all aspects of program operations, including program design, implementation, and evaluation.
 - Develop and manage project budgets, ensuring responsible resource allocation and financial transparency.
 - Develop and implement engaging, culturally-responsive bilingual curriculum aligned with California Arts Standards and early childhood development best practices.
 - Create and maintain an online resource library of art activities, educational materials, and community resources for families.
- **Community Engagement & Partnerships:**
 - Cultivate and maintain strong relationships with community partners, including building and managing an advisory board comprised of local artists, early childhood educators, and community leaders to inform and evaluate program impact.
 - Lead marketing and outreach efforts, including website development and maintenance, creation of bilingual marketing materials, and active engagement with local arts, civic, and business organizations.
- **Fundraising & Grant Writing:**
 - Successfully secure major grants from public funders such as the California Arts Council and Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, and private funders such as the Chamberlin Education Foundation and the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation.
 - Develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy to secure individual, corporate, and foundation support.
 - Write compelling grant proposals and reports to support fundraising efforts.
- **Professional Development & Evaluation:**
 - Design and deliver impactful, learner-centered professional development experiences for early childhood educators.
 - Conduct ongoing program evaluation by collecting and analyzing data from student participation, family feedback, and partner collaborations to inform program improvements.

Children's Art Studio Richmond: Sponsors & Community Partners

California Arts Council	Independent Arts & Media (fiscal sponsor)
Richmond Arts & Culture Commission	Richmond Museum of History & Culture
Chamberlin Education Foundation	West County First 5 Center
Parker Foundation	
Richmond Rotary	

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP | INDEPENDENT ARTS & MEDIA | MAY 2023 – PRESENT

Relationship: With the support of [Independent Arts & Media](#) as the fiscal sponsor for my nonprofit

organization, Children’s Art Studio Richmond / Taller de Arte Para Niños Richmond, I am responsible for managing my organization’s strategic direction, including curriculum development and implementation, project budgeting, marketing and communication, and grant writing.

Accomplishments:

- Developed a mission / vision to establish a children’s art studio program to serve historically excluded children and families in Richmond, CA
- Developed a robust fundraising strategy to include public grants, private foundations, corporate sponsors, and local businesses
- Built a strong reputation within the Richmond community as a leading provider of high-quality arts education for children and families.
- Assumed a leadership role within Independent Arts & Media, joining their Board of Directors in 2024. In this capacity, I am actively involved in guiding the organization's strategic direction and contributing to the development of best practices for fiscal sponsorship.

FOUNDER & LEAD ARTIST | SKETCH ODYSSEY EAST BAY | JUNE 2020 – PRESENT

Description: [Sketch Odyssey East Bay](#) workshops invite participants to sketch and paint out-of-doors or ‘en plein air’ with locations curated to allow students to experience the uniqueness of local places and spaces. Workshops combine art instruction with opportunities to create community while encouraging students to begin an arts practice of their own.

Accomplishments & Impact:

- Successfully established and led a series of outdoor sketching workshops for individuals of all ages and skill levels.
- Curated a diverse range of inspiring outdoor locations for workshops, showcasing the unique character of the East Bay landscape.
- Cultivated meaningful partnerships with local businesses and community organizations to increase accessibility and affordability for participants. These partnerships have included securing discounted art supplies and offering scholarships to reduce barriers to participation.
- Served an average of 10 community members per workshop, introducing them to the joys of outdoor sketching and fostering a love of art and the natural world.

Sketch Odyssey East Bay: Community & Local Business Partners

ARCH Art Supplies, San Francisco, CA	City of Orinda, Parks and Recreation, Orinda, CA
The Art Room, Lafayette, CA	Flax Art & Design, Oakland, CA
Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), San Francisco, CA	

Relevant Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

ADDITIONAL GRANT WRITING

Organization: Delta Association of Realtors, CA

March 2023 – May 2023

- To support Association's application to the California Association of Realtors' Housing Affordability Fund (HAF), designed and drafted grant focused on increasing housing affordability for underserved and under-resourced, first-time home buyers in the California's Delta Region.
 - **Applicable skills:** project management, technical writing, research, meeting facilitation, presentation design, marketing and communication strategy design

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Project: Restorative Justice Curriculum, [Oakland Leaf Foundation](#)

Feb 2019 – June 2019

- Designed an integrated and comprehensive program curriculum based on Restorative Justice theory, frameworks and best practices.
- Conducted stakeholder interviews and action-based research as well as co-designed key principles of the curriculum with on-the-ground practitioners.
- Facilitated materials in an experiential training for program staff to engage with the curriculum and to inform implementation of future programming.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

- Story Shares, "Tommy Ann," 2018, <https://www.amazon.com/Tommy-Ann-Maria-Tuttle/dp/1642615846>
- Sketch Odyssey East Bay, "Arts Blog," 2020 – present, <https://www.mariaptuttle.com/blog>
 - **Applicable skills:** web design, writing, social media, and e-news

RELEVANT SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, Asana and various project management tools and platforms.
- Experience working in web design, social media platforms, donor management platforms, and video conferencing applications.
- Abilities to quickly learn and apply any new software and / or technology that may be required.

Professional Development

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IEP AMBASSADOR PROGRAM | 2019 | INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS & PEACE

- Increased understanding of strategies to communicate initiatives centered on peace through a project-based application of Global and Positive Peace Indices.
- Strengthened international network by connecting with global peacemakers with interests in building sustainable peace.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PEACE STUDIES | 2016 | CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK, THAILAND

- Awarded peace fellowship through [Rotary International](#) to attend a 3-month program consisting of interconnected trainings focused on conflict resolution, mediation practices, trauma management and transformative / restorative justice frameworks.

- Post fellowship served as a thought partner for Women Peacemakers Cambodia where I designed gender equity, anti-violence and non-violent communication programming for educators in rural Cambodia.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Artist-in-Residence, Chateau Orquevaux, Orquevaux, France

May 2023

Stonehouse Residency for Contemporary Arts, Miramonte, CA

July 2015

GALLERY EXPERIENCE

- Gallery 2727, Berkeley, CA | Member since 2023
 - As Curatorial Co-Lead, I have contributed to the gallery's exhibition program, curating and participating in two recent group shows: "Secret Garden" (March, 2024) and "Gold" (September, 2024). This experience has allowed me to hone my curatorial expertise and contribute to the vibrant art scene in the Bay Area.

Additional Work Experience

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT | JOBS FOR THE FUTURE | JAN. 2018 – DEC. 2022

- Provided strategic analysis, design, facilitation, and project leadership for the Inclusive Regional Economic Development unit's work with the California Community Colleges' Chancellor's Office as well as the unit's broader postsecondary education portfolio and partnerships.
- Managed consultation, writing and planning of project deliverables for partners and funders.
- Organized and facilitated small and large group meetings, trainings and/or strategic planning sessions.
- Designed and conducted primary and secondary research, field interviews, focus groups, and policy analysis.
- Collaborated with project team members to design and test new hypotheses, theories of change, strategic plans, frameworks and visual models to illustrate complex systems and processes.
- Developed work plans and managed project teams to provide guidance, direction and support for team members.
- Interfaced with all areas affected by the project, including funders, partners and consultants.

ENGLISH PROFESSOR & PUENTE PROGRAM LEAD | LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE | JULY 2007 – JULY 2016

- Served as full-time, tenured English Professor, designing and delivering engaging curriculum for diverse student populations.
- Led the Puente Program, a comprehensive learning community designed to increase the success of Latinx students transferring to four-year universities. This included:
 - Developing and implementing academic and career pathways for Puente students, incorporating peer-to-peer support, student services, and professional mentors.
 - Collaborating with faculty, staff, and administrators to create a supportive and culturally responsive learning environment.
 - Leading workshops and activities to enhance students' academic skills, cultural awareness, and personal development.

- Took on a leadership role within the campus community, serving on numerous committees and initiatives focused on student success, curriculum development, and faculty professional development.

ARTS-BASED COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES DEVELOPED & TAUGHT

- *Themes in Mesoamerican Culture Through Ceramics*
- *Introduction to Gender Studies*
- *Modernist Paris: Artists and Intellectuals (1890 – 1950)*

Awards & Recognition

QUICK GRANT | CENTER FOR CULTURAL INNOVATION | FEB. 2023 – SEPT. 2023

- Awarded grant to support professional development for artist's business, **Sketch Odyssey East Bay**
- Activities focus on developing administrative capacity, sharpening business skills, and strengthening the financial resilience of the grantee's practice and area of cultural production.

PEACE FELLOWSHIP | ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION | JULY 2016

- Awarded Rotary International Peace Fellowship to attend a 3-month program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Established an understanding of strategies to communicate initiatives centered on peace through project-based application of positive peace frameworks.
- Strengthened international network by connecting with global peacemakers with interest in building sustainable peace.

EAST BAY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR | LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE | MAY 2012

- Recognized for outstanding contributions to student success, particularly for developing and implementing innovative and culturally relevant learning experiences that centered on social justice and community involvement.

Professional Affiliations & Community Service

RICHMOND ROTARY CLUB | JOINED FEBRUARY 2024 – PRESENT

- Dedicated to serving the Richmond community by participating in projects focused on community arts.

EL CERRITO ART ASSOCIATION | JANUARY 2023 – JULY 2023

- Served as a key member of the program committee to support the development of arts programming for Association members

Education

MFA | 2005 | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, EL PASO

- Major: Creative Writing / Minor: Border Studies
- Related coursework: *Literature and Methodology in Borderlands History, Studies in Borderlands History, Seminar in Cultural, Linguistic and Political Borders*
- GPA: 3.93

MA | 2002 | UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, CINCINNATI, OH

- Major: Comparative Literature / Minor: Creative Writing
- Related coursework: *Pre-Columbian Art History II*
- GPA: 4.0

BFA | 1997 | ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI, CINCINNATI, OH

- Double Major: Fine Art & Art History
- GPA: 3.68