

DAN MANZANARES, MFA

LITERARY ARTS ENTREPRENEUR

“Literary Arts Community Leader since 2012”

Highly collaborative, enthusiastic, and organized self-starter who is also a sensitive teacher, public speaker, and an excellent writer. Flexible, goal-driven, and a programmatic innovator who enjoys creating positive and inspiring relationships with all community members.

Integral in transforming nonprofit from being "Denver's best kept secret" to an award-winning and nationally recognized arts center for literary community engagement.

Areas of expertise:

- Community engagement
- Project management
- Volunteer coordination
- Donor cultivation and fundraising
- Strategic partnerships
- Event planning
- Public speaking and presenting
- Teaching

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, Denver, CO

Chair	September 2023 – Present
Co-Chair	September 2022 – August 2023
Commissioner	July 2021 – August 2022

The Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs is a citizen group appointed by the mayor to act as an advisory board to Denver Arts & Venues’ cultural programs department. The Commission was established in 1991 to support the mayor and serve as four major roles: oversee the 1% of capital improvement dedicated to the Public Art Program, serve as trustees of Denver’s cultural plan, advise on arts and cultural issues, and act as ambassadors to the community.

WRITING COACH, Denver, CO & Online March 2022 – Present

Story Map Instructor

Using an innovative storytelling model the Story Map, novelists and memoirists are guided to finish their book-length projects. No matter what genre they work in, or where they are in their writing process—from first concept to final draft—the Story Map delivers breakthrough understanding of how to write a meaningful and publishable story.

WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY, Gunnison, CO & Online January – July 2024

Graduate Program in Creative Writing Alumni Coordinator

Responsible for activating alumni initiatives for all MFA and MA-holding graduates from all GPCW concentrations since the program’s 2010 inception. Alumni Coordinator curates an alumni database, plans events, engages community, and manages Summer Alumni Residency.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER PRISON ARTS INITIATIVE, Denver, CO
Development and Communications Manager

2020 – 2022

Cultivated donors and conducted fundraising campaigns. Researched funding sources and identified prospects. Oversaw the development of fundraising plans. Wrote and applied for grants and worked with DU's Advancement Director when appropriate. Managed outward communications and shaped DU PAI's narrative to all external stakeholders by recognizing donors, managing DU PAI's four websites, newsletter communication, email, office mail, and social media. Managed appropriate staff such as work studies, interns, and Operations Manager.

Managed outside programs and projects. Fielded meetings from outside partners and when appropriate was first contact for organization. Worked in partnership with staff, educators, partner organizations, incarcerated participants, and DU PAI's Director of Research to gather stories and statistics that demonstrated the organization's work to funders and the general public.

STORY QUEST: COSTA RICA, Nosara, Costa Rica
Instructor

2018 – 2022

Provided 30-plus hours of master storytelling instruction over seven days in Nosara, Costa Rica. Taught novelists and memoirists the foundational elements of story that move manuscripts from slush piles to bookshelves. Boasted the ultimate writing adventure: a synergetic combination of life-changing vacation and transformational learning.

LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP, Denver, CO
Community Programs Manager

2012 – 2020

Responsible for building literary community through the successful implementation of several community writing programs: Friday 500; Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community; Hard Times Writing Workshop; Writing to be Free; Writing the West; Colorado Resiliency Arts Lab; Drop-In Writing; Writing with Cancer; The Write Age; and Unlocked Poetry. Ensured the success of workshops and events that engaged adult communities that have been traditionally underserved, including people experiencing homelessness, incarcerated individuals, health care providers in intensive care units, older adults, and those in recovery. Celebrated—and told the story of—the rich diversity and talent of these communities, showcasing Lighthouse's inclusive and inspiring heart, thereby making the organization a cornerstone of Colorado's culture.

Managed community engagement faculty and hundreds of volunteers, while reporting directly to Lighthouse's Executive Director.

HOW TO TELL A GREAT STORY, Denver, CO
Instructor

2018 – 2019

Taught high-quality hour-long or half-day storytelling workshops for history museum docents and historic preservation society's walking tour guides. The goal of these workshops was to deepen foundational storytelling knowledge for volunteers and staff interacting with the public. Clients included Historic Denver and Aurora History Museum.

PUBLICATIONS

- Manzanares, Dan. MONUMENTAL: Reflective Writing Workshop. Black Cube, A Nomadic Art Museum 2015-2020. Mingus, Ashley, ed. Black Cube, 2020. Pages 270-271, 307, 319.
- Manzanares, Daniel, et al. *Creative Arts Therapy as a Potential Intervention to Prevent Burnout and Build Resilience in Health Care Professionals*. AACN Advanced Critical Care. Volume 31, Issue 2, Pages 118-128, Summer 2020.
- Manzanares, Dan and Smith, Suzi Q., editors. *All the Lives We Ever Lived: A Lighthouse Community Anthology Volume 1*. Lighthouse Writers Workshop, 2019.
- *Write Denver Toolkit*. Creative Exchange & Springboard for the Arts, 2018.
- “Icon”. Suspect Press, Issue 11, Summer 2016.
- “House Rules of the Erl-King”. Write, I See. The Art Students League of Denver, 2014.
- “The Grip”. Honolulu: Hawaii Pacific Review Vol.18, 2004.

EDITOR

- *Tell It Slant: An Anthology of Creative Nonfiction by Writers from Colorado’s Prisons*
June – July 2021
- *Imagining Worlds: An Anthology of Plays by Artists from Colorado’s Prisons*
August – December 2020
- *Sojourn: The Search – A Daily Journal from the University of Denver’s Prison Arts Initiative*
July – December 2020
- *Unlocked Poetry: with Professor Wayne A. Gilbert and The Lyrical Vagabonds*
March – April 2019
- *All the Lives We Ever Lived: A Lighthouse Writers Workshop’s Anthology, Volume 1*
October 2018 – February 2019
- *Writing the West, Volumes 1-4*
June to July 2016 – 2019
- *The Collective Unheard: Works from The Gathering Place Writers’ Group*
August 2018
- *Identity-Perception-Distortion: Bridges to Branches, Volume 2*
October 2017
- *Bridges to Branches, Volume 1: Young Authors Collective & Friday 500*
October 2016
- *Hawaii Pacific Review* (Managing Editor)
September 2003 – May 2004

AWARDS

- Colorado Book Awards Finalist for Anthology/Collection, 2020.
- Leaders on the RISE Angel-Funded Scholarship, 2020.
- Western’s School of Graduate Studies Professional Development Fund, 2019.
- Grant Awarded by Denver County Cultural Council for Innovative Collaboration and Organizational Development for “May My Words Fly Free,” 2018.
- Western Colorado University: Tuition Scholarship [\$20,000], 2018-2020.
- Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts & Culture in the IMAGINE 2020 Category, 2016.
- Artist in residence at Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, November 2013.
- 4th Annual James M. Vaughan Award for Poetry, Honorable Mention, March 2004.
- Creative Writing Club: Most Outstanding Event of the Year - “Night Write,” 2004.
- Creative Writing Club: Best Rookie Club of the Year 2003.

COORDINATING & ORGANIZING

- Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs: Annual Retreat November 2023
- Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs: Annual Retreat November 2022
- Lit Fest Book Fair Every June from 2012 – 2019
- “May My Words Fly Free” April 2019
- LitQuake: Lit Crawl Denver Every September from 2016 – 2018
- Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community: 2,280 Book Donation September 2018
- “Voices from the Edge” April 2018

GRANT WRITING

- Denver Arts & Venues Discretionary Fund Grant [\$10,000] December 2021
- Creative Arts Materials Fund [\$5,000]: “Inside Wire Radio” February – March 2021
- Public Good Fund – Bridge Grant [\$20,000]: “If Light Closed Its Eyes” February 2021
- Arts in Society [\$12,000]: “Sojourn: The Search” August 2020
- Springboard for the Arts – Creative Exchange: “Write Denver Tool Kit” July 2018
- Stranahan Foundation: “Hard Times Writing Workshop” 2016 & 2018

FUNDRAISING

- 1Day4DU [\$9,123]: “Inside Wire Radio” February – May 2021
- A/LIVE INSIDE: A Virtual Showcase of Artists from Colorado’s Prisons [\$14,000] November 2020
- Arts Affinity Group: “Random Acts of Arts Philanthropy Grant” [\$5,000] May 2020
- Colorado Gives Day: “Mini-Campaigns” Every December 2014 – 2019
- The Cielo Foundation: “Unlocked Poetry” [\$10,000] December 2019
- Colorado Art Tank: “Write Denver” [Arts Affinity Group - \$25,000; Bonfils-Stanton - \$10,000; Audience Choice Award - \$1,000] January 2016

COMMITTEES & ADVISORY GROUPS

- Sidewalk Poets: Founding Board Member September 2022 to Present
- Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs: Recruitment Selection Committee May 2023
- Denver County Jail Visitation Room Public Art Committee February 2023 to May 2023
- Fairfax Park Public Art Committee April 2022 to May 2023
- Denver Mayor’s Award for Excellence in Arts & Culture: Selection Panel October 2022
- Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs: Recruitment Selection Committee June 2022
- Denver Arts & Venues *Time to Thrive: Strategic Planning Initiative* Participant June 2022
- Denver Arts & Venues Recovery Fund for Nonprofit Arts Organizations in Partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Rescue Plan Act: Panelist June 2022
- Denver Mayor’s Award for Excellence in Arts & Culture: Selection Panel October 2021
- DU Prison Arts Initiative: *Assistant Director of Programming* Search Committee July – August 2021

- NEA: *Colorado Resiliency Arts Lab* Leadership Council February 2019 – April 2020
- Veterans Affairs: *National Veterans Creative Arts Festival* Judge Feb. 2019 & Feb. 2020
- Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community: *Writer-in-Residence Program* Selection Committee August – November 2019
- Denver Performing Arts Complex: Market Analysis Feasibility Study June 2019
- History Colorado Center: *American Democracy* Creative Civic Programming May 2019
- Clyfford Still Museum: *Clyfford Still: The Late Works* Advisory Group December 2018
- National Endowment for the Arts: *Big Read* Reading Committee March – September 2018
- Denver Talks: Leadership Council January – November 2017
- Doors Open Denver: *Building Behavior* Committee October 2016 – April 2017

PRESENTATIONS

- RedLine Contemporary Art Center: “Engaging Communities in Extraordinary Times: Panel Discussion with Colorado Art Leaders” January 2021
- DU Prison Arts Initiative: *Imagining Worlds: Reading & Writing Plays* Lecture 10: “Writing Is Rewriting: A Discussion on Drafts & Revision” September 2020
- Mountain Words – Gunnison Valley Literary Festival: “Writing the West: Crested Butte” & “Imagery for Everyone” August 2020
- Western Colorado University: Virtual Pop Craft Talk: “Plot Traps” July 2020
- Grantmakers in the Arts: Culture as Civic Practice October 2019
- Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference: The Pen Is Mighty November 2019
- 6th Annual Kali Whittle Resiliency Conference: Recovery Through Reflection August 2019
- NEA Research Labs Summit: Building & Sustaining Capacity for Arts Research June 2019
- Colorado Creative Industries Summit: Writing the Heart of the Rockies May 2019
- Rocky Mountain Writing Centers Association: Tutor Con February 2019
- Re:Denver: Interactive Forum on Denver’s Past, Present & Future November 2018
- Stranahan Foundation: Board of Trustees November 2018
- Denver County Cultural Council: SCFD Tier III Check Ceremony October 2017
- Arts Affinity Group: Colorado Art Tank January 2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- “Race & Social Justice Training” – Office of Social Equity & Innovation March 2024
- Superstars Writing Seminars February 2024
- History Colorado – “Understanding the Sand Creek Massacre’s Enduring Legacy: Knowledge Building Seminar” August 2023
- IMAGINE 202 Speaker Series: “How to Be an Antiracist Organization” Part 10 July 2023
- Western Colorado University – CRWR 697: “Reading and Writing Alternate History” June 1 to July 15, 2023
- Cities Summit of the Americas – Americas Leadership Luncheon: Celebrating Women from Across the Americas April 2023
- Superstars Writing Seminars February 2023
- Civic Imagination: Poetics of Policy & the Entanglements of Cultural Discourse June 2022

- Superstars Writing Seminars February 2022
- IMAGINE 2020 Speaker Series: “How to Be an Antiracist Organization” Parts 1 thru 8
August 2020 – October 2021
- Western States Arts Federation: “Creative Vitality Summit: Conference on the Creative Economy” September 2021
- DU Prison Arts Initiative: “Facilitator Training” August 2021
- Colorado Department of Corrections & DU Prison Arts Initiative: “Transformative Justice Workshop” – Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility August 2021
- DU Training: “Diversity: Inclusion in the Modern Workplace; Preventing Harassment & Discrimination; and Managing Bias” January 2021
- DU Prison Arts Initiative: “Facilitator Training” October 2020
- DU GSSW: "From Criminalization to Community: Reimagining Justice" August 2020
- TedxMileHigh: “Re-Collect: Exploring the Intersection Between Grief & Creativity” with Jovan Mays August 2020
- DU Prison Arts Initiative: “Trauma-Informed Care” August 2020
- 48-Hours of Socially Engaged Art & Conversation 2020 Virtual Summit: “Afrofuturism & Black Safety: Beyond Policing” panel discussion with Tilt West, Wisdom, Speech, and Bianca August 2020
- DU “Social Media: Managing Difficult Comments and Conversations” & “How to Engage in Difficult Conversations Using Evidence-Based Practices from Psychology” July 2020
- Stand UP Leaders on the RISE: “Inspiring the Community from the Inside Out” June 2020
- Superstars Writing Seminars February 2020
- Colorado Resource Center: “More Than a Manager: Inclusive Leadership” June 2019
- LWW: “Facilitating Lighthouse Community Engagement Workshops” May 2019
- Community First Foundation & The Civic Canopy: “Creating Community Impact with Results Based Accountability” April 2018
- Colorado Resource Center: “Program Planning & Evaluation” February 2018
- Denver Public Library: “Trauma-Informed Practices Training” January 2018
- IdeaLab 2017: “Artists Shaping the World” April 2017
- IMAGINE 2020 Speaker Series: “The Art of Relevance” October 2016
- Colorado Business Committee for the Arts: “Economic Activity Study” October 2016
- Community Resource Center: “Making the Ask” March 2013

VOLUNTEERING

- Poetry Reviewer: “Family Medicine” The Official Journal of The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 2019 – Present
- Judge for Thriller Category: Colorado Book Awards April – May 2023
- Selector for Literary Fiction Category: Colorado Book Awards January – March 2022
- Denver Mayoral Appointment: Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs
July 20, 2021 – August 31, 2024
- Video Presenter: Historic Denver’s “50 Actions for 50 Places” March – April 2021
- Selector for Mystery Category: Colorado Book Awards January – March 2021
- Book Blurb: *Wicked Eden*, by Alura Ruhu December 2018

- Board of Directors: Mavis the Magical Book Mobile June 2016 – November 2017
- Book Blurb: *Red Goddess Poems*, by Karen Douglass October 2014
- Lighthouse Writers Workshop November 2010 – September 2011
- W.O.L.F Sanctuary June – October 2009
- HPU: Creative Writing Club President & Founder September 2002 – May 2004
- Intern at XME 104.3 March 2002 – December 2003
- Park Hill Community Book Store Summer 2002
- Contributing writer for pilot program: The Palm Center Summer 2002

PUBLIC READINGS

- Western Colorado University: “Thesis Reading” July 2020
- Western Colorado University: “Open Mic” July 2018
- Lighthouse Writers Workshop: “The Draft: A Reading Show, 19.0” October 2013
- Tattered Cover Bookstore: “Raise the Roof” August 2012

TV APPEARANCES

- 2022 Colorado Book Awards Anthology and General Fiction Colorado Book Awards Finalists Reading—aired 6/23/2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwMnPN-EXVY>
- Interview: “Kenyan man teaches himself how to write a book and gets published”—aired 5/17/22: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Pv14HRZM4w
- Denver7—The Denver Channel: Denver's Stedman Elementary School makes '50 Actions for 50 Places' list—aired 9/10/21: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53h2R5fzTSE>
- Historic Denver “50 Actions for 50 Places”: Stedman Elementary—aired 4/8/21: <https://www.facebook.com/historic.denver/videos/775070813193488>
- Consideration of Stedman Elementary for Historic Denver—aired 3/30/21: <https://youtu.be/rEDSOg8XfSs>
- 2020 Colorado Book Awards Anthology, Creative Nonfiction, Short Story Finalist Readings—aired 3/10/21: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ye0z0EpSuQ&list=PL1MblFvk08UhbTvUkUrg-6vJSZ4vO0--9&index=13>
- Engaging Communities in Extraordinary Times—aired February 2021: <https://vimeo.com/510308261>
- 9News: “Storytellers: Inside the Hard Times Writers Workshop”—aired 1/14/18: <https://www.9news.com/video/news/local/storytellers/inside-the-hard-times-writers-workshop/73-2873453>
- Bonfils-Stanton Foundation: “The Foundation”—aired 7/7/17: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6_OeeaD6Oo
- 9News: NEXT with Kyle Clark: “Write Denver”—aired 3/14/17
- Colorado Art Tank: “Write Denver”—aired 1/17: <https://vimeo.com/173574878>
- Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts & Culture: “Dan Manzanares”—aired 12/8/17: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwo1y5Tyof4>

- Denver City Council Presentation: “IMAGINE 2020 Performance – Write Denver”—aired 12/12/16: http://denver.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=533dc334-c17d-11e6-9393-0050569d8aaa
- 9News: Colorado & Company: “Doors Open Denver”—aired 4/17/18: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ot6zovIQ6E>
- Rocky Mountain PBS: “Colorado Art Tank”—aired 12/26/16: <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/artists-vie-for-funding-on-art-tank-rocky-mountain-pbs-reality-tv/>
- Colorado Gives Day: “Lighthouse Writers Workshop Read-a-thon”—livestreamed 12/9/14: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzI-cZCV450>
- 9News: Colorado & Company: “Lighthouse Writers Workshop”—aired 12/30/14

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Walk2Connect – An America Walks Program: Walking Leader Training August 2023
- State of Colorado: DPA Compliance Training & Advancing EDI February 2020
- Colorado Department of Corrections: Basic Volunteer Training May 2019 – April 2021
- Intervention Community Corrections Services: PREA January – August 2019
- Proficient in Drupal; Anthology (iMods); Microsoft Suite; Google Suite

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing 2020
Western Colorado University, Gunnison, CO

Bachelor of Arts in English, Cum Laude 2004
Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, HI

REFERENCES

[Redacted references]



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BAC-9451

Contact Information

Contact Name	Dan Manzanares	Home Address	[REDACTED]
Preferred Phone	[REDACTED]	Home City	[REDACTED]
Preferred Email	[REDACTED]	Home State	[REDACTED]
Other Phone		Home Zip	[REDACTED]
Other Email		County	Denver
DOB	[REDACTED]	Hispanic or Latino origin or Descent?	No
SSN	[REDACTED]	Race/Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Gender	Male	Other Ethnicity	
Other Gender		Salutation	Mr.
		Pronouns	

Application

Status	New	Council Resolution Number	
Notes			

Board Information

Board Name	Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs	Original Start Date	
		End Date	
		Other boards or commissions served	

Work Information

Employer	Self-Employed	Work Address	1564 Dahlia Street
Position	[REDACTED]	Work City	Denver
Business Phone #	[REDACTED]	Work State	CO
Work Email		Work Zip	80220

Additional Information

Are you a registered voter?	Yes	Objection to appointment?	No
If so, what county?	Denver	Special Information	
Denver City Council District No	9	Registered Lobbyist	No
Conflict of Interest Explanation		Conflict of Interest	No

Education and General Qualifications

Name of High School	East High School	Name of Graduate School	Western Colorado University
Location of High School	Denver, CO	Location of Graduate School	Gunnison, CO
# of Years Attended High school	4	# of Years Attended Graduate School	2
Did you Graduate High School	Yes	Did you Graduate	Yes
Name of College	Hawaii Pacific University	Graduate Major	Creative Writing
Location of College	Honolulu, HI		
# of Years Attended College	4		
Did you Graduate College	Yes		
Undergrad Major	English		

Reference Details

Reference Name #1	[REDACTED]	Reference Email #1	[REDACTED]
Reference Phone #1	[REDACTED]	Reference Address #1	[REDACTED]
Reference Name #2	[REDACTED]	Reference Email #2	[REDACTED]
Reference Phone #2	[REDACTED]	Reference Address #2	[REDACTED]
Reference Name #3	[REDACTED]	Reference Email #3	[REDACTED]
Reference Phone #3	[REDACTED]	Reference Address #3	[REDACTED]
Agree to a background check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Owner	[REDACTED]	Created By	Denver Integration, 6/4/2024 2:40 PM
		Last Modified By	Denver Integration, 6/4/2024 2:40 PM

Notes & Attachments

Headshot.Manzanares.2022.jpg

Type	Attachment
Last Modified	Denver Integration
Description	View file

Resume.Manzanares.pdf

Type	Attachment
Last Modified	Denver Integration
Description	View file