



EMILY ARDEN EAKLAND

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Executive MBA

Valar Institute, Quantic School
of Business

Expected completion, 2025

Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy

National Arts Strategies &
University of Pennsylvania

2021-2022

Bachelor of Arts

Goddard College, VT

2010-2012

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture coursework

Tulane University, LA

2000-2001

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Shared Leadership in Action, Work Shouldn't Suck | 2021

Building Individual Capacity to
Co-Imagine, Co-Create, and Co-
Foster an Anti-Racist,
Multicultural Organizational
Culture, Structure and Model,
New California Arts | 2021

Catalyzing Engagement, New California Arts | 2020-2021

Board Member, Cultural
Connections | 2020-2021

Creative Community Fellow, National Arts Strategies | 2015

PROFILE

Visionary arts advocate, strategic thinker and team leader, with 15+ years of experience cultivating exceptional, multigenerational, inclusive and sustainable community-based spaces, places, programs, events, and fundraisers.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Venue Director, Events

Emerson Collective, Palo Alto, CA | Oct 2024-Present

- Manage team of two event producers and an associate, serve as key strategic partner to leadership team.
- Manage all aspects of the headquarter event venue for a large-scale social impact organization, from budgeting to scheduling.
- Accountable for streamlining event processes and communication, and spearheading initiatives to work more effectively across teams and with partners.

Venue Manager, Events

Emerson Collective, Palo Alto, CA | Jan 2023-Sept 2024

- Led the event team's sustainability initiative to continually enhance our climate commitment.
- Project managed across teams and on complex projects to produce best in class events across the country.

Manager of Learning, Experience, and Programming

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA | May 2021-Oct 2022

- Responsible for implementation of public programming that supported OMCA's brand as a museum, garden and gathering place and that advanced its social impact of building trust, understanding, and connection between people and communities, both in person and online.
- Led the strategic vision and implementation plan during the return to live programming post COVID.
- Stewarded relationships with key community partners, artists, and visionaries, and worked in concert to develop programming that was dynamic, intersectional, and innovative.
- Developed and managed programming budgets, streamlined to cut costs while maintaining a focus on supporting artists and community groups.
- Developed visitor research and evaluation tools and incorporated findings into exhibition and programming projects.
- Worked cross functionally with counterparts in Education and Experience Design to deliver multi-dimensional programs.

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KEY SKILLS

Equity-focused leader and curator of experiences

Entrepreneurial spirit

Commitment to artistic integrity and innovation

Produce high-impact public programming (in-person & virtual)

Effective and clear written and verbal communication

Motivating and 'lead by example' leadership style

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Outreach

Develop public partnerships, manage stakeholder groups, grant reporting

Performing Arts

Dancer, Teacher, Choreographer, Company Director

Computer Skills

Zoom, Google Suite, Project & Event Management Software, Floor Plan & Design Software, Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Adobe

Event Production Manager

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA | Feb 2019-Apr 2021

- Hired, trained, and oversaw team of three full time staff for onsite programs and events, pivoted to support the team as we transitioned to virtual programs during COVID.
- Managed all production aspects of internal and external events, from weekly Friday Night programming to campus-wide conferences.
- Assessed and mitigated risks and optimized planning to ensure safe and compliant events.

Associate Producer

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA | Jul 2018-Feb 2019

- Developed, in collaboration with the Chief of Program and Pedagogy and Chief Producer, the artistic and production aspects of major events, including the 25th Anniversary Party and annual YBCA 100 Summit.
- Provided project management cross-departmentally.
- Maintained communication with all onstage talent; handled contracts, travel, and production.
- Managed event budgets.

Program and Events Manager

Rhode Island Ave Main Street, DC | Oct 2015-Jun 2018

- Produced a series of four annual arts-focused events that focused on local artists, performers, small businesses, and community groups.
- Grew participation via marketing, outreach, and media placement 30% year over year.
- Selected, hired, and managed all artists, volunteers, and vendors.
- Managed event budgets, handled reporting to granting entities, developed materials for Board review.
- Created opportunities for neighbors and visitors alike to participate in accessible arts and cultural opportunities.

Co-Founder / Director

ReCreative Spaces, DC, MD, VA | Mar 2014-Dec 2017

- Secured vacant commercial properties for short-term arts activation.
- Led fundraising efforts and managed all budgets and financial reporting.
- Planned and produced events from large, public festivals and performances to art gallery exhibits and workshops.
- Cultivated and maintained relationships with local and national artists, performers, and educators.
- Developed key partnerships with residents, businesses, elected officials, and city agencies in order to produce programming that fit the needs of the neighborhood.