



TYLER THOMAS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Arts leader with 10+ years of experience leading and supporting innovative, large-scale arts organizations at the intersection of place, public engagement, and local change. Specializes in building cross-sector teams in the design of bold, participatory experiences that invite communities into transformative relationships with art, ideas, and one another.

EDUCATION

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts

Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors, Drama

December 2014

Master of Arts, Art & Public Policy

May 2017

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

We Shall Someday Project, *Artistic Director*

October 2024 - Present

Program Leadership

- Spearhead the strategic planning and execution of a \$2 million community engagement program, leveraging the arts to connect Freedom Rides history to contemporary activism in cities along the Freedom Riders route.
- Coordinate and lead a 12-person, cross-functional team working in partnership with local civic, cultural, and educational stakeholders.
- Manage project timelines, budgeting, and final reporting across program phases, including six citywide events and student workshops in Montgomery, expanding to over 10 activations in Birmingham, Anniston, and Selma.

Artistic Direction & Curriculum Development

- Executed artistic and production coordination at each event, directing site-based concerts presentations at museums, heritage sites, theaters, and high schools.
- Developed student guides and educator materials for middle and high school audiences.

Arts for EveryBody (One Nation/One Project), *Associate Artistic Director*

February 2021 - July 2025

Organizational Leadership

- Co-developed the organizational framework of an \$18 million national arts and health initiative, supporting 18 U.S. cities in the creation of large-scale, participatory arts & health projects.
- Oversaw the design and completion of all major initiative projects, including a national narrative campaign, simultaneous project premieres, and a cross-sector convening of over 150 participants.
- Managed national and local partnerships, ensuring strong alignment and successful collaboration.

Technical Assistance

- Co-designed and led a technical assistance program for 120 practitioners from the arts, municipal, and health sectors.
- Coordinated over 25 site visits nationwide.
- Developed and implemented quarterly evaluation to improve program delivery.

Marketing & Communication

- Managed in-house and external graphic design, social media, and web teams.
- Crafted key communication materials (website, decks, stakeholder presentations, etc.).
- Presented on the initiative nationally over 30 times to arts, municipal, and public health stakeholders.

Research and Evaluation

- Supported the coordination and planning of a mixed methods research study in 18 communities.
- Project managed the development of 12 research briefs, two field guides, and a final initiative Impact Report.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)

The Public Theater

January 2017 - September 2019

Assistant Director

- Assistant directed various off-Broadway productions from pre-production to closing, operating as the director's liaison between the creative, producing, and admin staff around rehearsal needs, notes, and progress.

Public Works Program Assistant

January 2016 - September 2017

- Supported program logistics for the Public Works community pageant, *Twelfth Night*, coordinating community workshops and assisting an audition, rehearsal, and production process for over 200 community members.

The Foundry Theatre

Community Programs Producer

January 2016 - December 2017

- Managed partnerships with over 10 community organizations, facilitating access to over 25 theater productions for more than 200 NYC residents, many first-time attendees.
- Curated and coordinated post-show talkbacks, including logistics and facilitation.

Producing Assistant

January - December 2015

- Supported programming and production logistics across three off-Broadway productions.
- Coordinated logistics for off and on-site community events, workshops, and board meetings.
- Managed general office needs, including grant reporting, supply inventory, archives, and ticketing software.

FREELANCE THEATER DIRECTING

Fall 2016 - Present

- Artistic resumé available upon request.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

New York University, Visiting Artist

Fall 2021, 2024

UC Santa Cruz, Guest Artist

November 2020

UCLA, Guest Artist

Fall 2020

Athens Conservatoire, Greece, Visiting Artist

Fall 2017

AWARDS

Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Grants to Artists Award

2025

Vineyard Theatre, Susan Stroman Directing Award

2021

PUBLICATIONS

"Arts for EveryBody: The One Nation/One Project Impact Report," One Nation/One Project, 2025

"Creativity and Collaboration for Healthier Cities," National League of Cities, 2024

"The Blind and the Common: An Introduction." The Journal of Civic Media Issue 4-5. Emerson College, 2024

"Two Artists, Two Generations at the Intersection." A Moment on the Clock of the World, Haymarket Books, 2019

LANGUAGES

Advanced Spanish, Beginner Korean

REFERENCES

Lear deBessonnet

Kewsong Lee Artistic Director, Lincoln Center Theater
lear.debessonnet@lct.org

Kaneza Schaal

Director of Theater, Film, and Opera
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