

DR CARA COURAGE SFIPM FRSA

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<https://linktr.ee/CaraCourage>



Purpose, drive and expression

I am an international social practice art, placemaking and museums expert, and a visionary, dynamic and people-focused leader with 20-plus years working across the arts. A natural communicator, I have a proven record of making things happen from an ambitious starting point. I offer a powerful and global network, renowned professional expertise, a co-creation disposition, vocational passion, and intellectual and emotional integrity. I hold sacrosanct the power of art and the museum to transform self and society: having found my vocation working at the intersection of art, place and museums, I am seeking a senior change-driven role that offers challenge, creative satisfaction, and agency.

Career highlights

- Restructured museum division / remodelled centre practice and governance through 2020-ongoing syndemic
- International museum community engagement/social practice/co-creation expert advisory/thought-leader
- Global placemaking thought-leader/publisher/researcher
- Senior Fellow Institute of Place Management
- 200-plus international conference keynotes, presentations, papers, guest lectures
- 1000-capacity Hay Literary Festival presentation

Current role

CO-HEAD, LEARNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION (2021-) AND HEAD OF TATE EXCHANGE, TATE, (2018-)

Shared lead of Division within a collaborative leadership model, taking it through pervasive restructuring, purpose-resetting and internal advocacy; senior management, Tate Modern and Tate Executive; vision/strategy/development of Tate Exchange socially engaged art platform and spaces across Tate sites, including its remodelling/restructure/refinancing, and initiating and securing its status as a Research Centre, local community mutual aid hub, and institutional change innovation lab. Manage a team of c20 museum educator-activists and 60-plus professional relationships and have fostered deeper relationships with Curatorial and sector colleagues.

Key achievements:

- Promotion within 3-years in post
- Creation of Tate Exchange as a community of practice as a practice-based Research Centre, and of its pioneering practice-process archive
- Initiator, Learning and Research Division practice ecology remodelling and ontology
- Co-curator Tania Bruguera Tate Modern Hyundai Turbine Hall £1M commission and Tate Modern Boilerhouse naming after local community activist, Natalie Bell
- Introducer, bespoke agile working across Tate
- Initiator and director, *Power to Change*, £1M-plus 3-year intersectional justice programme
- Creator/curator, 'Digital Discursive' socially engaged art digital practice
- Initiator/manager, Division at home, return to work and change management health and wellbeing programme
- Creator, Tate Exchange curatorial vision
- Collaborative PhDs supervision (museums & co-creation / radical archive practice)
- Instigated new evaluation methodology
- Created museum partnership Theory of Change



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Career trajectory

STRATEGIST, FUTURECITY, SEPT 2016 – JAN 2018.

Devising to delivery of cultural placemaking masterplans, public art and community development commissions for global private and public developments, and research and community business development, including developer clients across London and the UK, Min. Housing, Communities and Local Government (Garden Town policy creation), Sydney and Boston.

RESEARCH ADJUNCT, THRIVING CITIES/UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, AUG 2016 – AUG 2017.

Creative placemaking metrics fieldscan research project lead and report author, led delivery of US-wide sector and academia symposia and workshops on the same.

ARTS, ARCHITECTURE AND PLACEMAKING CONSULTANCY, 2001 – 2017.

Placemaking, visual, public realm, outdoor, community and urban arts consultancy and curation across public and private sectors, including:

- Public art consultant/director, Ashfield District Council (2016): community engagement for major new town developments across Nottinghamshire.
- Contemporary Visual Arts Network (2015-16): Manager of high-profile south-east UK visual art museum network.
- Creative Campus Initiative, Co-Director (2013-15): strategic Network leadership, and development of partnerships and income models; regional and national government lobbying and advocacy for the Higher Education and the creative industries. Hosted, University for the Arts, London.
- Creative Campus Initiative (2009-12): Network Manager, commissioning and curation of £1.5M universities public research programme of place-based arts interventions in response to London2012. Management, curation and delivery of Universities of Sussex and Brighton transdisciplinary public arts programme in response to London2012.
- Architecture Centre Network (2009-12): Head of Learning, instigator of built environment and arts sector and international cultural learning and knowledge exchange activity, high profile sector partnerships acquisition, and successful sector and education government lobbying/advocacy including with Ministries DCMS, DCLG, DBiz, DfE.
- City Running, Co-Founder/Director (2005-10): Place-based arts commissioning programme, winner of the Brighton International Festival 2006 'Award for Innovation.'
- RadioReverb/Earshot, (2005-09): Volunteer Artistic Director, creative/business partnerships and sponsorship/fundraising acquisition. Championed as an example of best practice by Ofcom and Arts&Business South East's 'People's Development Award' 2008.

Key publications and media

- Books: Editor, *The Routledge Handbook of Placemaking* (Routledge, 2021); Co-editor, *Creative Placemaking and Beyond* (Routledge, 2018); Author, *Arts in Place: The Arts, the Urban and Social Practice* (Routledge, 2017)
- Recent papers: *The Digital Discursive: social practice art online; Power to Change: what is within the gift of the museum?; Learning Together: creative learning and co-creation; Art Museums and the Idea of Placemaking; Situating Self: co-creating spaces and places; Placemaking as Radical Practice: community is expert; Ways of Knowing: the*

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museum and plural knowledges; The Museum as Relational Object; In Search of Data: evaluating social practice in museums; City of Placemaking?: City of Culture through a placemaking lens; The Activist Museum; Generation Next: engaging the new old at Tate Exchange; All in a Day: creative and collaborative museum programming with and for older people.

- Broadsheets: The Guardian, The Observer, The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph
- Radio: BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, Woman's Hour

Education

- PhD, *Making places: performative arts practices in the city*, University of Brighton, 2012-16
- MSc Psychosocial Studies (High Merit), University of Brighton, p/t 2009-11; specialised in the psychosocial role of art and artists, ecoart and the grassroots agency of arts in urban placemaking.
- BA Hons Social Anthropology 2:1, University of Sussex, 1993-97

Current accreditations and memberships (A-Z)

- Academy of Urbanism, Academician
- Advance (women's network of art museum Directors of education) (US), member
- American Alliance of Museums, member
- American Association of Geographers, member
- Common Exchange (international museum social practice network) co-founder (w/MCAChicago)/member
- The Culture Capital Exchange Leadership Think Factory, thinker
- Dartington Arts School MFA, MA, PgDip, PgCert Arts and Ecology programmes, External Advisor
- FLAME (Institute for Learning Innovation Forum for Leadership in Art Museum Education) (US), honorary member
- The Future is Unwritten Artist Response Fund (WHO), committee member
- International Council of Museums, member
- Institute of Place Management, Manchester Metropolitan University, Senior Fellow
- Museums and Race (US), occasional member
- Museums Association, member
- Placemaking Leadership Council, founding member
- Royal Geographical Society, member
- Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), Fellow
- University of the Highlands and Islands MA Art and Social Practice External Advisor
- University of Sussex Liberal Arts, Advisory Board member
- We Are Museums, advisor and member

Current professional development

- Leadership Development, 1-2-1 year long advisory, 2021
- Co-leadership and devolved decision-making modelling facilitation, 2021

Ends.

