

# Sally Jane Brown

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## CURATOR

Seasoned arts leader and curatorial advisor with a proven track record in arts program management, successfully overseeing exhibitions, collections, projects, and key partnerships. Skilled in fostering collaboration and optimizing processes to support artists and cultural initiatives. Demonstrates a deep commitment to the arts through self-initiated publications, presentations, residencies, and exhibitions, championing creativity and meaningful engagement.

- **Curation of Exhibitions and Events:** Successfully spearheading the research, development, and execution of 100+ scholarly and artistic exhibitions, focusing on accessible language and context. Collaborating to execute creative initiatives and programs to promote art and encourage artistic impact beyond exhibition walls.
- **Arts Development Achievements:** Successfully secured over \$150,000 of grant funding from foundations, corporations, and individual donors. Identified, established, and nurtured collaborative partnerships with 50+ partner cultural organizations and sponsors.
- **Scholarship and Presentation Experience:** Continuously research and publish in national arts journals, and member of several arts and museum organizations. Present at prestigious national arts conferences, around women artists and feminist art topics. Exhibit my artwork around womanhood in exhibitions across the nation and in the UK, recognized through awards and artist residencies
- **Collections Inventory:** Initiated and manage inventory of artwork, considering conservation.
- **Committee Coordination:** Chair art committee in decision-making on exhibition proposals, jurying, collections, developing themes, research, outreach, and more.
- **Management and Communication:** Lead and maintain consistent, professional written and verbal communications, with artists, contractors, non-profit organizations, and other partners, focusing on individual talents and needs.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively participate in community arts and culture landscape.

## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

**Master of Arts, Art History** / West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

*Thesis: Revealing Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party: An Analysis of the Curatorial Context (including interviews with Chicago and her curatorial team)*

**Graduate Certificate, Women's & Gender Studies** / West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

**Master of Public Administration** / University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE

*Specialization: Nonprofit Management*

*Thesis: How Do State Arts Appropriations Affect State Economic Growth?*

**Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art** / University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

*Minors: Art History and English*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**DIRECTOR AND CURATOR OF CREATIVE INITIATIVES**

**2017 – Present**

West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, WV

Develop and implement exhibitions in three campus spaces managing research, committee and stakeholder coordination and management, fundraising (including identifying, securing, and managing grants and sponsors), outreach and program execution, design, installation, and travel regionally.

- Curate 100+ exhibits, such as “Indigenous Appalachia,” “Women and Water,” “Canvas(s)ing the Politics of Voter Suppression Since Women’s Suffrage,” and “Food Justice Appalachia,” among many others, each with public programming.
- Initiate and manage creative projects with artists, community, and other collaborations around social justice and contemporary topics, virtually and in conjunction with exhibitions, such as the Inclusive Portrait Project, commissioning an emerging woman artist to paint a portrait of a woman important to the community’s history; and the first Feminist Activist Artist in Residency Program.
- Design and present collaborative, creative initiatives including the first-ever Morgantown Public Art Guide with the Art Museum of WVU and other projects to promote the arts in the community.
- Hire and guide a diverse cohort of assistants and contractors on innovative creative endeavors.
- Successfully secure funding for exhibitions by writing grants, conducting research, and obtaining sponsors. Past grantors include the West Virginia Humanities Council, National Science Foundation, Appalachian State University, and Virginia Tech.
- Continuously reevaluate the arts program mission, with regard to diversity and sustainability.
- Create and manage Virtual Program Offerings, including virtual tours, programs, and exhibitions.

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT**

**2014-2016**

West Virginia University College of Creative Arts, Morgantown, WV

- Assisted art history professors with creating content, substituting, and tutoring students.
- Authored award-winning thesis paper and contacted renowned feminist artist Judy Chicago to identify missing information now available with interviews. Received multiple awards for research.

**CURATORIAL PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS**

**2006 – Present**

- Research, collaborate, jury, and invite artists, secure venues, and install and promote group exhibitions nationally and virtually, such as “Feminists Connect” at Charles Adams Gallery, TX.
- Research, write, and publish scholarly essays and critical reviews around feminist art, curating, and women artists for journals such as *Woman’s Art Journal*, *Hyperallergic*, and others.
- Secure individual grant funding and attend and participate in national and international art conferences, residencies, exhibitions, and online networking/conversations.
- Research, guest lecture, and teach classes around art history and public administration.
- Contributing writer to Borshch of Art: *Discovery Database*, writing features on Ukrainian artists.
- Art editor for *Thimble Literary Magazine*.
- Wrote a weekly arts column for the *Omaha Reader*, provided audio art reviews for the *Omaha Public Radio*, illustrated a weekly opinion editorial for *Lincoln’s Daily Nebraskan*, and edited a blog interviewing women artists worldwide, *Les Femmes Folles*.