

Zena Ruiz

North Braddock, PA 15104

Zenaruiz.com

OBJECTIVE

To share myself and my community with you.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Community Engagement

Youth Education

Facilitate Collaborative Ideation

Program Design and Facilitation

Curriculum Design and Implementation

Project Supervising and Management

- Exhibitions
- Constructions
- Events

Prototyping

Universal and Accessible Design

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Microsoft & Google Suites

Adobe Creative Suite

Printmaking

Laser Cutting

Carpentry & Construction

Urban Food Gardening

Bilingual - English/Spanish

HONORS

Mon Valley Initiative Partner of the Year

2015 - North Braddock, PA

Classrooms Without Borders Scholar -

2017 - Pittsburgh & Israel

GROUP AFFILIATIONS

#notwhite collective - artist collective

Beautiful Constellations - creative kinship

North Braddock Member of Council

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Carnegie Mellon University

OCCUPATION HISTORY

Teaching Artist

YMCA Lighthouse Project

April 2021 - Current

Arts in Context Manager

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

September 2014 - February 2021

- Co-curated hundreds of experiences for youth and families
- Managed and Contract ~250 artists/yr
- Oversaw, Collaborated & Coordinated annual cultural events
- Managed and implemented grant projects & residencies

Co-founder and Community Relations

Gardweeno - North Braddock, PA

2013 - 2016

- Co-created with youth community
- Coordinated partnerships with Braddock Youth Project, Braddock Farms and Braddock Library
- 3 successful growing seasons
- Garden and SEL Curriculum design and implementation

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2021 [Empowered Educators](#) co-facilitator

2021 Leadership Pittsburgh: An Artistic Embodiment Through the Manipulation of Paper

2017 LEAD Conference: *Invisible Art: Translating the Universal Language of Art* - Austin, Tx

2016 ACM Conference: *Building Exhibits In-House: Development, Design, Prototyping* - Stamford, Ct

RESIDENCIES

2019 Unblurred Crafternoon Artist in Residence // Assemble - Pittsburgh, Pa

2014 F.I.N.E. Artist in Residence // Children's Museum of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pa

EXHIBITION HISTORY

- 2021 We Are the Global Majority
DECOLONIZING SPACE // Space
Gallery - Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2021 *decolonizing: intimate family
portraiture // Frick Museum - Pittsburgh,
Pa*
- 2021 Khanna Kha Lo Food Garden y
Comida: This is What our Country Eats
Like a virtual food series with
#notwhite collective // Instagram Live
- 2019* *When Grief is Your Best Friend //*
Braddock Carnegie Library -
Braddock, Pa
- 2018 *Inbetween the Middle // Brew House -*
Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2016 *Clocking In: Labor Defines // The*
MINE Factory - Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2014 *A Gathering of Things Seen and*
Unseen // The Coop Gallery -
Nashville, Tn
- 2012 *2012: The End of Time // Pittsburgh*
Center for the Arts - Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2012 *Her Voice: the Stories, tales and*
myths of women of color //
Kelly Strayhorn Theatre - Pittsburgh,
Pa
- 2012 *MEGA // Miller Gallery - Pittsburgh, PA*
- 2010 *Because I Felt Like It // Shadow*
Lounge - Pittsburgh, PA
- 2010 *Whitney Avenue Art Gallery (WAAG) -*
Wilksburg, PA
- 2010 *Border Bunnies // The Frame Gallery -*
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2009 *Yinz Are Dead // Shadow Lounge -*
Pittsburgh, PA

*solo exhibition

... BREATHE ...

thank you for letting me celebrate my
work.

Here are additional things I want to share
with you.

Currently reading:

- [Untie the Strong Woman by Clarissa Pinkola Estés](#)
- [American Brujeria: Modern Mexican American Folk Magic by J. Allen Cross](#)
- [Aztec Art by Esther Pasztor](#)

Soundtrack of my current mind:

- *Tú Solo Tú* by Selena
- *La Capacidad* by Lindo Pimienta (feat. Las Acevedo & Diana Pereira)
- *Mujeres* by Y La Bamba
- *Po'Folks* by Nappy Roots
- *Daddy Lessons* by Beyoncé
- *La Reina* by Natanael Cano
- *Prende La Vela* by Alfredo Gutiérrez
- *Curandera* by iLe
- *Jícama* by Angélica Garcia
- *Birding* by Swet Shop Boys, Riz Ahmed, Heems
- *I Don't Believe in Death* by Angélica Garcia