

# Jasmin Cardenas

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## PROFILE:

Seasoned bilingual performer, arts educator, community organizer and bridge builder with strong leadership and vision; Committed to growth and development of children, youth, parents, educators, workers and communities through the use of Theater of the Oppressed (T.O.), creative drama, storytelling, curriculum integration, mentorship, literacy, and art (story, movement, personal narrative, and performance). Proven experience creating and leading individuals and teams to do community outreach. Proven facilitator committed to open inclusive dialogue & critical analysis. Her work focuses on using T.O. to strategically resist oppression, build bridges between communities, train leaders and advocate for justice. She works with the belief that all things that are possible but need to be envisioned and brought into reality by intention and action. Jasmin holds strong to her mentor Augusto Boal's guiding influence,

*"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society.  
Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."*

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

WorkersTEATRO: UIC School of Public Health	Center for Healthy Work: Worker Stories	2021
Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Writer/Adaptor: Maybe Something Beautiful	2021/2022
Chicago Childrens Theater	Content Creator: PodcastWriter	2020
Chicago Workers Collaborative; Woods Foundation	Workers Resistance Theater Director	2019
Catalyst Initiative Grantee, CPCP	Community Collaborator using T.O.	2018
LG Civic Practice Lab	Lead Artist, Facilitator and Coordinator	2013-2018
SAG-AFTRA Actress	Represented by Big Mouth Talent	<a href="http://www.bigmouthtalent.com">www.bigmouthtalent.com</a>
Lookingglass Theatre Co., Education	Theatre Teacher / Director	2000-present
Free Street Theater	Little Village Program Director	2014
Cuentos Aquí, Chicago Public Library	Cuentos Aquí Professional	2011-2014
The Firehouse Arts Center, North Lawndale	Artist-in-Residence	2010-2013
Havana Gallery	Gallery Director	2010
Ambassadors for a United Lawndale	After School Matters	2010
Growing Green / Crecer Verde	Founder / Director	2009
Francis Parker School & Rudy Lozano Academy	Social Change Consultant	2007 - 2010
ENLACE Chicago	Arts Educator/Program Director	2008 - 2013
Adventure Stage Chicago	Teaching Artist	2008 - 2012
Carpenter Fine Arts Magnet Cluster, CPS	Artist in Residence	2008 - 2009
Children's Home and Aid Society, Chase, CPS	Theatre Instructor	2006- 2008
Chicago International Childrens Film Festival	Media Educator	2007
Silk Road Theater Project	Teaching Artist	2007-2011
Lifeline Theater	Theatre Inst. / Choreographer	2006-2011
Shanti Foundation for Peace	Teaching Artist	2006-2008
Pegasus Players	Teaching Artist; Playwriting	2006-2010
Family Matters, Teen Girls Program	Performing Arts Coordinator	2004-2005
Dolores Kohl Education Foundation	StoryBus Lead Educator	2001-2004

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### ARTS EDUCATION

- Supported by The Catalyst Initiative, Facilitator of leadership development of worker leaders, exploring issues of workplace abuse, gender violence (the continuum of violence women face on a daily basis at home/community/ work) and integrating *Theater of the Oppressed* techniques into the pedagogy of CWC's Gender and Racial Justice Worker's Leadership Institute.
- Supported by Lookingglass Theater Company's Civic Practice Lab, 8 two-hour sessions in the Spring 2018 of community development work using Theater of the Oppressed in the Englewood Community to explore the African American temp worker experience.
- Workshop Presenter of *Theatre of the Oppressed* and *Theater for Social Change* workshops (based on the work and ideologies of Augusto Boal and Paulo Freire) for workers, youth, educators & communities; Guest teacher at Universities.
- Designed innovative arts curricula for targeted populations; infants, children, youth, adults and seniors.
- Reached over 2000 Spanish speaking parents in interactive Literacy workshops designed to instruct parents on how to help their young children (0-6yrs) to get ready to read and write with research based early literacy skills reflected in Chicago Public Library's early literacy initiative, *Chicago Reads Together: Every Child Ready to Read/ Cada Niño Listo Para Leer*
- Facilitated youth focus groups for research and assessment
- Led youth researchers in a 5 month inquiry-based research project funded by The Girls Best Friend Foundation that ended in a document with research findings and community performances (topic: sexual violence and agency)
- Taught youth theatrical skills (performance, technical, production, writing, dance, etc.) and life skills (interviewing, public speaking, creating healthy habits, yoga)
- In school and after school teaching experience with pre-k through H.S students

- Adapted stories for stage and facilitated youth in creating original devised work (written and performance material) in English, Spanish and Bilingually
- Collaborated with organizations & teachers; curriculum integrated arts in the classroom across subject matters
- Designed and presented adult educator workshops on creative drama in the classroom and at home to advance child development; public, private and Head Start educators
- Created and performed Spanish bilingual stories focused on literacy enrichment

### **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

- Co-creator of the Theater of the Oppressed and Activism in Chicago Collective; strategic planning, logistics coordinator, programming, teacher, facilitator. In partnership with two founding colleagues we organize this collective.
- Designed, developed, implemented and evaluated a new early childhood bilingual literacy program for the Chicago Public Library targeting children & parents on Chicago's Pilsen, Little Village, McKinley Park, Back of the Yards and Brighton Park called *Cuentos Aquí*. Reached over 3000 children, 2000 parents and visited over 500 early childhood classrooms.
- Founded and implemented an original camp concept for Little Village children and youth; *Growing Green / Crecer Verde: Summer Art & Theatre Program*. Program Director and Theater Instructor
- Grant recipient: City of Chicago Department of Family Support Services, 2009
- Developed a comprehensive performance curricula for after school youth programs
- Directed and coordinated various performances in public and private venues, from conception to execution and evaluation
- Collaborated with directors to create a vision statement, carry out daily logistics and evaluate program for funding
- Facilitated team discussions to strategize next steps and identify goals for program growth and sustainability
- Collaborated in development of the *Kohl/McCormick StoryBus* literacy program implanted in over 200 schools, early childhood centers, Head Start programs and other community partnerships
- Developed systems and operation manuals; emergency situations, troubleshooting and servicing
- Networked with community organizations and educational institutions as well as nurtured relationships with artists to strengthen programs and create collaborative opportunities
- Produced and co-authored a phonics-based interactive musical, *Phonics Fun*; served over 1500 young children and over 500 parents

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

- Coordinates and manages scheduling, logistics and content delivery for community workshops using T.O. for leadership development, coalition building, skill building and critical engagement of workers and community members.
- Coordination of multiple partner organizations in dialogue across geographic distances in Chicago to collaborate on community actions for the improvement of working communities.
- Co-chair, planned and executed multiple conferences and regional events as a PTO Board Member and Member at large
- Coordinated programming across various early childhood agencies, Chicago Public Library branches and non-profit community service providers to offer bilingual storytelling, early literacy skill development, parent early literacy workshops and family fieldtrips to neighborhood libraries and informational gatherings for adults in workforce development.
- Administered gallery inventory, sales, internet sales, marketing: social media networks and trained gallery interns
- Managed part-time adult and youth staff (2-20 people); training, scheduling, payroll
- Recruited, interviewed, trained, evaluated, and hired staff for various positions both daily operations and seasonal positions
- Coordinated fieldtrips, logistics, parent meetings, special guests,
- Tactical operation and maintenance of 39ft literacy vehicle and museum
- Organized and managed documentation for evaluation
- Marketed Literacy program to Educational Institutions

### **SPECIALTY TRAINING**

#### ***Theatre of the Oppressed, Forum Theatre, Invisible Theatre and Cop-in-the-Head***

Workshops taught by Founder Augusto Boal at The Brecht Forum, NY 2004-2005

***Forum Theatre: Examining Oppressive Systems, Exploring Concrete Options*** with Julian Boal; Facilitator Julian Boal  
PTO Regional Gathering, Chicago, IL, 2016

***From Rainbow of Desire into Forum Theater: Critical Analysis of Systems of Oppression***; Facilitated by Julian Boal  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Omaha, NE, 2014

***Theatre of the Oppressed, Rainbow of Desire***; Facilitated by Barbara Santos (CTO Rio)  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Austin TX, 2010

***Theatre of the Oppressed, Legislative Theatre Workshop***; Facilitated by Julian Boal  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Minneapolis, MN 2009

***Beyond Silly Games: Popular Education as Methodology for Political Education, Leadership Development, Grassroots Organizing and Movement Building***, Facilitator Francisco "Pancho" Arguelles Paz, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual PTO Conference, Chicago, IL, 2011

***Jana Sanskriti Process and Forum Theater: Scripting and Over Instead of Playing the Script***, by Sima & Sanjoy Ganguly, 2011

*The Body of Mask*, Paola Coletto-Kaplan, Pedagogue under Jacques Lecoq;  
Master Class: Physical theatre approach toward mask performance; Links Hall, 2009

*Marta Carrasco Theatre/ Movement Workshop*, Goodman Theater, 2006

*Participatory Research Evaluation*, Girls Best Friend Foundation, Chicago, '04-'05;  
Inquiry-based research by constituents for the purpose of assessment and learning

*Learning Circle, Millenia Consulting*, '05-'06; Non-profit program and policy management

*2<sup>do</sup> Encuentro Laberinto, Fabrica de Teatro Imaginario*, Bilbao, Basque Country, 2004  
2 week intensive physical theater training; mixed disciplines: Kathkali

#### **AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

**Recipient of 2020-2022 LAB Fellowship: Laboratory of Performance and Politics, Georgetown University:** International Fellow  
**Recipient of the 2017 Catalyst Initiative – Round 3 Cohort.** Awarded by The Center for Civic Performance and Civic Practice and The Andrew Mellon Foundation. A grant to support a small scale arts project with The Chicago Workers Collaborative to advocate and educate for temporary workers using Theater of the Oppressed as a tool. Grant period: January - June 2018  
**Recipient of 2013 Race Bridges Storytelling Fellowship**, initiative of Angels Studio and O'Halloran Diversity Productions  
**Recipient of 2011 Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Grant:** Community Arts Assistance Program CAAP

**SAG-AFTRA** Actress

Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, Member and past Board Member  
National Storytelling Network Member, NSN

Illinois Storytelling Inc, Member

Chicago Storytelling Guild

UrbanTheater Company, Ensemble Member

#### **EDUCATION**

B.A., Theatre Arts, Specialization in Children's Theatre and Creative Drama at National-Louis University, Evanston, IL (GPA 4.0)

#### **WORKSHOP PRESENTER**

2022 **Global Newspaper Theater; Drama Therapy, Concordia University, Quebec, Canada.** Guest Artist

2021 **Global Newspaper Theater:** University of Regina, Canada; Theater Dept. Course: Theater.Society.Change: Guest Artist

2020 **The Urgency of Now: Theater in a Time of Crisis;** Wheaton College, IL Guest Artist Visit to Theater Arts Department:  
Theater and Culture Course: focusing on civic engagement and the arts.

2017 **The Continuum of Violence Women Face at Work/Home/Community:** Critical analysis, discussion and exploration of gender violence in workers lives. Original scene creation, street march, and public presentation of and by temp workers.  
Technique: Theater of the Oppressed. Collective's: Colectivo Mujer and Corazon de Valor y Fortaleza, Gage Park, IL

**Theater of the Oppressed to Explore Workplace Abuses:** Training community members and workers to critically analyze workplace discrimination and exploitation. Chicago Workers Collaborative, Englewood and Little Village, Chicago, IL

**The Power of Story & Theater for Social Justice,** Teaching Theater of the Oppressed to Storytellers, Educators and Librarians. National Storytelling Conference, Kansas City, Missouri

**Civic Practice Lab & Chicago Park District Collaboration;** 5-year partnership to help Chicago Parks to grow participation at their Cultural Art Centers designing and facilitating discussion within park staff and between Chicago Parks and the public park users. In partnership with Michael Rohd at Lookingglass Theater Company.

**Beyond Caring, Community Engagement Artist;** Coordinator and discussion facilitator of multiple gatherings with blue collar workers across Chicagoland for research & development. Partner Organizations: Latino Union of Chicago, Latinos Progressando, Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago Workers Collaborative, La Familia Unida,

**Story Work for Social Justice,** Presenter of a Master Class at Northlands Storytelling Networks annual Conference:  
*Confabulation!*, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

2016 **Intro to Theater of the Oppressed Training** for TRACE Staff & young leaders. **Teens Re-imagining Art, Community & Environment** is a program of Chicago Park Districts.

2015 **Artistry as Parent: Creating Change in Industry** Co-Facilitated Workshop at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference in Chicago, IL.

- Lake FX: Creative Reuse Exchange Think Tank/ Hacking a Creative Solution for Reuse**  
Facilitated workshop & moderated panel among Chicago area reuse experts to find a Chicago solution.
- Teachers Inquiry Project: T.O. Technique: Image Theater & Forum Theater** Facilitated discussion: critical analysis of classroom struggles using T.O. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
- 2014 **Theater of the Oppressed: Day of Training;** Students, Faculty & Staff at University of Dubuque, Iowa
- Civic Practice Lab: Partnership between Lookingglass Theater Company and the Chicago Park District;** Series of workshops co-facilitated with Michael Rohd to analyze, discuss and implement plans for the Chicago Park District Cultural Centers between CPD staff, central office and general public. 3 year plan
- Intro to Theater of the Oppressed Workshop;** University of Chicago Divinity School Ministry Conference 2014: Widening the Circle: Theory & Identity in Praxis of Solidarity
- 2013 **Cuentos Aquí Parent Literacy Workshops; Chicago Public Library Program;** Communities: Pilsen, Little Village, Back of the Yards, Brighton Park. El Valor Site, Gads Hill, Our Lady of Tepeyac, WIC, Catholic Charities sites, to name a few. (100 Bilingual & Spanish wkshps between 2011-2013)
- Team Facilitator at Cultural Diversity Training for City Year Program;** Bea Young Associates, LLC: Collaboration for Educational Equity
- Forum Theater a technique of Theater of the Oppressed;** Omaha Performing Arts hosts: Memphis the Musical Speaks Through Me – A daylong community forum exploring diversity and discrimination. Holland Performing Arts Center; Omaha, Nebraska
- 2012 **Storytelling for authentic learning: Amplifying students' voices and critical understanding at all ages;** Project on Civic Reflection at DePaul University.
- Coming Together: Intro to Theater of the Oppressed; Teachers Inquiry Project** through the Civic Knowledge Project.
- Looking at the Struggle of Power: Relationship Abuse Awareness Week;** Campus Wkshps to discuss topic using Theater of the Oppressed techniques, University of Dubuque, Iowa
- 2011 **¿Quién soy? Exploring Self, Community and Identity: Teen Stories;** McHenry County College: Youth Latino Empowerment Conference. Hosted by the Multicultural Programs Office with Latinos Unidos
- Erie Neighborhood House Adult Education Department Staff Pre-Retreat;** Adult Education Department Leadership Team; Team Building & Communication
- Connecting Across a Divide: Theater for Social Change;** Workshop between high school students from the Islamic Foundation School, Villa Park and Francis W. Parker School, Chicago.
- 2010 **Introductory Theater of the Oppressed Workshop.** DePaul University; Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning (Intercambio Language Exchange)
- '09-'10 **Racial Reconciliation between Latino and Black Youth: Theater for Social Change;** Ambassadors for Lawndale: Youth from North Lawndale & Little Village, Chicago IL.
- '06-'10 **Theatre for Social Change & Awareness: Connecting high school students across Social, Economic & Racial Divides;** Francis Parker & Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy
- 2007 **Building Peaceful Communities through the Arts Conference: Dividing Lines;** North Lawndale & Little Village Youth; Shanti Foundation for Peace @ Chicago Cultural Center
- Implementing Drama in the Classroom; Promoting Language and Literacy,** New Field School, Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup> Teacher Workshop, CPS In-Service Day with Lifeline Theater
- 2006 **Theater for Social Awareness and Change,** University of Wisconsin-Madison, The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual La Mujer Latina Conference
- Theater for Social Change,** Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy @ Instituto Del Progreso Latino, Chicago, IL