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## **Design Creative – Urban Planner – Grants Management Specialist**

Adaptable. Insightful. Facilitator. Servant Leader. Change Agent.

**25+** years urban planning serving urban-suburban-rural areas. **11** years within municipal administration.

**300+** grants experience: research-development-writing, editing, post-award management, reviewing.

**5+** years grant proposal reviews. **7** years of leadership in community development for NPO's.

**35** years using design & arts production skills for communities, cultural institutions, fine arts groups.

### **Expertise**

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**Urban Planning Process. Funding Research & Proposal Development. Interdisciplinary Collaboration.**

**Execution** – Proposals. Post-award Management. Project Research-Review. Presentations. Reporting.

**Leadership** – Partnerships. Team Building.

### **Deliverables**

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**Problem Solver** Obtained funds and funded partnerships for cities on 85+ occasions, 30+ occasions elsewhere.

**Creative** Apply innovative and creative approaches, find new opportunities and resources to advance goals.

**EI** Contribute emotional intelligence to navigate government agency protocols and process. Build consensus.

**Design** Can create compelling graphics to support funding acquisition for projects and grant reporting.  
Use design communications to advance strategic goals and programs.

**Funding** Secured funding for programs, projects, including many firsts for organizations and communities.

**Grants** Implementing best practices through funding acquisition and post-award administration.

**Revenue Generator – Cost Reducer** Generated \$9.4+ million via grants, \$11 million via other sources to support strategic projects with minimal leverage costs. Fostered growth, local economies and resiliency through combination of partnerships and funding initiatives, saving long-term taxpayer costs with measurable results.

**Collaborator** Partnering with city departments and outside groups to integrate grant management practices. Fostered intra-jurisdictional projects involving county agencies, neighboring communities, NPO's.

**Innovator** As start-up hire, established a city's first grant management office.

As first full-time director for a Business Improvement District, secured its future and increased base revenues.

### **Technologies and Techniques**

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Grant management software platform savvy. Microsoft Suite: PowerPoint, Excel. Presentation graphics.

Adobe Suite, Mapping – GIS fundamentals, Architectural Drafting – CAD / SketchUp, Photo studio.

### **Professional Affiliation - Education and Training**

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**American Institute of Planners (AICP) - American Planning Association**, since 2006

**National Grant Management Association**

**Master of Urban Planning Design and Development**, Levin College, Cleveland State University

**Bachelor of Fine and Professional Arts**, Kent State University

**Associate of Architecture**, Kent State University

**LEED-AP Training Program**, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

### **Conference Presentations**

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"Building Social Capital Through Philanthropy", Makeover Montgomery County, Maryland #4, 2018

"Taking the Stress Out of Grant Writing", Ohio Chapter, American Planning Association NE Ohio, 2018

"Meeting Water Needs – People and Environment – A View from Northeast Ohio", APA National Conference, 2017

"Green Infrastructure and Habitat Restoration in Mentor, Ohio", Sustainability Forum, Cleveland State Univ, 2016

"Deer Management Strategies", Ohio Chapter, American Planning Association, NE Ohio, 2015

"Fast Track Commercial Corridor Revisioning", APA National Conference, 2007

## Grants – Urban & Community Planning

<b>MUNICIPAL GRANTS MANAGER</b> , City of Rockville, Montgomery County, MD	<b>2023 – 2025</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Project Management:</b> Consolidated giving portfolio of 40+ grantees into a shared software platform.</li> <li>▪ <b>Funding Acquisition:</b> First time new-source grants for; IT-Cybersecurity, Public Art, Transportation Planning.</li> </ul>	
<b>GRANTS CONSULTANT</b> for groups in Maryland, Ohio	<b>2020 – 2023</b>
<b>MONTGOMERY COUNTY GRANTS ADVISORY GROUP</b> , Rockville, Montgomery County MD	<b>2019</b>
<b>MUNICIPAL GRANTS COORDINATOR</b> , City of Mentor, Lake County, OH	<b>2010 – 2019</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Project Management:</b> Led, navigated projects. Forged teams with diverse specializations and capacities.</li> <li>▪ <b>Visioning:</b> Enhanced coastal economies through better stewardship of natural areas / watershed resources.</li> <li>▪ <b>Grant Management:</b> Helped City acquire funds from 5 agency grants (OH &amp; US EPA, USFWS, ODNR, OSU); through grant proposals and post-award coordination for green infrastructure, stream, and habitat restoration of Mentor Marsh, a National Natural Landmark and coastal recreational destination covering 1500+ acres. Funds also secured for green infrastructure, marina, trailhead, and bike infrastructure projects – all advancing landscape-scale habitat restoration and ‘destination placemaking’ of this regional lakefront recreational area. Secured 21 grants overall to support this initiative. Partnership approach shared by coastal communities.</li> <li>▪ <b>Forensic Fiscal Analysis:</b> Prepared forensic fiscal analysis of historic fire events supporting Ohio EPA lawsuit and City’s interests; helping secure \$10.6 Million-dollar settlement for Ohio EPA, City and partner groups.</li> <li>▪ <b>Transportation Plan:</b> Fostered inter-jurisdictional partnerships; leveraged city funds, developing plan to help advance 50-mile recreational infrastructure network connecting five coastal communities sharing state park, beaches, harbors, and other destinations. This secured other transportation grants for City.</li> <li>▪ <b>Partnerships:</b> Forged partnerships between City, neighboring communities, county agencies for grants related to regional safety forces (Fire, Police) from FEMA, State budget allocations, Homeland Security funds, for equipment purchases helping several fire departments, and funding to better secure federal assets. Prepared presentations for city, state and federal agencies.</li> </ul>	
<b>CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER</b> , City Government, Bay Village, Cuyahoga County, OH	<b>2009 – 2013</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR OF URBAN PLANNING</b> , Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University	<b>2008 – 2011</b>
<b>GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE</b> , The Cleveland Foundation – Neighborhood Connections Program	<b>2002 – 2007</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reviewed 180 grant proposals over 5 years. Received training on philanthropic best practices.</li> </ul>	
<b>PLANNER/COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR</b> , Community Development Corporations in City of Cleveland, OH	<b>2002 – 2009</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Renovation Management:</b> Managed city-funded programs for commercial facade rehabs, homeowner grants.</li> <li>▪ <b>Transportation and Revitalization Grants:</b> Secured grants from metropolitan planning organization and others for planning, placemaking projects, public realm enhancements along 4 miles of roadway. Grant-funded plan presented at APA National Conference; adopted by City Planning Commission in 2010.</li> <li>▪ Secured 26 grants overall / \$1.25 M dollars overall for projects-programs. Fostered \$2+ M in commercial redevelopment. Helped secure-preserve \$10 M dollars in payroll within City of Cleveland.</li> </ul>	
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> , Coventry Business Improvement District, Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga Cty. OH	<b>2000 – 2002</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>BID Renewal:</b> Led renewal campaign for 2<sup>nd</sup> BID within State of Ohio at critical juncture; secured BID’s future with 82% approval; increased revenue base by 30%. Leveraged \$300 K BID funds to city match for streetscape enhancement program, helping generate additional \$2 M in private sector investment.</li> <li>▪ <b>Marketing and Branding:</b> Managed branding, destination marketing, and communication strategy, first BID website and 2+ million pieces print advertising in 15 publications. Developed shuttle program connecting BID with park programs. The unique branding of the vehicle was iconic, receiving regional press coverage.</li> </ul>	
<b>Participation within cultural projects &amp; venues - Serving arts economies for communities</b>	
<b>Framer - FRAMES BY REBECCA</b> , Silver Spring - Montgomery County, MD	<b>2019 – 2025</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Handling, preparation, installation of fine art in Maryland, DC and Virginia for artists, collectors, galleries, government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, museums.</li> </ul>	
<b>Exhibit Technician - CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY</b> , Cleveland, OH	<b>1993 – 1997</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design, construction and applied art techniques for museum exhibition elements as needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Member - ART AT THE POWERHOUSE – ART METRO GALLERIES</b> - Cleveland, OH	<b>1993 – 2000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thematic visual merchandising of 3000 SF space featuring 70+ artists. Shows and installations.</li> </ul>	

## Participation within cultural projects & venues - Serving arts economies for communities



**Karamu Theater – Cleveland**

**Trinity Cathedral – Cleveland**

**Ohio Latino Arts Association (OLAA)**

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**Willoughby Fine Arts Association**

**Thrive Gallery – Cleveland**

**Cuyahoga Community College –  
Cleveland Campus**

**Art at the Powerhouse –  
Art Metro Galleries**

**Here-Here Gallery – Cleveland**

**Cleveland Ingenuity Festival**

**WCPN – Cleveland Public Radio**

**The Cleveland Playhouse**

**The Working Theater**

**Cleveland Museum of Art**

**WSEM / Near West Theatre**

**Cleveland Public Theater**

**Metropolis Night Club**

**Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**

*Scenic Painting – In DaHomey*

*Trinity Goes Green! – Creative Use of Recycled Materials*

*A Travès del Horizonte – (Beyond the Horizon)*

*Selected Artist, El Milenio Latino*

*Plástica Latinoamericana del 2004*

*La Mirada Exhibición*

*Diverse Visions*

*The InFOAMation Age – with Laszlo Gyorki*

*Recycle Millennia & Glamour Gal – with Dimitra Paspalis*

*Installation: There But For The... – with John Ranally*

*Installation 'Orange Alert' at GCRTA transit station*

*Design Commission – Promotional building wrap*

*Production Design - Coyote Stories*

*Properties Design - How To Write A Play*

*Design Commission – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary building wrap*

*Set Design – West Side Story*

*Set / Scenic Design / Marketing / Displays*

*One For The Road • Still Life • X-Mas on Mars •*

*A Candle Lit • Star Wares • Orphans of Dada*

*Lobby design*

*Atrium display – Art Technician – with Laszlo Gyorki*

## Example Reviews – Art & Theater



- 2000 Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio Selected Artist, *El Milenio Latino*  
“Bruckman(s) found-object assemblages are beautifully sparse and oddly elegant...”  
– Dan Tranberg, *The Cleveland Free Times*.
- 1999 Here-Here Gallery. Cleveland, Ohio Design Installation  
Collaborative installation with John Ranally Jr. Arranged through Steinbaum Krauss Gallery, New York  
“An inspired collaboration between local sculptors...” – Frank Green, *The Cleveland Free Times*.
- 1996 Cleveland Public Theater Lobby Installation  
“*A Candle Lit*” “Excellent lobby displays about the Rosenberg Trial”  
– Linda Eisenstein, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.
- 1993 Jewish Community Center of Cleveland Production Design  
“*RAGS*” --- Scene Magazine Award for Best Set of Year.  
“Sets that were works of art and served their respective play perfectly.” – Keith Joseph, *Scene Magazine*.  
“*RAGS*” raised Halle Theatre productions to a new level” – Marianne Evett, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.
- 1992 The Cleveland Playhouse Production Design  
“*Coyote Stories*” “Josephine Abady (Artistic Director) was impressed with your work, as was I.”  
– David Eliet, Managing Director Playhouse Lab Company. Correspondence.
- 1991 The Working Theater Properties Design for start-up company  
“*How to Write A Play*” “The production values for this first play at the Working Theater are commendably high”  
– Marianne Evett, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.  
“Every detail intensified the unrelenting hilarity.” – Keith Joseph, *Scene Magazine*.
- 1991 Cleveland Museum of Art. Design Commission  
“*BIG ART*” Installation for Museum’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.  
“...the result was beguilingly simple, direct, and beautiful... one of the few pieces with the visual or physical presence necessary to unify the expansive site.” – *The Cleveland Museum of Art Bulletin*. October, 1991.  
“Bruckman has wrapped a pink ribbon around the frieze of the south façade (of the Museum) creating the illusion that the entire building is a gift to the city....the notion of museum-as-gift is utterly appropriate to the festivities.”  
– Steven Litt, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.
- 1990 WSEM / Near West Theatre Set Design  
“*West Side Story*” “was probably the best student production I have seen of anything – despite the fact that West Side Story is probably the most difficult work in the Broadway musical repertoire. What the Near West Theatre accomplishes with children is amazing.”  
– David Bamberger, Artistic Director of Cleveland Opera. Letter to Gund Foundation.
- 1990 Cleveland Public Theater Production Design  
“*Still Life*” The Cleveland Public Theater production is riveting...professional set and installation”  
– Marianne Evett, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.  
“*One For The Road*” “As evocative as the direction and script is Abraham Bruckman’s set with it’s elegant precision.” – Keith Joseph, *The Cleveland Edition*  
“Abraham Bruckman’s minimal set design is superb.” – Marianne Evett, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.