



# SUSANA ABELL

## Employment Experience

May '05 – Present

**Teaching Artist**, Co-founder and Co-director of Silver Trout Arts providing arts residencies in puppetry, poetry, storytelling, and music.

Jun. '98 – May '05

Executive Director, Chowan Arts Council; Edenton, NC

I was responsible for the administration of a county arts council in northeastern North Carolina, including:

### Regional Leadership

- ◆ Founder and Director of the Northeast Arts Team, a regional consortium including 40 cultural non-profits across 16 counties in Northeastern North Carolina, funded by the NC Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- ◆ Founder and Managing Editor of Art Moves, a semi-annual regional arts publication for the Northeast Arts Team, in partnership with The Virginian Pilot newspaper with a circulation of 60,000 copies
- ◆ Team leader developing trails throughout the region that blend cultural and agricultural tourism found at [www.homegrownhandmade.com](http://www.homegrownhandmade.com)

### Programming

- ◆ Provided educational programming including performing arts presentations to the schools, a series of in-house arts workshops for children and adults, in-school artist residencies, student public art projects, and additional special projects including arts and literature programs for at-risk students.
- ◆ Designed community outreach initiatives developing a more diverse audience for the arts.
- ◆ Served as curator for an annual season of exhibits for the arts council gallery.

### Fundraising

- ◆ Evaluated and prepared all grants, coordinated the annual membership campaign, and planned and implemented several fundraising events per year.

### Personnel

- ◆ Supervised the Assistant Director, Office Manager, and Volunteer Coordinator

Jan. '98 – Jun '98

**Assistant Director, Chowan Arts Council**; Edenton, NC

My responsibilities included publicity, advertising, and newsletter publication. I researched programming, acted as liaison between the arts council and regional schools and developed study guides



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Apr. '97 – Dec. '97

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for teachers to enrich arts programming. I also assisted with gallery exhibits and receptions.

**Program Associate**, Community Service Initiative, Bennington College; Bennington, VT.

I was responsible for the development and implementation of a new community service program for the college with a focus on the arts. My primary responsibility was to develop and support innovative service projects that were tailored to match the interests and talents of students with the needs of the underserved rural population. In addition I marketed the concept of arts and community service to students, and developed alliances with local schools and community service agencies. I also initiated, designed, and published the newsletter, Hearing Voices, which supported the program.

Mar. '96 – Apr. '97

**Educational Consultant**, Project Impact; Allendale, NJ

My responsibilities included the development of new programs in accordance with changing educational needs, writing study guides to accompany each of our artist-in-the classroom residencies, acting as liaison between artists and teachers, and investigating ways of implementing new technologies to further the arts in education.

1990 – 1997

**Artist in the Schools, Project Impact**; Allendale, NJ

I designed and implemented puppetry workshops for the primary grades. These residencies included presentation, construction, and a language arts component. In addition, I led staff development workshops on the use of puppetry arts as a means to enhance curriculum.

1994

**Carnegie Artist in Residence**, Carnegie Hall; New York, NY

Funding: Carnegie Hall

Population: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders

I designed and implemented a series of workshops as part of a larger inter-disciplinary program using masks and mask-making to explore the theme of "influence and inspiration".

1991 – 1993

**Bilingual Artist in Residence**, Union City Schools, Union City, NJ

Funding: Project Impact/Union City Board of Education

Population: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

I designed and implemented a series of bilingual (Spanish/English) workshops including student workshops, teacher in-service



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training, and parent workshops focusing on the use of puppetry in the Whole Language classroom.

1987 – 1993

### **Pre-School Handicapped Program; Nutley, NJ**

Funding: NJ Department of Education

Population: Pre-school communication impaired students

I designed and implemented an arts program using puppetry, mime, and theater to develop communication and social skills at the pre-school level. The program was accepted for presentation at the National Council on Exceptional Children Convention, San Francisco, CA.

1988 – 1991

### **Puppetry and Storytelling for Special Education Students**

Funding: Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Population: Elementary level special education workshops

I co-designed and team-taught a series of three-day intensive workshops in conjunction with a storyteller, targeting classified students in the Morris County area.

1987 – 1991

### **HAP Program; West Orange, NJ**

Funding: West Orange Board of Education

Population: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Gifted Students

1) I co-designed and implemented a puppetry program for gifted and talented students focusing on creative problem solving based on value systems.

2) I co-designed and implemented a workshop for gifted and talented students exploring self-image through the theme of masks and survival.

1986 – 1991

### **Marshall School Artist in Residence**

Funding: NJ Council on the Arts / Marshall School PTA

An annual six-week school-wide residency at a K - 2 school focusing on puppetry in '86 and '87, creating a circus in '88 and '89, and staging plays in '90 and '91. Each of these residencies directly involved approximately 300 students.

## **Education**

Dec 1993

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ. Master of Arts in Teaching

Completed Practicum, Summer 1992



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June 1981	Bennington College, Bennington, VT. Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences Thesis: Adult Literacy in Latin America: An Analysis of the Pedagogy of Paolo Freire.
Sep – Dec. 1980	Centro de Estudios Colombo-Americano, Bogota, Colombia

### Professional Affiliations

Board Member, Annenberg Rural Challenge Grant Advisory Board  
A half million dollar grant to promote rural educational reform

### Additional Experience

1986 – 1990	Faculty Member, Whole Theater Inc, Montclair, New Jersey
1985 – 1986	Circus Performer, Traumtheater Salome, West Germany
1984 – 1985	Performer at a variety of festivals in France and Spain
1983	Scholarship student, Institute Internacional de la Marionette, Northern France
1982	Actress, Teatro Real Espanol, New York, NY
1981 – 1982	Puppeteer, Teatro de Titeres Paciencia de Guayaba, Bogota, Colombia

### Special Skills

Bilingual: Spanish and English  
Published Poet, Coastal Forest Review, Silo, Albemarle Sounds  
Coastal Kayak Instructor