



## GINA TRANISI

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A curious self-starter and creative problem solver with over seven years of nonprofit leadership experience and a diverse background and interest in program creation and management, community partnerships, fundraising, and implementing effective systems. A compassionate spirit and communication style combined with a highly strategic leadership and management style all contribute to success in positions of senior leadership. Excited to build capacity collaboratively with a team for a community-focused organization that is driven by building external partnerships, advancing equity and inclusion and closing industry-wide gender gaps. Lover of details, project management software, and arriving early.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Fox Creek Fundraising** - Omaha, NE *Grants Manager*

- Manage a portfolio of 9+ clients handling all stages of the grants life cycle, including prospecting, cultivation, applications, and reports
- Secure \$500,000+ annually for clients across the nonprofit sector, including youth development, child welfare, health and human services, sports and recreation, and the arts

#### **Nebraska Writers Collective (NWC)** - Omaha, NE *Co-Executive Director* 2022-2025

- Oversee day-to-day operations of a \$700,000+ nonprofit, including the recruitment, hiring, onboarding, training, and retention of all staff and contractors
- Right-size NWC staffing, resulting in a 12% decrease in overhead and 18% decrease in organizational salaries, seeking contractor support for grants, graphic design, copywriting, and social media strategy
- Diversify NWC Board of Directors, recruiting for skill gaps, philanthropic capacity, and lived experience; onboarded six new members, 83% of whom are women or femmes, 67% people of color, and 33% LGBTQIA2S+ identifying
- Cultivate authentic and sustained relationships with 35+ community partners across Nebraska and Southwest Iowa
- Manage a team of 50+ Teaching Artists in 10+ statewide creative writing programs (including the All Writes Reserved Youth Spoken Word Poetry Festival and the Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate program, among others) for young people and adults across two city hubs (Omaha, Lincoln)
- Diversify funding streams and generate income by selling merchandise at NWC events, reinvigorating the Omaha and Lincoln Poetry Slams (monthly) with at-the-door donations, building a fee-for-service model with administrative fees, and charging adult participants to attend virtual craft workshops (monthly) facilitated by NWC Teaching Artists
- Implement results of an organization-wide equity audit, conducted by Dr. Helen Fagan (2022) ensuring NWC policies, procedures, training, and communication are equitable and inclusive
- Manage outside contractors (All of Us Together, Co., Whole Collective) for regular training sessions increasing safety, boundaries, trauma-informed teaching, and cultural competency across NWC Teaching Artist team
- Design, implement, and enforce organizational policies, procedures, and best practices, ensuring the most systemically excluded voices are heard, including the Youth Abuse Prevention Policy, Dual Relationships Policy, and Ethics Code of Conduct

- Fundraise and write grants with a specialty in major gifts, generating \$300,000+ for the NWC in increased gifts from current donors, updating inactive donors about the NWC's new offerings, and bringing new donors and corporate sponsors to the organization
- Capitalize on donor management software system (Network for Good) to increase online and digital giving with e-blasts, newsletter communication, and online donation options, increasing digital giving from by approximately \$10,000+
- Organize, and maintain accountability for, a team of outside contractors (social media strategy, copywriting) via project management tools like Trello
- Develop, write, and implement standard operating procedures for best practices including interviewing/hiring, onboarding, training, Board of Directors bylaws, and equitable pay

**Nebraska Writers Collective (NWC) - Omaha,**  
NE Program Director

2019-2022

- Directed the largest annual youth poetry festival in the Midwest, bringing 250-500+ students together from 25-35+ participating teams across 21-31+ unique events each April
- Developed the Writers' Block program model serving 100+ incarcerated writers in 5+ correctional facilities across Nebraska, including the hiring, onboarding, training, and retention of a Writers' Block Program Coordinator and team of Teaching Artists
- Fundraised \$14,000+ from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) for sustainable growth of the Writers' Block Program
- Designed and facilitated the Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate program, a first-of-its-kind statewide initiative that selects a creative and civic-minded young person to represent Nebraska in regional and national Youth Poet Laureate competitions for a one-year term
- Created a sponsorship plan for the Youth Poet Laureate program, earning \$1,000+ from Dundee Bank and \$10,000+ from Omaha Steaks year over year
- Led a team of 6 Core Teaching Artists and kept 40+ Teaching Artists accountable to educational and mission standards in 5+ NWC programs
- Facilitated creative writing workshops and/or observed creative writing workshops on an as-needed basis to substitute for Teaching Artists and/or Core Teaching Artists
- Designed and implemented annual orientation content for Teaching Artists and Core Teaching Artists to improve classroom management skills, cultural competency, and promote healthy boundaries
- Participated in organization-wide strategic planning session with Parlay Consulting, especially geared towards the departure of an organization's founder and leader, effective change-making, transitional leadership, and equitable staffing
- Researched, booked, and curated detailed itineraries and events for the Visiting Writers Series, a tri-annual or quarterly series that brings writers of national and international renown to Nebraska for poetry readings, writing workshops, and classroom visits in the All Writes Reserved program; Visiting Writers have included Gary Soto, Melissa Lozada-Oliva, Alyssia Harris, Joaquin Zihuatanejo, and Hanif Abdurraqib, among others

**Nebraska Writers Collective (NWC) -**  
Lincoln, NE Deputy Director

2017-2019

- Designed and facilitated after-school, creative writing workshops in 5+ Lincoln-area high schools and 2+ correctional facilities across the All Writes Reserved and Writers' Block programs
- Led 3+ schools in the All Writes Reserved Youth Spoken Word Festival to Finals, out-ranking 25+ competing teams of poets and earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the festival

- Supervised a team of 12+ Teaching Artists across 8+ school sites, building authentic relationships, observing their classrooms, and providing feedback on lesson planning and classroom management skills
- Liaised between Executive Director and Lincoln-area Teaching Artists, ensuring lines of communication were kept open so that the NWC maintained a cultural of respect, transparency, and assumed positive intent

## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Master's of English - Specialization: Women's & Gender Studies  
(2017-2019) Bachelor's of English (2013-2017)