

Luanne E Witkowski
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***In Defense of a Proposal for a Collaborative Doctoral Program in
Creative and Transformative Education***

I am a studio and environmental artist working in a wide range of media, reflective and social practice, with membership in several artist and community organizations and representation in several galleries. My works are in collections throughout the United States and abroad. I offer *Basic Training* for Artists and Creative People Workshops (Healthy Artist/Healthy Studio) in studio sustainability in collaboration with public and private institutions and as individual consultation.

In addition to my studio practice, I am the Communication Design Studio Manager, co-faculty leader for the Interdisciplinary Mini-residency at Haystack, and co-designer and faculty leader of the international travel course Nepal: Art in Social Practice at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. I teach CRCRTH602: Creative Thinking in the Critical & Creative Thinking (CCT) graduate program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and am an internet entrepreneur and business owner. Honors include: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Lifetime Achievement in Art & Commerce Commendation (2010.)

All that being said, it was the work I did to acquire my Master's Degree in CCT at UMB that inspired me to pursue, create, and develop all of these personal and professional avenues. I am now ready to extend, further develop, and interweave them through further-researched and collaborative efforts with others to be creative and transformative in more diverse applications, settings and situations to culminate in research through which I can develop and establish a program to guide others in pursuing their own personal, professional, and social change protocols using creative habits to build well-organized, sustainable studios and work spaces, to engage in their field or community. Combining my experience in studio management, studio practice, sustainability, teaching and mentoring artists and students from a widely cast net (including, but not limited to: the arts, business, science, medicine, education, and management) with my understandings of the challenges that confront complex, messy, ambiguous problems, and using new knowledge, skills, and research I will draw new connections, to determine how to reach my goals and put my program(s) into action. I need and am looking for the opportunity and medium with which to take risks, collaborate, and experiment in putting my ideas and vision into practice, take stock of the outcomes, and revise approaches accordingly. I plan to develop and take on a leading role as a mentor practitioner, researcher, policy maker, educator and consultant in the areas that I am currently engaged in within visual arts and media, innovative and interdisciplinary education and inquiry, group facilitation, and community engagement.

A Doctoral Program in Creative and Transformative Education is the vehicle to provide access to the arena I need to flex and continue in on my path toward a truly interdisciplinary, creative, and sustainable approach to lifestyle and practice.