

SENIZ YARGICI LENNES

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Experience

OYNA | Twin Cities Adventure Play- Minneapolis, MN

(June '14 – present)

Founder / Executive Director

Our mission is to bring the benefits of play into the lives of every person by providing spaces where individuals, families and communities can come together to play, connect, and grow.

- Partner with community organizations to facilitate neighborhood play days, adult retreats, team building workshops, youth camps
- Innovate ongoing services to meet growing community needs: focus on engagement, transformative power, individual growth
- Provide One on One parent support sessions: kids, family, sibling relationships, playtime, screen-time, practicing growth mindset
- Actively engage, energize volunteers, event committees, partnering organizations, funders, garner new opportunities
- Manage diverse program budgets, outreach efforts, marketing, create/maintain all content for website: oynatoday.com
- Hire, train, manage staff for youth camps, adult retreats, teen programs, team-building
- Orchestrate “pop-up” adventure play spaces throughout the city; source building materials; staff and train volunteers
- Designed temporary nature play space, Nokomis Park- Children and Nature Network Legacy Project - partnership with Mpls Parks Board, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds

Ideas to Go, Inc. - Minneapolis, MN

(January '17 – present)

Creative Consumers Associate

Freelance consultant working with major companies to develop new product and marketing strategies.

- Work hand in hand with corporate leadership to generate compelling insights, co-create innovative solutions and ideas
- Practice Behavioral Innovation methodologies; understanding, identifying, overcoming inherent cognitive biases
- Forness Thinking; focus on qualities of ideas that drive toward achieving greater goal, identify all valuable elements in each idea to unlock creative potential at every turn

Bright Prospects Cooperative Preschool- East Lake Street - Minneapolis, MN

(August '16 – June '20)

Co-Teacher

Founded in 1948, one of the oldest continuously running cooperative preschools in the nation. Teachers and parents strive together to ensure that each child has a positive introduction to the classroom environment by supporting the natural ability of children to be thoughtful, motivated, and self-reliant individuals.

- Collaborated with co-teacher to create nurturing environment to meet needs of students as well as membership families
- Developed, prepared, and implemented emergent curriculum to meet emotional, social, physical, and cognitive needs of each student
- Maintained open communication with parents to follow progress of their child through daily personal interaction, parent/teacher conferences, and monthly teacher reports
- Provided space for parents to actively observe children’s play, engage in learning process, learn about value of free, child-led play

Huge Improv Theater- Lyn-Lake - Minneapolis, MN

(July '11 – December '18)

Director, Teen Programs

- Designed improvisational theater curricula that help youth participants take significant steps toward personal growth
- Ensured ongoing programmatic excellence, program evaluation, finance and administration, fundraising, communications
- Recruited, trained, supervised team of teaching artists; facilitated annual training on creating inclusive classroom, dynamic classroom facilitation, management techniques for youth programs
- Actively engaged, energized volunteers, event committees, alumni, partnering organizations, funders
- Managed program budget, fundraising, outreach efforts
- Collaborated with Huge Theater board to ensure streamlined teen programs, curriculum, scheduling etc
- Acted as liaison with community partners for off-site teen programming

Pillsbury House + Theatre- Powderhorn - Minneapolis, MN

(November '10 – March '12)

Resident Artist, Coordinator

- Taught theatre, music, art classes for PH+T participants: toddlers, preschoolers, school-aged kids
- Developed arts-based programming in collaboration with human service staff that enhanced overall program effectiveness
- Coordinated resident artist staff schedules, team meetings, connect resident artists with human service staff needs
- Co-created, facilitated summer arts camp staff workshops
- Participated in periodic cultural community hub institutes to design collaborative arts-infused programs
- Contributed to program documentation, evaluation

Youth Frontiers Inc.- Minneapolis, MN

(August '04 - August '06 and August '08 - August '10)

Director, Youth Retreats

Directed, collaborated with team of retreat/school staff to deliver effective programs about kindness, courage, respect

- Acted as liaison between Youth Frontiers and school staff, met with teachers during retreat day
- Facilitated day-long retreats for 4th-12th grade students to create a more positive school community
- Managed flow of time on retreat, practiced flexibility as issues arose
- Observed retreats, provided feedback to staff to maintain retreat integrity daily, made programmatic improvements
- Trained high school volunteers as group leaders on retreat- worked with them throughout day
- Attended weekly staff meetings to review, revise effectiveness of retreats
- Completed expense reports, follow-up materials/evaluations for retreats
- Responsible for sound system, retreat materials
- Member of Quality Assurance Team
- Wrote, presented 15 minute talks incorporating personal stories regarding kindness, courage
- Led large group activities, performed dramatic sketches, sang solos/duets
- Connected with youth in short amount of time
- Facilitated Make A Stand Leadership Retreats- opp for West Metro Ed. students to develop leadership skills, cultural competency

Urban Arts Partnership- New York, NY

(September '07 – August '08)

Program Manager

Collaborated with public school principals, staff to create, implement in/after school arts programs in 23 schools city-wide

- Developed, maintained relationships with school leadership, staff in all five NYC boroughs
- Supervised, managed team of 30+ teaching artists to ensure high quality programs
 - Observed in-class residencies, delivered feedback for improvement
 - Acted as liaison between teaching artist and school
 - Created, implemented observation tool for TA performance quality
- Devised, standardized, led monthly professional development workshops for teaching artists, public school teachers
- Conceptualized, developed, launched new program, *Inclusive Classroom Facilitation and Management*
- Managed "Life Stories"- a pre-professional theatre program for 9-11th grade students focused on developing original works
- Advisor on school climate, student relations at partner school- *Middle School for Art and Philosophy- Brownsville-Brooklyn*

The Academy for Film & Television - Minneapolis, MN

(September '02 - August '04)

Education Coordinator (IMTA division)/ Acting Instructor/Private Acting Coach

- Devised training curriculum for actors of varying skills, experience
- Hired instructors, facilitated weekly training sessions
- Taught fundamentals of acting, improvisation to students of all ages
- Served as advisor for acting students
 - Developed brand image for acting students by: selecting headshots, formatting composite cards, reviewing resume
 - Arranged photo shoots with local photographers
 - Administered weekly meetings with students, parents to provide guidance regarding acting industry
- Conducted bi-annual meetings with agents, casting directors from New York, Los Angeles to discuss client representation

Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Paul, MN

(June '01 - August '02)

Coordinator, Public Programs/Museum Educator

- Assisted Director of Public Programs with administration of department
 - Managed team of educational performers, served as liaison for out of state interns
 - Maintained organization of script files, resource center, daily audience attendance records
- Developed interactive educational programs in collaboration with several departments for summer intensive sessions
- Created and organized session ("Lights Up on How to Hire Museum Theatre Educators") for annual ASTC (Association of Science and Technology Centers) Conference
- Administered preparations for annual Theatre in Museums Workshop
 - Collaborated with graphic artist to create all outgoing material, administered mass mailings
 - Designed, constructed 50 Theatre in Museum manuals for workshop participants
- Presented 15-30 minute theatrical performances, scientific demonstrations: performed 2-7 shows a days, managed performance space, researched, was responsible for background knowledge of shows, answered visitor questions

Additional Teaching / Coaching Experience

Concentration on fundamentals of leadership, communication, social responsibility, and self-concept through acting, improvisation, and scene-writing for 3rd-12th grade students in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Minneapolis.

All programs:

- *Focus on team-building through games, scene work*
- *Incorporate reading, listening, speaking about work*
- *Provide students with tools to identify, understand elements of theatre*
- *Include exercises in focus, character development, physicality, voice awareness*
- *Establish safe environment promoting positive expression*
- *Utilize experiential learning cycle to process activities*
- *Culminate in original, student-written performance*

*The Leadership Program / After School Residency- **MS 323- Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York, NY**
(Contracted; January '07 - September '07)*

*Queens Theatre in the Park / CASA Program- **PS 206- Queens, New York, NY**
(Contracted; January '07 - July '07)*

*Ars Nova Theatre / Script & Stage Program- **Urban Assembly Academy of Arts and Letters- Fort Greene, Brooklyn, New York, NY**
(Contracted; January '07 - July '07)*

*Pillsbury United Communities- **Chicago Avenue Project, Minneapolis, MN**
(Contracted; September '04 - August '06)*

Education / Technical Skills

Bachelor of Arts- Theatre, University of Minnesota, 2001 / Mac and PC systems, Photoshop, Lightroom4, iMovie

Additional

Mentor -Chicago Avenue Project, Pillsbury House+Theater; acting, directing, playwriting (*Fall '00 – present*)

Founding member of the North American Adventure Play Association

US Play Coalition annual conference Play Coordinator (*February '14 – April '20*)

Member of Midwest Play Conference steering committee (June '18)

Improviser, Director numerous improvisational theatre productions – HUGE Theater (*September '12 – present*)

Host Space Jam, a weekly improv jam – HUGE Theater (*Fall '13 – Spring '18*)

Artist in Residence, MCC Youth Theatre Company, New York (*November '06- May '08*)

Fluent in Turkish, conversational French

Ongoing CPR/First Aid Certification

Photography, www.sylphotography.com

Travel