

Matthew L. Armstead

Pronouns: they/them • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA • matthew.armstead@gmail.com • 610.513.5928

- ❖ I'm a **Trainer & Facilitator** with 15 years of facilitating dialogues and resolving conflict among people with social and structural power differences; I design and implement training curricula for US-based and global audiences.
- ❖ **Creativity Catalyst.** I infuse theatre, games, music, and body-based practices into organizational processes to encourage innovative thinking, access cultural margins, and create sustainable cultures.
- ❖ **Experiential Program Designer.** I use participatory tools, in-person and online, that increase engagement by embedding assessment and experimentation throughout the design process.
- ❖ **Capacity Builder.** I coach and mentor leaders to develop strategies, manage cross-cultural teams, develop new leaders, navigate conflict, and access their wisdom.
- ❖ **Equity & Organizational Strategist.** I help organizations identify and engage areas for growth, create policies and systems, and develop strategic plans that increase engagement.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

CORE TRAINER, *Training for Change* 2013–Present

- ❖ Train over 200 social justice organizations and 4000 leaders globally, specializing in experiential learning, organizing, gamification, nonviolent campaigns, and diversity, equity, and inclusion
- ❖ Actively adapted 53 trainings in real time, precipitating participants to successfully advocate change within their communities or organizations
- ❖ Co-facilitate the Super-T - a 100+ hour training for activists from the global north and global south that has been supporting successful campaigns, new coalitions, and hundreds of effective training curricula
- ❖ Coach 5 individuals annually to transform themselves and their groups through curriculum design, gamification, embracing cultural practices, community care, and embodying shared power
- ❖ Co-produce 8 best practice trainings for participatory online tools, which center relationship building, integrating care, functioning as remote and hybrid online/in-person teams, and support 100s of successful remote transitions during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ❖ Guide 5+ collaborative training teams annually, and coach the development of 2 peer coaching programs
- ❖ Direct the Philadelphia Fellowship for BIPOC cultural workers, which has stimulated 4 new initiatives
- ❖ Collaborate to active successful training networks, including the JCJ Fellowship for Trainers of Color (US and Canada), the Trainer Salon (US and Latin America), and the Trainers Circle (global)

FOUNDER, *CULTURE WORK STUDIOS* 2016–Present

- ❖ Partner with 3+ organizations annually to create programs that integrate theatre, play, and spirituality into procedures and practices that bolster sustainable, multiracial engagement
- ❖ Design and implement arts-based curricula for social justice advocates and facilitators
- ❖ Coach individuals in role discernment, curriculum design, and developing sustainability practices
- ❖ Strategize with teams to shift organizations toward inclusive, learning-centered cultures
- ❖ Guide organizations to engage BIPOC and working class leaders, co-create policies and accountability practices, and design processes to sustain multiracial, cross-class, cross-disciplinary teams

MANAGING DIRECTOR, *Earth Quaker Action Team* 2013–2016

- ❖ Managed staff, programs, operations, partnerships, and communications
- ❖ Expanded the organization from the Philadelphia region to a national network through volunteer leadership, which won a campaign to change a multi-million dollar bank investment policy
- ❖ Doubled the number of donors and successfully raised funds for a 30% budget increase

- LGBT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, *Princeton University*** 2009–2013
- ❖ Collaborated with students, faculty, alumni, and staff to design, implement, and assess 2-3 programs weekly
 - ❖ Managed the LGBT Center facility, library, online presence, financial support, and budget
 - ❖ Supervised and recruited volunteers, interns, and student staff
 - ❖ Provided walk-in crisis management, mediation, and counseling on academics, career, and life planning
- ALUMNI RELATIONS FELLOW, *Swarthmore College*** 2008-2009
- ❖ Coordinated volunteers to build sustainable affinity programs connecting alumni and students
 - ❖ Maintained and expanded engagement with website, alumni-student database, and social media
 - ❖ Planned and implemented organizational improvement inventions
 - ❖ Recruited, trained, and supervised 100+ staff for the annual alumni reunion
- LIFE SKILLS SPECIALIST, *The Attic Youth Center*** 2007
- ❖ Staffed the drop-in center, providing activities and encouraged a community of support
 - ❖ Developed a new peer-to-peer focused city-outreach program for LGBTQ youth
 - ❖ Counseled youth on personal issues and goal setting, and facilitated weekly support group meetings

EDUCATION

- SWARTHMORE COLLEGE. *Swarthmore, PA*** 2004–2008
 Bachelor of Arts. Major: Theatre Studies. Minor: Women’s Studies.
Awards:
 Dean’s Award (2008), Americorp Scholar in Service to PA (2007-2008),
 Summer Social Action Award (2007), Emerging Leader Award (2005)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS. *Philadelphia, PA*** 2016–2018
 Master of Fine Arts in Devised Performance with Pig Iron Theatre Company.
Awards:
 Dean’s Award (2016), ACLU Frankel-Adair Scholarship for LGBT Students (2016),
 Jonathan Lax Scholarship for Gay Men (2016), Swarthmore Fellowship (2016)

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, COURSES, and PROGRAMS

INTEGRATING FUN & GAMES	Resource Generation	2021
HEALING JUSTICE FOR BLACK ORGANIZERS	Sunrise Movement	2020
BEYOND THE CALL 3: GROUNDING AND GROWING OUR PROPHETIC MINISTRIES	Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association	2018-2020
UNPACKED: AN HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAM	Campaign Bootcamp UK	2019-2020
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS SKILL-UP	Accion	2019
INCLUSION EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION AS AN EXEC TEAM	B Lab	2018-2019
ORGANIZING STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS	Creating Effective and Inclusive Organizations	2018-2019
ACTING 101	Swarthmore College	2018
ONLINE LEARNING FOR LABOUR	Canadian Labour Council	2018
RE-ROLE MASCULINITIES	Lutheran Settlement House	2018
BUILDING SKILLS FOR CHANGE	University of Pennsylvania	2017

DEVELOPING A CAMPAIGN

Black Lives Matter 5280

2016

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & PERFORMANCES

MYTH SEEDS	Creator, Director	Zoom	2021
THE MAKING OF BOY PROJECT	Co-Creator	Fringe Arts	2020
Barack and Michelle	Co-Creator, Actor	Fringe Arts	2020
FIVE WEEKS CLOSER	Creator, Director	Community Education Center	2017
INSPIRA: THE POWER OF THE SPIRITUAL	Co-Creator, Actor	Theatre for Transformation	2015-2016
DARING TO STAND UP	Keynote Speaker	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	2015
FROM THE FRONTLINES AND BACK	Speaker	Georgetown Law Center	2014
FERGUSON FREEDOM FIGHTERS	Creator, Actor	University City Arts League	2014
BLACK HISTORY MONTH KEYNOTE	Speaker	Swarthmore College	2012
A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA	Chorus Member	Kimmel Center	2009
HISTORY DETECTIVES	Actor	Public Broadcasting Service	2007