

Elizabeth Whipple McKenna

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Executive Summary

An innovative leader and author with over 20 years of experience devoted to building progressive learning communities that embody twenty-first century teaching and learning where communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity are held to the highest levels of importance. A thought-partner with a proven track record of building the skills of talented professionals, by advancing conversations through question, reflection, observation, and practice.

Recent Publication

Rucci, B. and McKenna, E. (2016) *Art Workshop for Children*. Beverly, MA: Quarto Publishing Group USA Inc.

Professional Experience

Exponential Returns, New York, NY 2014- Present

Founder, Consultant and Certified Coach

- Serving the education nonprofit sector with most *notable clients*-- *Bank Street Education Center, The Jewish Education Project, AltSchool, and Bank Street College*
- Built and designed school environments for optimal teaching and learning
- Created and facilitated professional development that enhanced engagement
- Developed a values-based culture with an inclusive voice approach
- Coached leaders and team members to improve performance in innovative and thought-provoking ways; including decision-making skills and abilities
- Partnered cross-departmentally, and with various team members, to identify and build talent pipelines leading to success, growth, and sustainability

The Town School, New York, NY 2011-2014

Head, Lower School Division (Grades 1-4), Independent School

- Reported directly to the Head of School with key achievements in areas of academic performance, curriculum design, improving teacher performance, and building a strong school community

New Canaan Country School, New Canaan, CT 1995-2011

Head, Early Childhood Division, Independent School

- Founded a Reggio-inspired space and successfully redefined vision for the school and its community
- Served as a teacher and tested new early childhood program design in the classroom

Education

Teachers College, Columbia University Coaching Certification Program, Certification 2015

Bank Street College, Master of Science, Education (Specializing in Supervision & Administration) 2005

University of Vermont, Bachelor of Science, Education (Major: Elementary Education) 1980

Certification

Teachers College, NBI Assessment (measuring thinking preferences), Certification 2015

Teachers College, MBTI (a personality assessment tool), Certification 2015

Adjunct Faculty

Bank Street College, New York, NY 2010-Present

Adjunct Professor - "Dynamic Leadership: Inspiring and Supporting Your Teaching Faculty"

Board Memberships & Affiliations

Board Member, Chicago Mobile Makers, Chicago, IL 2021- Present

Board Member, Chicago Youth Centers, Chicago, IL 2021- Present

Board of Trustees, Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL 2021- Present

Advisory Council, Portfolio School, New York, NY 2016- Present

Advisory Board, Henry Street Settlement Board, New York, NY	2014- Present
Advisory Board, READ Alliance, New York, NY	2014-Present
Founding Board Member, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Norwalk, CT	1994- 1995

Recent Professional Contributions

Reggio Emilia, New York, NY	2015- Present
Exhibit Facilitator - “The Wonder of Learning Exhibit”	
National Association of Independent Schools	2011
Presenter - “Environment, Architecture, and Program: Tools for Integrating Private and Public Schools”	
International Society of Education through the Arts	2010
Presenter - “Integrating People, Environment and Sustainability through Art Education”	
Columbia University, New York, NY	2008- 2009
Co-Leader - “Spirit of Teaching and Learning” (Designed a pilot study) & “Classroom as a Spiritual Space”	
Chicago International Charter Schools, Chicago, Illinois	Summer 2009
Intern - Collaborated with a team of educators to perform research on the link between high quality teaching and technology in the classroom	
United Nations, New York, New York	Summer 2005
Intern - United National Development Fund for Women	

<u>Continuing Education/ Professional Development</u>	1995-Present
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Lego Idea Conference, Billund, Denmark

Facilitative Leadership Seminar, NYU Metro Center for Urban Education, New York, NY

Art of Tinkering Workshop, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA

Responsive Classroom, Chicago Ill

Grant Wiggins Feedback -Authentic Education, Lambertville, NJ

Deeper Learning, High Tech High, San Diego, CA

Project Based Learning, PBL World, Napa, CA

Learning and the Brain: Educating for Creative Minds, San Francisco

Design Thinking, Lime Design, The Town School, New York, New York

Differentiated Instruction, The Churchill School, New York, New York

Design Thinking, Henry Ford Learning Institute, Detroit, MI

Design Thinking Institute, Nueva School, CA

Differentiated Teaching-Carol Tomlinson, Teachers College, New York, New York

Reggio Emilia International Conference: “Crossing Boundaries”, Reggio, Italy

People of Color Conference, Chicago, IL

Reggio Emilia Delegation, Reggio, Italy