

# Emily Marks

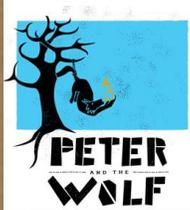
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**"She's reinventing the 19th century opera house into a 21st century arts incubator."**

- Austin Chronicle

## Innovative Arts Education

World premiere of Lionheart Youth Theatre's modern adaptation of *Peter and the Wolf*, December 2015.



*Farfalle of Italy combining dance and high-tech projections to follow a butterfly's life from egg to winged glory.*

Mother Falcon's Music Laboratory Consultant for innovative education program serving teens.



Sesame Street puppeteer Leslie Carrara (Abby Cadabby).



Reggie Watts on Scottish Rite Theatre stage.

*Invasion of the New Grrl Order at Fusebox Festival. Part 1 (2012): Girls and Punk. Part 2 (2015): Body Image.*



Raised \$20K on Kickstarter to fund 2012 release of "female Elvis's" final album.

## Strategic Leader, Family Programming Excellence

**Arts Administration Excellence:** Deliver double and triple digit improvements as founder and/or executive director of performing arts and arts education nonprofits.

**Programming Innovation:** Conceive, produce, and present music and theater events found nowhere else in the region. Produce and present at prominent venues and festivals, including top regional theaters, SXSW, Fusebox Festival, and others.

**Produced or presented:** Reggie Watts, Leslie Rudolph (Sesame Street), Compagnia TPO (Italian Digital Theatre for children) The Bangles, Exene Cervenka, Tosca String Quartet, Of Montreal, Graham Reynolds, Khaira Arby, Rosie Flores, and others.

**Known for Strengths in:** Programming, youth theatre, arts education and advocacy, preservation, fundraising, leadership, budgeting, grant writing, board relations, strategic planning for nonprofits, sponsorships, PR, event planning, project management, artist relations, startups, sponsorships and partnerships, production, composing and music directing, cultural tourism and economic development, and festival programming.

## Experience

**INDEPENDENT CONSULTING/PRODUCING: Various Clients/Projects**, Austin, TX; 2013–2015  
Deliver diverse consulting projects in infrastructure building, fundraising, board training, program and curriculum development, audience development, strategic planning, marketing, and outreach.

- **Hired to produce the City of Austin's 2015 New Year's event, including performers, art installations, and vendors. Included live performances, interactive games, and murals.**
- **Produced premiere of Lionheart Youth Theatre's adaptation of Peter and the Wolf (Dec. 2015 at The Paramount). Planned large-scale puppetry and new score. Also produced adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood which is also in production.**
- **Helping Red River Cultural District in Austin to preserve historic music venues. Working on state cultural district designation and incorporation of merchants' association.**

**EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Scottish Rite Theatre**, Austin, TX; 2012–2013

Served as public face of the organization. Designed and defined role, winning support of hiring BOD to turn around chaotic operations and enable artistic, business, and arts education goals.

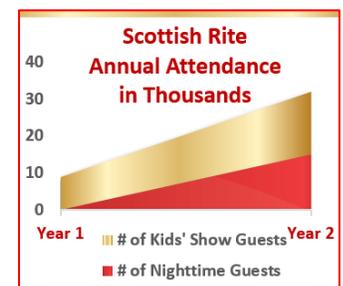
Led 20 administrative and creative reports. Developed creative vision, business plan, and marketing strategy, including sponsor deck and fundraising materials. Led comprehensive rebranding. Personally composed scores and served as musical director/arranger for select shows.

### In One Year, Added:

**\$42K in Savings**  
**585% More Grant Funding**  
**100% More Kids' Attendance**  
**90% More to Budget**  
**35% More Family Attendance**  
**300% More Productions**

### Producing Innovative Children's Programs & Presenting High-Profile Adult/Family Shows

- **Rebranded 150-year-old venue, positioning it as an iconic cultural treasure. Made core programs free to 33% of audience to reach economically diverse populations.**
- **Accelerated growth by establishing community and corporate funding partnerships.**
- **Brought children's theater from 10 years of annual losses to operating in the black.**
- **Partnered with producers like C3, Moontower Comedy Festival, Austin Art Alliance, Fusebox Festival, and Transmission Events to bring prominent evening shows.**
- **Elevated quality and accessibility of arts education offerings, using nighttime shows to supplement budget and fulfill the organization's primary mission. Aligned with STEAM and TEKS curriculum in schools.**
- **Contemporized children's programming, presenting adaptations and hiring more diverse talent.**
- **Delivered "Girls Thrive" female-led theatre camp combatting relational aggression.**



On BOD of Austin Creative Alliance, serving on government advocacy committee.



"Marks does admit to breaking down.... when the Bangles asked Schmillion, a band of Austin Girls Rock Camp grads, to open for them."  
- Austin Statesman



Co-founded Girls Rock Camp Alliance connecting 65+ international camps. Organized 2009 conference.



Produced annual fundraising events at SXSW with prominent artists like The Bangles.

**Training:** Leadership Austin • Greenlights for Nonprofit Success Executive Director Training • Lincoln Center Institute Teacher Training • Certified Fundraising Executive (expected August 2015)

**Speaking:** SXSW Panelist • Musicians for Equal Opportunity for Women • Leadership Austin • UT Austin • Austin Emerging Arts Leaders

**Member:** Association of Performing Arts Presenters • International Performing Arts for Youth • Americans for the Arts

## FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Girls Rock Austin, Austin, TX; 2007–2012

Founded nonprofit dedicated to empowering girls and women of all backgrounds and abilities through musical education and performances. Formed and partnered with board, recruited and mobilized sponsors, and headed strategy and operations with a vision that continues to power the organization. Served as spokesperson and media representative. Inspired giving by young philanthropists and championed stewardship of donors.

### Cultivated Music Education, Leadership Experience, Life Skill Development, and Social Change

- Created safe, supportive community of peers and mentors for girls, capturing sponsors and creating infrastructure. Created curriculum and teacher's guides.
- Increased attendance 300% between year 1 and year 2, and 400% by year 5.
- Brought together girls from diverse racial and economic backgrounds, providing scholarships to 50% of participants. Built strategic alliances with foster care and other child-centered organizations.
- Received Mayor's Proclamation (2009).
- Attracted 600 attendees to each end-of-camp performance 2008 and onward.
- Garnered coverage in *Bust Magazine, USA Today, Texas Monthly, The Austin American Statesman, Bitch Magazine, The Chicago Reader, and The Austin Chronicle*.
- Recruited and trained 50+ women as teachers/volunteers, building a cohesive team from business leaders, music leaders in all genres, and Junior Leaguers, among others.
- Accumulated resources by creating shared vision with sponsors and running innovative online fundraisers and events. Obtained \$50K of donated music gear from multiple companies.
- Amplified the girls' rock camp movement by collaborating to create a conference and volunteer exchange programs. Served as consultant to camps in TN, GA, and TX.
- Honored music icons for their support by creating the Rockin' Revolutionary Award.
- Presented 50+ world-class performers during summer camp seasons.

### Partners and Sponsors

SXSW  
Anthropos Arts  
The Settlement Home for Girls  
Broadcast Music, Inc.  
Maurice's Clothing  
KUT  
Guitar Center  
Fender  
Peavey  
*The Austin Chronicle*

## Early Career

**WORKING MUSICIAN:** Peabody, Project Motion, Golden Hornet, etc., Memphis, TN; 2003–2007  
Learned presentation, stage managing, and music directing.

**TEACHING ARTIST:** Girls, Inc., Memphis, TN; 2000–2003

Won grants to introduce girls to composition, songwriting, and women in music history. Implemented feminist musical theater programs and summer guitar program.

**TEACHER:** The Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Memphis, TN; 2002–2003

Taught guitar and music history, helping establish children's programming and imparting understanding of soul music heritage in the Memphis community.

**TEACHING ARTIST:** Memphis Arts Council (now Arts Memphis), Memphis, TN; 1998–2000

Prepared school children for musical performances with 3-week artist residencies (each had a focus, from opera to blues of the Delta). Used Lincoln Center Model for Aesthetic Education.

**MUSIC COACH:** Playhouse on the Square, Theater for Youth Program, Memphis, TN; 1997–2000  
Served as teaching artist for after school acting program sponsored by theater conservatory.

## Education and Board Experience

**Board Member:** Austin Creative Alliance (2012–Present) • Golden Hornet Project (2010–2012) • Girls Rock Camp Alliance (2012–2013) • Soul Sessions ATX (2010–2012) • MEOW Con (2013)

Bachelor of Music, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

Early studies in theater and music at New School for Social Research and Mannes Conservatory