

Education

- 1999 MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois
1994 BA, Bard College, Annandale, New York (Junior semester, Academy of Art and University of Gdansk, Poland)

Awards & Grants

- 2009 Puffin Foundation Artist Grant
2007 Gloucester New Arts Festival Grant
2005 Partner with an Artist Grant, seARTS & Massachusetts Cultural Council, Gloucester, MA
Gloucester New Arts Festival Grant
2004 Community Development Block Grant, City of Gloucester, MA
2001 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
Artists Fellowship Award, Illinois Arts Council
2000 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

Selected Public Art Commissions, Publications & Exhibitions

- 2009 *Beacon Street Block Party Community-Building Experiment*, Beacon Street Farm, Gloucester, MA
Stone Soup Story Telling Performances & Student Projects, West Parish School, Veteran's Memorial School,
East Gloucester School, Gloucester, MA
2008 *Art in the Public Sphere: Singular Works, Plural Possibilities*, University Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2007 *The Object of Labor: Critical Perspectives on Art, Cloth, and Cultural Production*, The School of the Art Institute of
Chicago, MIT Press
Attention Shoppers, Public art project for Shaw's Supermarket. Commissioned by Gloucester New Arts
Festival and supported by artist residencies at CESTA and Shaw's Supermarket. Gloucester, MA
Works in Progress, Residency artist presentation, Cultural Exchange Station, Tabor, Czech Republic
Maybe it is too late. But too late for what?, Community-based project for *Trudging Toward Transformation Symposium*.
Commissioned by Wellspring House. Salem, MA
2006 *Hidden Value*, Public art project for Pulaski Park. Commissioned by the Northampton Arts Council. Northampton, MA
2005 *Talking Towel Project*, Public art project for Cape Ann YMCA. Commissioned by Gloucester New Arts Festival and funded
by seARTS. Gloucester, MA
2000 *Help Re-create the Log Drive*, Public art project for Log Days Festival. Supported by artist residency at Skowhegan School
of Painting and Sculpture. Skowhegan, ME
Lara Lepionka, Jennifer Talbot, Christine Tarkowski, Anne Wilson, Gallery 400, Chicago
Visible Links, Global public art project, exhibited in multiple work places
1999 *Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation Garden Gallery Project*, archi-treasures, Chicago
Art vs. State, ABC No Rio, New York

Artist Residencies

- 2007 Cultural Exchange Station in Tabor (CESTA), Czech Republic
2000 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
1996 The Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
1995 The Millay Colony for the Arts, Austerlitz, NY

Collections

Smith College, Northampton, MA

Bibliography

- 2009 *Helping Seeds Grow*, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
Creating Stone Soup, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
2008 *Million Cups of Coffee*, Bucks County Courier Times, Philadelphia, PA
2007 *Attention Shoppers, 'Artist in Aisle Four*, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
Lara Lepionka - Attention Shoppers, The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research
For What It's Worth: Uncovering the Hidden Value in Work, Community Arts Network APInews
2006 *Artists in the Family*, North Shore Living, Essex, MA
Hidden Value, WFCR News, WFCR Public Radio, Amherst, MA
Work as Art, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA
Art Gallery: New Role for City Park, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, MA

Bibliography (continued)

- 2006 *Ordinary Things Used to Create Art*, The Republican, Springfield, MA
Art That Reveals Community Contributions, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
- 2005 *Talking Towels at the Cape Ann Y*, Community Arts Network APInews
Through Towels, a Community is Connected, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
- 2003 *Artist Lepionka Puts People in Public Art*, Gloucester Daily Times, Gloucester, MA
- 2000 *Artist Finds Industry's Common Links*, Mining Voice Magazine, Washington DC
Artist Links U.S. Silica to World, US Silica Magazine, Connecticut
- 1999 *Art vs. State*, Sandbox Magazine #7, New York
Visible Links, Labor Express-independent radio & Labor Beat-local access television, Chicago

Lectures, Panels & Programs

- 2006 Lecture, *Hidden Value*, Northampton Arts Council, Northampton, MA
 Panel, *Collaboration in the Arts: A Panel Discussion*, seARTS, Gloucester, MA
- 2005 Panel, *Gloucester New Arts Festival Discussion Forum*, Cape Ann Historical Museum, Gloucester, MA
- 2004 Program, *Especially for Artists: Professional Development Series*, Yellow School Center for the Arts, Byfield, MA
- 2003 Lecture, *Talking About Public Art*, seARTS, Gloucester, MA
- 2001 Program, *Community Dialogue Series: Loophole/Pothole-Downtown vs. the Neighborhoods*, archi-treasures, Chicago
 Lecture, *Visible Links*, Columbia College Senior Seminar, Chicago
 Panel, *Getting Your Foot in the Door - Artist Grants*, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2000 Program, *Community Dialogue Series: Talking About Partnership Ethics-Art & Community*, archi-treasures, Chicago
 Panel, *Exhibition Artists Discuss their Work*, Gallery 400, Chicago
 Lecture, *Art & Labor*, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Chicago
- 1999 Lecture, *Interventions*, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Chicago

Related Arts Employment Experience

- 2007-2009 **Independent Grant Writer** for arts, cultural, and educational non-profits
- Research, write, and manage foundation and government grants for non-profit organizations and their college or municipal partners involving projects in the arts, arts partnerships, cultural economic development, arts education, service learning, children and youth, and social justice.
- 2006 **Visiting Artist / Curriculum Developer**, Springfield Expeditionary Learning School, Springfield, MA
- Designed curriculum and acted as visiting artist for Springfield Expeditionary Learning School's 9th grade unit on how work is perceived in society. My curriculum contribution was based on my public art project, *Hidden Value*, a project that explores the value of work.
- Partner with an Artist Director**, seARTS, Gloucester, MA
- Facilitated the partnership-building process among artists, businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits to create new artworks that considered the culture, history, or site specificity of the business.
- Director of Development**, seARTS, Gloucester, MA
- Wrote all major grants for the organization including the Massachusetts Cultural Council Adams Grant for cultural economic development.
- 2004-2005 **Executive Director**, Yellow School Center for the Arts, Byfield, MA
- Built the organization from the ground up in its start-up year including, building partnerships with schools, developing revenue-generating programming, managing an arts facility, implementing marketing plans, and developing fundraising strategies.
- 2003-2005 **Instructor / Curriculum Developer**, Professional Development/Grant Writing workshops for artists, Gloucester, MA
- Designed and taught professional development workshops for professional artists including grant writing, partnership building, and marketing.
- 2000-2001 **Director of Research and Development**, Office of Community Arts Partnerships (OCAP), Columbia College Chicago
- Facilitated the partnership-building process between students and faculty at the college and administrators and youths at community-based organizations.
 - Assisted in the creation of a new Master's degree concentration in Arts in Youth and Community Development and facilitated an exploratory learning exchange between youth-based arts organizations in the U.S. and U.K.
- 1999-2000 **Community Arts Instructor / Coordinator**, Association House of Chicago
- Wrote proposals for collaborative arts partnerships between Association House and Columbia College
 - Coordinated and directed arts programs and events, developed visiting artist programs to meet educational goals, and taught youth at El Cuarto Año, Association House's alternative high school