

Calla Evans

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Professional Profile

I merge an extensive history as a professional artist and photographer with academic and community-situated project and research management experience. I am a skillful facilitator and I work well in meaningful collaboration with community members and other stakeholders. I understand the importance of documentation and making knowledge and experiences visible. I thrive in a support role where I am able to transfer my skills and lived experiences to amplify other voices.

2019. Communication and Culture, MA. Toronto Metropolitan and York Universities.

2005. Photography, BFA (Hons.). Toronto Metropolitan University.

Work Experience

Open Access Foundation for Arts and Culture, *General Manager.*

September 2022 – ongoing.

OAFAC is a pandemic-era cultural organization led by a passionate group of Disabled, Sick, Mad, Fat, Hard of Hearing, Neurodivergent, Blind, Low Vision, and Nonvisual artists and cultural workers. By providing educational, training, and mentorship opportunities, OAFAC builds capacity for those in the broader Disability Arts movement to participate in the field on their terms and gain influence within a wider cultural context.

Key responsibilities: create timelines based in a deep understanding of Crip time and culture, for all projects of the organization, including grant-supported work and commissions; support the staff in assessing organizational capacity with each new proposed project; lead development of strategic and project planning, on a quarterly and annual basis, and play a key role in an upcoming major organizational development process; prepare updates and reports for funders and Board of Directors; financial management, preparing documents for audits, managing payroll, coordinating employee benefits; supporting grant applications and fundraising initiatives.

Re•Vision: The Centre for Art & Social Justice, *Digital Storytelling Facilitator & Team Member.*

January 2021 – ongoing.

Re•Vision is an arts methodology research hub that investigates the power of the arts and story to confront systemic injustices in healthcare, education and the arts.

Key responsibilities: developing and facilitating remote storytelling workshops with a variety of community and academic stakeholders; developing artist-focused modules for the Bodies in Translation (BIT) online learning platform; contributing to academic outputs such as journal articles; working on major grant applications for governmental funding bodies such

as SSHRC; leading knowledge mobilization projects such as www.revisionstorymaking.ca. Re•Vision's ethos is rooted in disability justice and crippling the arts.

Calla Evans Photography, Owner & Lead Photographer. www.callaevansphotography.com.

August 2005-ongoing.

A lifestyle photography company that focuses on documenting intimate and important moments for a wide breadth of private and commercial clients. I have worked with numerous non-profit organizations in "Canada" and beyond to visual document their work, with a particular interest in working with feminist and women-focused groups. I have commercial photography experience, mainly lifestyle advertising photography, as well as corporate and organization focused experience. I have worked with Ogilvy advertising agency, the Barbra Schlifer Clinic, YWCA Toronto and the Daily Bread Food Bank, among other clients.

Creative Communities in Collaboration research lab, Research Associate & Project Manager.

August 2017 – June 2022.

Key activities: managing major research projects involving community and academic stakeholders; organizing and facilitating workshops for community stakeholders and artist participants; developing creative communities toolkits; writing grant applications and managing research budgets; leading knowledge mobilization projects.

Specific projects I have managed include:

Mapping Canadian Arts-Service Organizations as Cultural Research Conduits, SSHRC-funded collaborative research project working with national organization Mass Culture. Tasks include: quantitative survey development and deployment; qualitative data collection interviews; data coding; liaising with community stakeholders; co-ordinating junior research assistants; festival planning; conference presentations; academic article writing; community-oriented knowledge dissemination; budget management.

Community Youth Arts Programs as Creative Industries Incubators, SSHRC-funded collaborative research project on youth employment and community-based arts programs. Tasks included: qualitative data collection through participant interviews, ethnographic field work; data coding; liaising with community stakeholders; graphic design of public-facing findings document; liaising with youth participants; conference presentation of findings; workshop development; community-oriented knowledge dissemination.

"Self in Response" Exhibition, as part of SSHRC-funded project above. Tasks included: designing, organizing and facilitating a six-week community-situated arts workshop which culminated in a public art exhibition of nine young artists; supporting participants with their professional artistic growth and development; collecting field notes and reflective data; documentation of final exhibition; knowledge mobilization post-exhibition.

Centre for Fashion Diversity & Social Change, Research Association & Project Manager.

May 2019 – June 2022.

Key activities: developing and launching an open-access toolkit for inclusive fashion design; liaising with community stakeholders; public-facing scholarship activities and presentations; research project management.

Specific projects I have managed include:

Sizing Up Gender, SSHRC and FCAD-funded project utilizing arts based research methodologies to explore the intersection of fat identity and gender through clothing. Tasks include: grant applications; ethics application; qualitative survey development and deployment; qualitative data collection through interviews; data coding; caring for participants; photography; liaising with community stakeholders; exhibition planning; conference presentation of findings; budget management.

Toronto Metropolitan University, Contract Lecturer & Teaching Assistant.

September 2017 – June 2022.

I have taught a variety of courses within the School of Creative Industries, including CRI 810: Creative Collaboration, a course that focuses on creative problem solving, group dynamics and facilitation skills through hands-on experiences working with real world creative industries clients and CRI 710: Creative Industries Research Methodologies. Within other faculties at TMU I have taught or assisted with courses such as SOC 493: Making Social Change, SOC 525: Media and Images of Inequality and SWP 950: Fat Studies and Fat Activism.

Through TMU I have also worked with the WE-Hub program as part of the Diversity Institute to develop and teach modules for emerging artists on topics such as Contracts & Negotiation, Exhibiting your Work, and Creative Collaboration.

Selected Academic Publications

Evans, C. (2020). "You Aren't What You Wear: An Exploration into Inififat Identity Construction and Performance Through Fashion." *Fashion Studies*, 3(1), 1-30.

Evans, C. (2022). "Reflecting on Fat Activism as Research Methodology." *Public Feminisms: Community Engagement through Writing, Research and Activism*. Lever Press.

Evans, C., Stricke, M., Barry, B., Friedman, M. (2021). "Sizing Up Gender: Bringing the joy of fat, gender and fashion into focus." *Critical Studies in Fashion and Beauty*, 12(2), 229-260.

Evans, C., Friedman, M. (2022). "On being the 'fat person': Possibilities and Pitfalls for Fat Activist Engagement in Academic Institutions." *Engaged Scholar Journal*.

Campbell, M., Evans, C., & Wowk, L. (2022). "Making Community Knowledge Visible: Mapping Canadian Arts-Service Organizations as Cultural Research Conduits." *Canadian Journal of Communication*.

Campbell, M., Evans, C., & Wowk, L. (2022). "Arts-Service Organizations, Access, and Intermediation." *Poetics*.

Selected Conference
Presentations

2021. "Beyond Standardization: The Diverse Bodies of Fashion." *Costume Society of America Roundtable* (virtual).

2021. "Reflecting on Fat Activism as Research Methodology." *Canadian Communication Association Conference*. Edmonton, AB (virtual).

2021. "This is What a Fat Activist Looks Like: The Feminist Possibilities of Remote Wardrobe Interviews." *Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (WGSRF) Association Conference* (virtual).

2021. "Gender Plus Plus: Exploring Intersectional Narratives of Fat and Gender through Fashion and Photography." Co-authored with Dr. Ben Barry and Dr. May Friedman. *Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (WGSRF) Association Conference* (virtual).

2020. "Researching the (In)finifat) Ordinary: Examining the Possibilities and Limitations of Activism as Research Methodology." *Fashion at the Periphery Conference*. Chicago, IL (virtual).

2020. "Infinifatshion Hacking and the Possibility of Social Currency Redirection." *Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2020. "Arts-Service Organizations, Access, and Intermediation." Co-authored with Dr. Miranda Campbell and Lucy Wowk. *Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*. Amsterdam, Netherlands. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2020. "Making Community Knowledge Visible: Mapping Canadian ASOs as Cultural Research Conduits." Co-authored with Dr. Miranda Campbell and Lucy Wowk. *Canadian Communication Association Conference*. London, Canada. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2020. "Eating the (fat) Other: Commodification of Fat Identity and Fat Politics." *Popular Culture Association of Canada Conference*. Montréal, Canada. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2020. "Infinifat Activism and Imaginings of an Infinifatshion Inclusive Future." *Popular Culture Association Conference*. Philadelphia, USA. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2019. "Is Fat Still a Feminist Issue?" *Talking Back Feminist Media Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

2019. "Self In Response": Reflections on a Collaborative Youth Arts Workshop Facilitation as Research Site." Co-authored with Dr. Miranda Campbell and Johannes Valdes. *Canadian Communication Association Conference*. Vancouver, Canada.

2019. "Infinifatshion, Infinifat Identity and the Impact of Anti-Fat Bias in the Fashion Industry." *Weight Stigma Conference*. London, Canada.

2019. "'You've only got yourself to blame': An examination of blame, shame and fatness in *This is Us*." *Cultural Studies Association Conference*. New Orleans, USA.

2019. "Infinifats Doing Infinifatshion." *Popular Culture Association Conference*. Washington, USA.

Media Coverage

Smith, B. (May 2020) "As Reitmans Is Granted Creditor Protection, Options For Plus-Size Shopping in Canada Dwindle." In *Elle Magazine*.

Pausé, C. (April 2020) "Episode 304." *Friend of Marilyn* podcast.

Scriver, A. (May 2019) "Why The Fashion Industry Is Still A Long Way From Being Size Inclusive." On *Style Democracy* website.

Selected Photography Exhibitions

March 2018. *Holding (Birth) Space*. Ryerson University, Toronto.
Included an invited artist talk.

May 2016. *Mother's Work*. Oma, Toronto.

April 2005. *MaxEx* year-end group exhibition. Ryerson University, Toronto.

December 2004. *This is What Democracy Looks Like*. Kelowna BC.

October 2004. *Media Democracy Day*. Concordia University, Montreal.
Included an invited artist talk.

June 2003. *Dispatch from Zambia*. Kelowna, BC.
