

## LEAH SNYDER

leah.thelproject@gmail.com

[www.thelproject.ca](http://www.thelproject.ca) | [www.mixedbagmag.com](http://www.mixedbagmag.com) | [www.designdataculturecode.com](http://www.designdataculturecode.com)

---

### PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Diversity of Education (Digital Design & Theory, Indigenous & Canadian Studies, Art History, Anthropology & Religious Studies, Design & Systems Thinking, Branding & Marketing, Entrepreneurship) easily moving from theoretical to practical applications of knowledge
- 18 years experience as web and graphic designer working with artists, entrepreneurs and arts organizations on representation, portfolio development and digital archives ([www.thelproject.ca](http://www.thelproject.ca))
- 20+ years experience as a professional photographer including documenting Idle No More, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Black Lives Matter as well as marches and vigils for Palestine and Syria
- Sharp interviewing skills developed over 8+ years of covering events, initiatives and cultural provocateurs ([www.mixedbagmag.com](http://www.mixedbagmag.com))
- Committed involvement with the urban Indigenous community in Ottawa with initiatives that bridge Indigenous and Immigrant perspectives and experiences in Canada
- Engaged in the larger Ottawa Community participating in various initiatives with regards to city building with particular focus on cultural infrastructure

### ACADEMIC HISTORY

***Masters in Digital Humanities - School of Indigenous & Canadian Studies: 2016 - 2018, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario***

Areas of Study - Cultural and Digital Theory as applied to Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Activism, Heritage Conservation, Commemoration and Memory Studies

***Digital Media Diploma: 2001 - 2002, Conestoga College, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario***

Areas of Study – Interactive Media Software, Graphic Design, Interface Design, Motion Design, Video and Audio Production, Internet Foundations, Web Authoring, Project Management

***Bachelor of Arts Program: 1991 – 1997, University of Waterloo, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario***

Areas of Study – Anthropology, Religious Studies and Fine Arts

## SELECTED EMPLOYMENT & INDEPENDENT PROJECT HISTORY

### **Carleton University: 2016 - 2018, Ottawa, Ontario**

Student in Masters of Digital Humanities in the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies

- Wikipedian-in-Residence - Library and Archives Practicum Placement
- Teacher's Assistant - CDNS 2600 Branding Canada
- Research Assistant - Spring 2017 launch of Indigenous 1000 Online Course
- Designer, Public Relations and Online Activator for CIRCLE (Centre for Indigenous Research, Culture, Language and Education)
- Research Assistant - online platforms focusing on Sustainability in Heritage Studies

### **The L. Project: 2001 – current, Toronto & Ottawa, Ontario**

Owner / Operator, Branding & Marketing Strategist, Designer, Copywriter, Photographer

- Digital design for artists and arts organizations
- Instruct in WordPress and social media setup
- Online / Offline projects including facilitation and publications on arts activism, technology and culture
- View portfolio – [www.thelproject.ca](http://www.thelproject.ca) & [www.designdataculturecode.com](http://www.designdataculturecode.com)

### **Mixed Bag Mag: 2012 - 2017, Toronto & Ottawa, Ontario**

Artistic Director, Editor, Writer, Photojournalist, Social Media Strategist

- An online magazine with a curatorial focus on the psychological spaces cultural provocateurs create that allow for deep transformation. Includes both Indigenous and Immigrant perspectives on contemporary culture in Canada.
- View website - [www.mixedbagmag.com](http://www.mixedbagmag.com)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC SPEAKING

### **Heritage and Memory in Canada & Central Europe: Fall 2018, Presenter, Berlin, Germany**

Presentation to cultural heritage professionals from the Pergamon Museum, Berlin on commemorative work by Indigenous artists that have taken place at sites located in Europe.

### **Creative Time Summit: Fall 2017, Toronto, Ontario, Facilitator with artist / curator Camille Turner**

Facilitating a workshop on “Walking the Talk: Is real change possible or do words get in the way?” looking at the language we have come to use in social justice activism and art as social practice.

### **Synapcity Civics Boot Camp: Spring 2017, Ottawa, Ontario, Participant**

Completion of a 6 week course that teaches citizens processes for “constructive problem solving between citizens and their city.”

### **We Are Cities: 2015, Ottawa, Ontario, Convener / Facilitator**

A national campaign launched by Evergreen Cityworks in Toronto to foster conversations to create better cities. The roundtables I convened focused on decolonizing the Capital.

***Design with Dialogue: 2011 - 2015, Toronto, Ontario, Participant / Blogger***

A monthly gathering of design thinkers who meet at Ontario College of Art and Design University, Toronto to implement design-thinking / system design approaches to social issues.

***“The Future of Vanier” Panel: December 2015, Ottawa, Ontario, Panelist***

A panel regarding the development of the Vanier neighbourhood in Ottawa as part of Carleton University’s Azrieli School of Architecture projects applying “Dirty Realism” to consider alternate methods of development in Vanier.

***Michaëlle Jean Foundation Power of the Arts National Forum: November 2015, Ottawa, Ontario, Presenter***

My presentation, *The Curator as a 21st Century Agent of Change*, assessed the role the institutional curator can play in facilitating cultural transformation in Canada. Case studies provided on the Art Gallery of Ontario and the National Gallery of Canada’s *Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art* exhibition.

***SAW City Debates: September 2015, Ottawa, Ontario, Panelist***

A panel discussing Ottawa’s cultural spaces and the community implications of the redevelopment of the Arts Court and the new Ottawa Art Gallery, SAW Video and Galerie SAW Gallery facility.

***Creative Time Summit at the Venice Biennale: August 2015, Venice, Italy, Delegate***

Invited as a guest curator and writer to attend the Creative Time Summit with the Power Plant’s delegation of artists and curators who work in the space of art as social practice and activist art. Provided social media commentary and photography of the Summit for the Power Plant.

***“Hacking Migration in the Capital” Datafest Ottawa: March 2015, Ottawa, Ontario, Participant***

A hackathon to bring together individuals and organizations working on immigrant and settlement issues with coders, web designers and UX professionals in order to design useful digital prototypes.

***Art in Embassies “Contemporary Conversations” Program, Embassy of the United States of America: 2015 - 2016, Ottawa, Ontario, Promotion***

Working with Carleton Art History professors and students along with Vicki Heyman, wife of Former US Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman, to promote awareness in the Ottawa arts community of the Art in Embassies initiative that included programming at the National Gallery of Canada and Galerie SAW Gallery artist-run-centre with artists Marie Watt, Nick Cave, Theaster Gates and the Florida Highwaymen.

***“Art as Resistance” Panel Discussion: August 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Moderator***

A panel discussion with artists Scott Benesiinaabandan, Amira Hanafi, Emily Rose Michaud & Adam Brown regarding “socially engaged art, resistance and revolution” hosted by the Ottawa Art Gallery in collaboration with the People’s Social Forum.

***ARCCO Think Tank: June 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Contributing Expert***

A think tank to assist the Artist Run Centres & Collectives of Ontario’s (ARCCO) process in developing themes and discussion points for their upcoming 2015 conference.

***“Surveillapocalypse” Exhibition in Brooklyn: June 2014, New York, New York, Blogger***

Travelled with Ottawa based Indigenous art group 007 Collective to document their collaboration

with Brooklyn based art collective artCodex for a show on the social impact of surveillance.

**“Hacking Migration in the Capital” Datafest Ottawa: April 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Participant (2nd Place Prototype)**

A hackathon to develop prototypes that work with Big Data around migration / immigration to produce apps to help newcomers to Canada as well as organizations that offer support.

**Walking with Our Sisters Commemoration Exhibition: Summer 2013 - 2015, Volunteer**

Assisted in various capacities from digital archiving of the WWOS website to online promotion as well as installation of the exhibition at Carleton University Art Gallery along with community outreach.

**Urban + Digital’s Open Data Hackathon: February 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Participant**

A conference and hackathon using open source data sets to develop prototypes that assist in city / community building.

**MaRS Discovery District Hacking Health Hackathon: 2012, Toronto Ontario, Participant (2nd Place Prototype)**

A hackathon using grassroots approaches to developing technologies that create a more innovative healthcare system in Canada.

**British Council: February - April 2012, Toronto & Ottawa, Ontario, Communications**

Provided pro bono support through coordinating workshops, community outreach, public relations, social media strategy, and writing blog posts on events promoting cross cultural dialogue as well as design thinking as applied to social innovation.

## **PUBLISHED WRITING**

C Magazine, Issue 139, Fall 2018, Review: *Àdisòkàmagan / Nous connaître un peu nous-mêmes / We’ll All Become Stories*

Inuit Art Quarterly, Spring 2016, Review: *Floe Edge: Contemporary Art and Collaborations from Nunavut*

C Magazine, Issue 128, Winter 2016, Review: *Questioning Citizenship at the Venice Biennale: Responses and Interventions*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Advisory Board at Carleton University Art Gallery: 2014 - current

Alliance Member of Aboriginal Curatorial Collective: 2012 - current

Governor General of Canada’s Rideau Hall Foundation Activator: 2014

Contributor to Canadian Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO): 2013 - 2016

## REFERENCES

**Jeff Thomas:** Artist, Curator and Educator  
613-762-6085 and [onondaga56@gmail.com](mailto:onondaga56@gmail.com)

**Sandra Dyck:** Director of Carleton University Art Gallery  
613-520-2600 ext. 1357 and [sandra.dyck@carleton.ca](mailto:sandra.dyck@carleton.ca)

**Jessica Ouard:** Project Manager / Wikipedian-in-Residence at Library and Archives Canada  
613-715-4035 and [jessica.ouvard@canada.ca](mailto:jessica.ouvard@canada.ca)

**Bushra Junaid:** Program Officer at Ontario Arts Council  
416-969-7407 and [bjunaid@arts.on.ca](mailto:bjunaid@arts.on.ca)