

# RENÉE L. ROSE

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Explore Art** *Founder/Publisher/Editor* (Sept 2015 – Present) | Chicago, Illinois [www.exploreartproject.com](http://www.exploreartproject.com)

### Editorial & Publishing Achievements

- ✓ Expanded Global Readership: Grew digital magazine audience worldwide over five years by publishing a magazine collection (100 interactive issues) covering international artists, galleries, expos, and cultural themes.
- ✓ Strategic Promotion: Heavily promoted content through Google Ads campaigns, significantly increasing global visibility and readership.
- ✓ Award-Winning Content: Produced high-quality editorial features recognized with industry accolades and consistently praised by readers.
- ✓ SEO & Search Optimization: Improved organic traffic by 50% and enhanced search engine rankings through strategic SEO implementation.
- ✓ Successful Title Launches: Launched and sustained three niche digital magazine titles, achieving rapid subscriber growth.
- ✓ Editorial Efficiency: Streamlined editorial workflows, reducing production time by 20% while maintaining content quality and timeliness.
- ✓ Interactive Journalism: Introduced multimedia storytelling, polls, and feedback sections to increase reader engagement and retention.
- ✓ Cross-Platform Reach: Expanded accessibility by integrating content across mobile apps, web platforms, and social media.
- ✓ Audience Engagement: Built a loyal global reader community through digital magazine collections and interactive social media presence.
- ✓ Data-Driven Strategy: Used analytics and audience feedback to guide editorial decisions and maintain content relevance.

**Consultant** (self-employment) June 2010 – Present | Chicago, Illinois

### Project Management Achievements

- ✓ Developed and executed comprehensive project plans including timelines, budgets, resources, and objectives.
- ✓ Structured project teams with defined roles to ensure collaboration, accountability, and performance.
- ✓ Identified risks and implemented mitigation strategies to keep projects on schedule and within budget.
- ✓ Maintained clear, timely communication with teams and stakeholders to align goals and expectations.
- ✓ Tracked budgets and expenditures using QuickBooks and Excel; ensured financial control throughout the project lifecycle.
- ✓ Monitored project schedules and adjusted plans to manage delays or changes in scope.
- ✓ Implemented quality control processes to meet established standards and deliverables.
- ✓ Resolved project challenges by identifying issues and adapting strategies as needed.
- ✓ Managed resource allocation, performance tracking, and KPI reporting.
- ✓ Conducted project close-outs, documented lessons learned, and led post-project evaluations for continuous improvement.

### Database Management Achievements

- ✓ Maintained accurate financial records and generated reports using Excel and QuickBooks.
- ✓ Ensured optimal database performance through regular monitoring, troubleshooting, and updates.
- ✓ Executed data cleaning and validation processes to maintain data accuracy and integrity.
- ✓ Supported decision-making through reliable database management and system efficiency improvements.

### Social Media & Digital Communications Achievements

- ✓ Developed and led strategic social media campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- ✓ Created content across platforms including blogs, intern testimonials, email campaigns, and graphics.
- ✓ Maintained consistent posting schedules and ensured alignment with current trends and best practices.
- ✓ Managed website updates including news releases, stories, and promotional content.
- ✓ Utilized social media advertising to increase reach and interaction; implemented strategies for gathering and archiving online reviews.

**Keyconcept Charities, Inc** Executive Director/founder (09/18 – November 2023) | Chicago, Illinois

### Achievements:

- ✓ Secured 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status through successful nonprofit application submission.
- ✓ Launched and managed internship programs across multiple disciplines (interior design, graphic design, content management, videography/photography, marketing).
- ✓ Recruited and enrolled 70 student interns; oversaw program administration and project management.

- ✓ Built partnerships with 17 universities/colleges to establish internship referral pipelines.
- ✓ Submitted and secured six grants, including: Microsoft 365 Business software; \$10,000/month Google Ads Grant; Canva Pro; Lumion interior design software; \$10,000 Comcast RISE Grant
- ✓ Maintained financial records using QuickBooks and Excel.
- ✓ Developed and implemented an Excel-based quality assurance tracking system to ensure compliance with academic internship standards and improve outcome metrics.

### **Government Relations/Public Affairs** (2004 – 2009)

#### **Principal Consultant | Rose Consulting Services**

Led multifaceted administrative, project management, and consulting initiatives in public relations, strategic and policy analysis, coalition building, and public/private partnership development. Specialized in recruiting corporate and philanthropic sponsorships to support client initiatives across healthcare, finance, education, and energy sectors.

#### **Key Administrative Functions**

- ✓ Directed strategic planning and project oversight for complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- ✓ Managed high-level client communications, reporting, and relationship development.
- ✓ Facilitated coalition-building efforts among government agencies, private sector partners, and community organizations.
- ✓ Developed and implemented public affairs campaigns and issue-based advocacy strategies.
- ✓ Oversaw sponsorship acquisition and partnership engagement, aligning corporate interests with mission-driven goals.

#### **Achievements**

##### **Business** (Accenture; AT&T; Cottonwood Financial Ltd.; IGT; Meijer, Inc.; Northern Trust)

- ✓ Advocated for investment diversity programs to increase MBE/WBE participation for Northern Trust.
- ✓ Negotiated favorable payday loan legislation, securing multi-million-dollar savings for Cottonwood Financial Ltd.
- ✓ Strengthened client relationships with the Illinois Black Caucus to support legislative credibility.
- ✓ Collaborated on coalition lobbying teams to block adverse legislation and advance client priorities.

##### **Energy & Environment** (Midwest Generation; Nicor, Inc.)

- ✓ Promote legislative initiatives by aligning client goals with public interest and elected officials' constituencies.
- ✓ Enhanced cultural competency and bolstered reputation among Illinois Black Caucus members.

##### **Fundraising Campaigns & Events**

- ✓ Planned and executed fundraising events for three Illinois State Senators, raising over \$200,000 in campaign contributions.

##### **Healthcare Insurance** (Assurant; WellPoint, Inc. and Subsidiaries)

- ✓ Developed tailored advocacy strategies that advanced client initiatives while protecting healthcare access.
- ✓ Prevented passage of Universal Healthcare legislation in Illinois through strategic positioning.
- ✓ Reinforced clients' public image and cultural competency with state legislators and diverse communities.

##### **Healthcare Delivery Systems** (Multiple Hospitals and Health Organizations)

- ✓ Coordinated high-level legislative meetings to gain federal support for the Illinois Hospital Assessment Program.
- ✓ Secured passage of the program, resulting in \$500M in assessments and \$800M in federal Medicaid matching funds.
- ✓ Led successful outreach and advocacy campaigns for the Illinois Psychiatric Society.
- ✓ Enhanced community engagement and legislative visibility, resulting in favorable outcomes for client legislation.

##### **Municipalities** (City Colleges of Chicago; MPEA; RTA)

- ✓ Secured \$10.8M state appropriation for Kennedy King Campus Culinary Arts Facility.
- ✓ Fostered strong municipal relationships and cultural alignment with legislative stakeholders.

##### **Nonprofit Organizations** (Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs; Notebaert Museum)

- ✓ Advocated for and secured over \$3M in annual state appropriations.
- ✓ Facilitated public-private partnerships to expand funding opportunities and long-term financial support.

### **State Government (Tenure through 2004)**

**During my tenure with the State of Illinois, I held various senior executive positions for the State of Illinois.**

#### **Chief of Staff**, Office of Mental Health Services, Chicago Bureau, Illinois Department of Human Services

##### **Key Administrative Achievements**

- ✓ Oversaw operations of the Chicago Mental Health Network under the Illinois Department of Human Services, including three adult psychiatric hospitals (500-bed capacity) and 70+ community mental health centers.
- ✓ Strengthened administrative infrastructure by developing interdepartmental communication systems, improving productivity and reducing service duplication.
- ✓ Promoted system integration and continuity of care through multidisciplinary team leadership and stakeholder collaboration.
- ✓ Fostered open communication and a supportive, high-performance team environment across agencies.
- ✓ Expanded partnerships with community-based organizations, reinforcing a statewide continuum of care.

- ✓ Recognized for strategic leadership and the ability to align teams toward short- and long-term program goals.

#### Strategic Appointments & Leadership Roles

- ✓ **State Liaison**, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Task Force – Addressing law enforcement interactions with persons with mental illness.
- ✓ **Project Coordinator**, MHISSION Project – Managed \$1.2M U.S. Department of Commerce TOP Grant to develop an online mental health service system.
- ✓ **Project Coordinator**, U.S. Department of Labor Reintegration Demonstration Project – Led a \$90K initiative for workforce reintegration of high-risk adults.
- ✓ **State Liaison**, Metro Chicago Mental Health Service System Planning Council.
- ✓ **State Liaison**, Illinois Governor's Public Policy Academy.
- ✓ **Facilitator & Co-founder**, Illinois Consortium for Urban Mental Health Policy Task Force.
- ✓ **State Liaison**, Illinois Mental Health Summit.

#### Special Assistant to the Division Director, Division of Transitional Services, Illinois Department of Human Services Procurement Management Achievements

#### Administrative & Procurement Management

- ✓ Oversaw \$1.2B in social service programs and procurement contracts across multiple areas, including housing, childcare, refugee services, and substance abuse treatment.
- ✓ Streamlined policies and procedures, increasing program efficiency and elevating credibility of state-run services.
- ✓ Led the management of multiple RFP initiatives, meeting strict deadlines and ensuring program integrity.
- ✓ Identified and implemented the best practices to optimize service delivery and fiscal accountability.
- ✓ Analyzed operational barriers and swiftly executed solutions to maintain momentum on key initiatives.
- ✓ Spearheaded community outreach efforts to expand access to services for thousands of Illinois residents.
- ✓ Built strong partnerships with grassroots organizations to enhance visibility, engagement, and support of coalition.

#### Quality Assurance & Compliance

- ✓ Developed and enforced performance metrics and tracking systems to improve program quality and contract compliance.
- ✓ Conducted extensive programmatic and fiscal audits, ensuring adherence to state regulations and boosting provider outcomes.
- ✓ Appointed State Liaison to the City of Chicago's Task Force on Homelessness, enhancing interagency collaboration.

#### Public Affairs & Strategic Partnerships

- ✓ Drove corporate engagement, securing partnerships with 100+ businesses to support employment and training programs.
- ✓ Appointed lead coordinator and primary representative for the **Welfare to Work Partnership – One America Conference**.
- ✓ Executed statewide public affairs campaigns, resulting in heightened visibility and 50+ new partnerships with corporations, including Fortune 500 companies.

## EDUCATION

### **Master's Degree**

**University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice**  
concentration: social/public policy

2004

Chicago, Illinois

### **Bachelor's Degree**

**George Williams College** (Merged in 2000 with Auroa College)  
concentration: natural sciences

Downers Grove, Illinois

### **3 years Undergraduate Courses**

**Loyola University**  
Concentration: Biology

Chicago, Illinois

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Extremely proficient with computer software. Microsoft 365 business office suite, (Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint), Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Audition), Google Workspace, Google Analytics, Google Ads, Google Drive, Dropbox, Canva, QuickBooks, Salesforce and Slack. Stay updated on emerging technologies, tools, and computer operating systems; plus, poses the ability to adapt and learn systems quickly.

## PERSONAL INTEREST

### Visual Artist (lifetime)

Driven by an enduring passion for the arts and cultural expression, Renée L. Rose is a lifelong visual artist whose creativity knows no bounds. Her artistic journey spans a vibrant spectrum—from intricate silk floral designs and festive holiday décor to captivating paintings in oil, acrylic, and water-based media. Each piece reflects her deep love for storytelling through color, texture, and form. Renée's work has been celebrated in two solo exhibitions, a dynamic two-person show, and twenty-four group exhibitions, each marking her unwavering commitment to sharing beauty, emotion, and meaning through the visual arts.

### ACS Gallery Exhibits/Projects

(01/14 – 2021) Chicago, Illinois

- ✓ Led international cultural exchange initiatives, promoting cross-cultural understanding through curated global art exhibitions.
- ✓ Organized and hosted international artists for local exhibits, enhancing cultural diversity and artistic visibility.
- ✓ Curated and facilitated global exhibitions to expand exposure for emerging and established artists.
- ✓ Strengthening international artist networks and professional development opportunities through collaborative programming.
- ✓ Built strategic partnerships with corporate sponsors to support exhibitions and cross-border artist projects.
- ✓ Promoting artists globally through digital magazine collection, increasing media visibility and career advancement.
- ✓ Played a key role in positioning as a hub for contemporary art within a leading cultural institution.