



Biographical Information:

I grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. My parent's are a mix of Northshore aristocracy and Bucktown working class.

During my undergraduate years at the University of Kansas I completed a BFA with a minor in languages and philosophy. I also studied abroad in Paris and traveled through Europe. After completing an MFA at the University of Indiana in the early 1990's, I moved back to Chicago and built-out a studio in an old spice factory on the Chicago river between Chinatown and the Pilsen neighborhood. I shook off graduate school and started to paint more abstractly on the burlaps that I used for my day job as a mover. I also bought my first computer and began exploring the visual spatial possibilities of the early Internet. It was the use of the computer that led to immediate income and a savings account, and it was the seduction of developing whole new cultural spaces that led me to pursue online work further.

My conceptual and design skills lent themselves well to developing online learning communities for motivated learners in the medical field. I first began developing these communities while at Rush Presbyterian Hospital and then as a member of a small team at Kaplan Education Centers, where we received \$17 million in funding from the Washington Post to launch KaplanMedical.com.

In 2002 I shifted my focus from developing efficient online learning communities for the successful in our culture to developing additional capacity for a highly impaired industrial community - East Chicago. What I have learned from this experience is how much my career and our advanced industrial culture has been dependent on externalizing massive amounts of negative aspects into communities like East Chicago.

My introduction to East Chicago was through working with at-risk teens. Using the skills I already possessed I went back to graduate school to study urban planning and became the Director of the Indiana Harbor Shipping Canal - the most polluted body of water in the county. I did things like: conducted a community wide comprehensive plan, sat on several environmental and regional planning boards and got involved politically and then actively. today I advocate for environmental justice issues and against negative externalities.

How did I get here?

Where did these interest come from? I'm still learning, but I do know it has a lot to do with that unsettled mix of particular personalities in my parents; my Father's Father who shoveled coal in the rail yard and my Mother's Great Great Grand Father who was Mayor of Chicago during the Chicago Fire, and what had been externalized and out of awareness.