

# Emily McConnell

(773) 316-0193

[emilymcc@gmail.com](mailto:emilymcc@gmail.com)

Collaborative educator and facilitator with 20+ years of experience across corporate, nonprofit, and arts sectors, specializing in organizational development. Proven cross-functional communicator and proactive problem solver, fostering trust, creativity, and collaboration in high-pressure environments.

## EDUCATION

<b>Roosevelt University - Heller College of Business</b>	2023-2026
Masters in Organization Development	
<b>Northwestern University</b>	2003-2007
MFA in Stage Design	
<b>Dartmouth College</b>	1993-1997
B.A. in Drama, <i>cum laude</i>	

## SKILLS

Google Suite; Microsoft Office 365; AirTable; Canvas, Moodle, & Blackboard LMS; Procreate & Photoshop; sketching and illustration; qualitative and quantitative data analysis; workshop facilitation

## ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

<b>Strategic Planning Committee - Roosevelt University Chicago College of the Performing Arts</b>	2024-2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Served on 12-person committee developing 5-year strategic plan for CCPA over 6 months of work</li><li>Used culture assessment research to inform goals around faculty/staff mentorship</li></ul>	
<b>Organization Culture Assessment - Roosevelt University CCPA Theater Conservatory</b>	Feb 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Class project - analysis conducted through observations and 5 in-person interviews to assess barriers to change in complex organization culture</li></ul>	
<b>Lighthouse Church of Chicago - Transition and Budget Committee</b>	Oct-Dec 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Served on 10-person committee guiding leadership team in shifting from founder-focused model to congregation-focused model, drafting new budget plan, planning search process for music director</li></ul>	
<b>Organization Development Plan - Venue Theatre, Case Study</b>	July 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Class project - developed change management plan for small theatre shifting from founder control</li></ul>	
<b>Steep Theatre - Executive Director Search Committee</b>	Jan-May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Served on 6-person search committee for new Executive Director, resulting in successful hire</li></ul>	
<b>Broadway United Methodist Church - Co-Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee</b>	2016-2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Served as liaison between congregation and staff members, including being the point person for incoming senior pastor during leadership change</li><li>Led process of updating staff and committee handbook, and search committee for new music director</li></ul>	

## WORK HISTORY

<b>Program Director, Curriculum Coordinator, Resident Designer - Roosevelt University</b>	2007-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-coordinate all practicum assignments for Theatre Conservatory students, team of 10-12 staff</li><li>Direct all costume activities within CCPA Theatre Conservatory, 4-6 major projects per year involving students and professionals in each collaboration</li><li>Manage hiring, schedules, purchasing, and budgets (\$10-12K per year) for all costume shop activities, supervising 2 part-time professionals and up to 10 student employees</li><li>Designed multiple course syllabi, including short-term introductory survey, full semester undergraduate design course, and graduate level seminar</li><li>Generated low-budget impact Program Change Proposal and Course Proposals for the Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies BA, shepherding them through university governance</li><li>Grew costume department to include Shop Supervisor and Wardrobe Supervisor, ensuring pay equity</li><li>Created system for tracking year-over-year costume spending, improving budget predictions</li></ul>	

- Designed process for electing new department leadership in 2022
- Created student survey and drafted crisis communication for department during COVID-19 shutdown

**Adjunct Faculty - Columbia College Chicago** 2013-present

- Taught Introduction to Theatrical Design, working with 3 other teachers to design pilot class
- Taught Costume Design 1, reformatting syllabus for 1x/week structure
- Team-taught Theatre Foundations 1 (2013-2018), designed project instructions and documentation

**Head Costume Designer - National High School Institute Theatre Division** 2005-2011

- Led team of 5 designers in designing and executing costumes for 150 students, 10 productions
- Coordinated resource acquisition and labor distribution between 5 professionals and 20-30 students
- Spearheaded redesign of shop structure and job descriptions to increase efficiency and ease burnout

**Office Manager - Tomer Rothschild Hand Tailored** 2006-2007

- Managed client communications, deliveries and shipping, inventory and customer records
- Built relationships with customers and vendors to address personalized needs

**Marketing Assistant - Credit Suisse First Boston** 2001-2003

- Managed office move and new receptionist hire
- Maintained client database and stock-tracking spreadsheets

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

**Broadway United Methodist Church - Book Study Co-Leader, "White Supremacy and Me"** Feb 2021

- Co-led diverse 8 person group through book on anti-racism work

**Steep Theatre - Anti-Racist Action Plan Committee** 2021-2022

- Served on 10-person committee developing multi-year action plan, with timelines, accountability goals

**Broadway United Methodist Church - Children's Choir Co-Director** 2009-2017

- Co-founded and co-led choir for children ages 5-13, coordinating programming with leadership team

## RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS:

### Article Publication:

"Designing Collaboration: In Search of a Taxonomy of Collaborative Methods" - HowlRound Theatre Commons May 2022

### Presentations:

"Pedagogy and Assessment of Collaboration in Design and Production" - Moderator Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2026 Conference, Baltimore, MD July 2026

Co-Keynote Speaker, "Process Ethics and Collaboration Pedagogy" American Theatrical Costuming Association: ReDressing the Narrative 2026 May 2026

"Swift Trust in Costume Production", "Unseen Collaborations" American Theatrical Costuming Association: Special Sessions Week May 2025

"When Theatrical Design Meets Business School", "Joy and Curiosity in the Fitting Room" American Theatrical Costuming Association: Special Sessions Week May 2024

"Rethinking the Renting/Borrowing Paradigm" - co-host, "Continuing Education for Designers" - co-host American Theatrical Costuming Association: Special Sessions Week May 2023

"DTM Debut Panel: Director-Designer Collaboration - What Story Are We Telling?" Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2022 Conference, Detroit, MI July 2022

"Shining the Spotlight on Boundaries" American Theatrical Costuming Association: ReDressing the Narrative 2022 June 2022

"Costume Scholarship Panel" American Theatrical Costuming Association: ReDressing the Narrative 2021 May 2021