**NICOLA RICHARDSON**[**nicola@vortex-creates.co.uk**](mailto:nicola@vortex-creates.co.uk)

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**“Nicola makes the improbable possible. As a highly imaginative creative professional, her thinking is visionary, with the ability to encompass the entirety – and the potential – of a situation. A problem-solver and connection maker she sees solutions where others see sediment! Her enthusiasm, drive and energy are infectious which enables exciting things to happen. This capacity to make things happen on a large scale makes Nicola highly valued by her clients and collaborators.”**

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**Significant Achievements**

Co-founder and Director of Vortex Creates, a creative organization working with public and private organisations to transform spaces from concept and design through to production. Most recently co-curator of Daniel Lismore’s exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. Clients include Shoot Festival, Highly Sprung, Hilton Head Office, Mortgage advice Bureau, Coventry BID, Notting Hill Carnival, Warwick Arts Centre. As a small organisation this role includes financial management (organizational and project) as well as team management, including line manager for our general manager.

22 year career as a creative professional working with Arts organisations, private companies and within the education sector.

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**Professional Experience**

* Lead on many significant projects designing and delivering events to communicate brand / significant messages through joyful happenings. Recently working with local businesses and community stakeholders in Edrington to welcome Little Amal as part of The Walk with lasting impact for the area. Given scale of projects and often delivery of several at a time I am responsible for managing teams of freelancers to ensure deadlines and budget are met with quality results.
* Designer and maker commissioned by a number regional theatre companies including Highly Sprung, Midlands Arts Centre, Imagineer Productions, Stans Café.
* Mentor for early to mid career artists on behalf of a number of regional organisations including Coventry City council, Coventry Artspace, Midlands Arts Centre, Talking Birds
* Mentor for Post 16 students as part of Cardinal wiseman career academy 2015 – 2018
* Current Chair of Coventry Artspace, a charity dedicated to supporting and developing the visual arts in Coventry for the benefit of its citizens. Working with the organisation on funding applications, strategic planning, recruitment and team management.
* Creative agent for Creative Partnership program designing, managing and delivering over 50 projects; building successful partnerships, effecting change through creative learning and staff CPD. This role included long term partnerships with Valley House, Radford Children’s Centre, Studley Infant school and Cardinal Wiseman Secondary school. This role required management of a broad program of delivery, both short term and long term. Evaluation was crucial within this role to ensure continued funding, buy in from stakeholders and contribution to national evidence.
* Creative facilitator for a number of organisations wanting strategic planning and sustainable change. Designed and delivered through 121 sessions, stakeholder consultation, staff development, conference planning and delivery. Highly skilled at questioning, to support reflection and to inform strategic planning. Clients have included Bureau of European Design Associates, Open Theatre, Birmingham City Council, James Brindley School, Big Brum, Coventry University, Coventry Performing Arts service.
* Design and delivery of a number of projects to develop confidence, transferable skills with young people, including Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery NEET project and West youth offending teams reparation program.
* Invited speaker and panel member for various conferences and events including Estonia’s Educational conference 2017, and most recently a panel member for Birmingham University and the Growth hub discussing creative collaborations for success in hospitality.

**Highlighted Skills**

Successful management of a diverse portfolio of commissions as both designer, Director and facilitator with all clients and collaborators feeling confident in delivery and outcomes.

Good listener, which enables the formation of good, honest relationships very quickly getting to the heart of an issue, and informing next steps.

Wide experience of writing reports for various stakeholders across education, private and public sectors.

Worked with and communicated successfully with a wide variety of stakeholders from 1 to 92, from a variety of backgrounds.

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**Additional**

* BA (hons) Fine Art, Coventry University 2000
* West Midlands Creative Scale up Alumni
* Foxford School Board of Trustees 2012-2016
* Foxford School governor 2012 - 2016
* Cardinal Wiseman Career Academy Board 2014 – 2017
* National Glass Centre Arts Advisory Board member 2010 – 2011.
* Common Purpose graduate 2004/05
* Creative Partnerships CPD program graduate
* NLP Practitioner
* Coventry Champion