

Clare Finin

Nonprofit Strategist | Cultural-Sector Leader | Community and Economic Development

Nonprofit strategist and cultural-sector leader with more than 15 years of experience building the systems, partnerships, programs, and public narratives that help organizations grow. Brings leadership in community and economic development together with deep experience in arts and culture, fundraising, communications, public engagement, and evaluation.

Areas of Expertise

Strategic Planning | Fundraising and Donor Strategy | Program Strategy
Data and Evaluation Database Design and Workflow Automation
Marketing and Communications | Creative Placemaking | Organizational Operations

Professional Experience

Executive Director

2024 - 2026

Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation, Lansdowne, PA

Led strategy, operations, development, and community engagement to support an arts-based human-economy in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

- Led a community-driven strategic planning process that secured the organization's designation as Lansdowne's managing entity in Pennsylvania's competitive Main Street Matters program.
- Increased individual giving by 233%, from approximately \$6,000 to more than \$20,000, by establishing an annual giving program, donor-stewardship systems, and targeted campaigns.
- Established the organization's first endowment with the Foundation for Delaware County, launching it with a gift of nearly \$20,000 and creating a vehicle for long-term philanthropic investment.
- Grew newsletter subscribers by 118%, from 2,379 to 5,196, while increasing average open rates from 32% to 48% through a redesigned communications and audience-development strategy.
- Directed 188 annual programs and events that reached more than 10,000 participants and generated an estimated \$828,000 in local economic activity.
- Built an integrated data system connecting donor management, volunteer engagement, programs, communications, project management, evaluation, and reporting; automated workflows reduced administrative burden and strengthened accountability.
- Managed staff, contractors, facilities, budgets, grants, governance, municipal relationships, and cross-sector partnerships during a period of significant growth and transition.
- Built regional partnerships spanning government, tourism, philanthropy, education, arts and culture, small business, and community development.

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Program Director

2019 - 2024

InLiquid, Philadelphia, PA

Directed exhibitions, public programs, professional development initiatives, and strategic partnerships for one of the region's leading non-profit contemporary arts organizations.

- Developed and directed more than 70 annual exhibitions, public programs, and artist-development initiatives connecting contemporary art with civic, cultural, and community issues.
- Increased annual attendance by 696% from 2019 to 2023 through expanded programming, partnership development, and audience outreach.
- Curated research-driven exhibitions and interpretive programs from concept through evaluation, overseeing artist collaboration, accessibility, marketing, budgets, logistics, and audience engagement.
- Managed annual program budgets averaging \$600,000 and supported grant development, compliance, evaluation, and reporting.
- Built partnerships with cultural institutions, schools, community organizations, funders, artists, educators, and corporate partners to expand access and program reach.
- Created operational, communications, and evaluation systems that improved cross-functional collaboration, grant reporting, and program planning.

Digital Archives Assistant

2017 - 2019

Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA

- Managed digitization and metadata creation for more than 100,000 archival assets in accordance with federal IMLS cataloging standards.
- Researched provenance and contextual documentation for artists, exhibitions, residencies, and institutional records.
- Coordinated with vendors and partner organizations to meet project timelines and quality standards.
- Contributed to digital asset-management systems and user interfaces that expanded institutional access to archival materials.

Gallery Associate

2014 - 2015

Sienna Patti, Lenox, MA

- Supported artist promotion, gallery communications, exhibition development, collector relations, and donor engagement.
- Designed and installed exhibitions onsite and at regional partner venues, including MASS MoCA.
- Planned exhibition receptions, special events, and donor-engagement activities.

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Community Leadership

Visit Delco Member, Community Engagement Committee	2025 - present
Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation Board Member, LEDC Board Committee Chair, Art Committee	2023 - 2024
Art Jewelry Forum Research Assistant	2014 - 2015

Education

Certificate in Nonprofit Management LaSalle University and the Foundation for Delaware County
Master's in Fine Art , Studio Art/Metal, Graduate Minor in Art History University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Bachelor's in Fine Art , Metalsmithing + Jewelry, Minor in Art History Maine College of Art, Portland, ME

Selected Writing

The Spaces in Between: Tamsen Wojtanowski's and Elaine Livingstone's 'Yard'. Catalog essay, **NAPOLEON Gallery**, 2015.

On Being Young, or Criticality in 21st-Century Academia. **Art Jewelry Forum**, August 2014.

Selected Honors

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2015
Creative Research Award, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2015
Creative and Performing Arts Materials Grant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2014
James Avery Fellowship, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2013