

# Melissa Washington Cross, MA, MFT Associate #142933

Pasadena, CA | 310-487-3559 | www.missywashington.com

**OBJECTIVE:** To work with adults and vulnerable youth to understand and find practical solutions to challenging life circumstances, employing art and creativity when useful. To obtain hours as an MFT Associate towards licensure and provide Clinical Art Therapy towards ATR Registration & Board Certification

## EDUCATION

**Loyola Marymount University** | Los Angeles, CA | Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

*Department of Marital and Family Therapy with Specialization in Art Therapy*

**Research Topic:** *Building Social & Emotional Competence in Early Education Classrooms through Art Therapy*

*Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society*

**Pasadena City College** | Pasadena, CA | Spring 2020 – Summer 2021

*Department of Psychology, Prerequisite courses*

**California State University** | Los Angeles, CA | Spring 2020

*Community Teaching Artist Certificate*

**Armory Center for the Arts** | Pasadena, CA | 2006-2007

*Integrating Visual Arts Standards in Schools*

**Pratt Institute** | Brooklyn, NY | 1999-2003

*Department of Communications Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts*

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Pacific Clinics** | Pasadena, CA | August 2022 - May 2023

- Served as primary therapist for children, families, individuals and groups.
- Provided clinical services to wide variety of clients and diagnosis, including mood and anxiety disorders, adjustment disorders, and disorders first diagnosed in childhood.
- Adept and familiar using DMH documentation & clinical loop with consistently completed billing procedures in timely manner.
- Developed therapy interventions to meet clinical goals of client and treatment plan.
- Created and implemented art therapy interventions for individuals and groups.

### Training and Skills

- Crisis Intervention & Brief Therapy
- Mandated Reporting certificate
- Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) Assessment Tool
- Trauma-informed care & TF-CBT certificate
- Seeking Safety certified
- Familiar with MAP, CCP, & Triple P
- Cultural Humility & Cultural Competency training
- Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) Certification
- IPV training
- NEO LGBTQ+ Clinical Direct Service certificate
- Substance Use Disorders: Diagnostic Support training

**The Helen B. Landgarten Art Therapy Clinic** | Montebello, CA | January 2022 – June 2022

- Provided adjunctive services to Miraculous Medal Catholic School clinical population with a wide variety of diagnoses.
- Integrated into multidisciplinary treatment team planning and adept at presenting case material.
- Trained in assessment and SOAP & GIRP clinical note documentation, and discharge planning.
- Facilitated art therapy groups (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and individual interventions to meet specific treatment goals.
- Perceived as a team player and able to organize caseload and work independently.

## NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

### **New Earth** | Mentor | Los Angeles, CA | 2015

- *Arts instruction and mentoring with youth involved in the court system. Worked with youth ages 16 - 24 to build job readiness and life skills using art.*

### **reDiscover Center** | Instructor | Santa Monica, CA | 2013-2015

- *Lead instructor for elementary and middle school summer sessions, focusing on environmental values, learning building techniques, and problem solving. Students built their own functional life-sized playground.*

### **Boys and Girls Club** | Art Department Director | Santa Monica, CA | 2009-2011

- *Served over 200 children from diverse backgrounds, experience working with autism and developmental disabilities. Developed and instituted cross-disciplinary curriculums.*
- *Supervised volunteers and managed center's budget. Created and supervised a state-recognized journalism program, which produced completely student-led monthly newspapers.*

### **Aziza's Place** | Communications Director | Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 2008-2009

- *Managed communication with international donors and volunteers for home and learning center for children from Phnom Penh's landfill.*
- *Established, designed and copyedited bimonthly newsletters that secured \$45,000 dollars of ongoing funds for the school after the first issue. Took on operational responsibilities that were instrumental in continuing the program after the founder unexpectedly passed away.*

### **ARTScorpsLA** | AmeriCorps / Youth Development Coordinator | Los Angeles, CA | 2008-2009

- *Managed after school programming for at-risk youth at this community arts organization. Developed and supervised two summer-long internships for teens integrating art, environmental stewardship, and community activism. Developed and maintained standard evaluation practices for numerous grants.*
- *Supervised national service members, interns and volunteers with event planning and program development.*

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### **Durousseau Electrical Institute** | Communications Development & Design | Los Angeles, CA | 2010 - Present

- *Development & Communications work for grassroots community trade school, south central LA.*

### **Beyond Boundaries** | Rock Climbing Instructor/Program Coordinator | Eastern Sierra | 2015

- *Coordinated program and supervised volunteers for outdoor climbing program for court-involved youth from New Earth Charter School.*

### **Casa Libre** | Mentor/Program Coordinator | Los Angeles, CA | 2004-2007

- *Developed and implemented arts programming at emergency shelter for immigrant youth in MacArthur Park.*

## SELECTED ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

### **Cartifact** | Graphic Designer | Arts District, LA | 2017-2020

- *Design and illustration for cartography studio serving large portfolio of global clients.*

### **Self-Employed** | Freelance muralist & Illustrator | Los Angeles, LA | 2011-2020

- *Serving clients in a variety of industries, including Universal Records, itunes, TED global, and Autodesk. Art direction with Universal Music and on both national and international music tours.*

## REFERENCES

Sunjin "Nancy" Choe, PhD, LMFT, ATR-BC – *Art Therapy Supervisor*

Weston Taussig, LMFT – *Clinical Supervisor Pacific Clinics*

Tania Valtierra, LMFT – *Clinical Group Supervisor Pacific Clinics*

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[www.missywashington.com](http://www.missywashington.com)

## References

Weston Taussig, LMFT

(213) 924-3436

[wtaussig@pacificclinics.org](mailto:wtaussig@pacificclinics.org)

Known since August 2022

Weston was my immediate clinical supervisor at Pacific Clinics. I met with him once a week for individual supervision; he signed off on all of my paperwork.

Tania Valtierra, LMFT

(562) 907-7429

[tvaltierra@pacificclinics.org](mailto:tvaltierra@pacificclinics.org)

Known since August 2022

Tania was my group supervisor at Pacific Clinics. We met once a week with about 6 other MFT trainees from all of the Pacific sites, presented cases, and provided support.

Nancy Choe, PhD, LMFT, ATR-BC

(626) 655-0722

[sunjin.cjoe@lmu.edu](mailto:sunjin.cjoe@lmu.edu)

Known since August 2022

Nancy was my individual art therapy supervisor assigned by my graduate program at LMU. We met weekly for an hour to discuss art therapy applications with my clients.