

# Amy Wheeler

Nonprofit Leader, Writer, Educator, Entrepreneur

Dynamic leader with 25+ years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Known for innovating mission-centric programs and events that inspire charitable giving, generate revenue streams, and joyfully engage the community. Nationally produced playwright and writing teacher with a passion for collaboration. Adept at supporting organizations through transition, with curiosity and empathy. Deeply committed to the work of equity, and empowering the voices of those who have historically been marginalized.

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## SKILLS

Collaborative Team Building

Community Engagement

Program Innovation

Public speaking

Fundraising

Writing

Strategic Planning

Communications

Financial Management

Nimble & Curious Problem Solver

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Organizational Consultant Mesa Refuge

05/2022 - Present

Point Reyes, CA

Artist residency supporting social justice writers, activists and journalists writing about the most pressing issues of our times.

- Guiding the organization through a dynamic phase of leadership transition and growth.
- Providing leadership coaching, strategy development, fundraising support and creation of new earned revenue streams.
- Partnering to integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into organizational culture, policies and practices.

### Consultant Stallman Studio

10/2022 - Present

Whidbey Island, WA

Art studio with an international client base that is experiencing a rapid phase of growth.

- Supporting owner-artist duo with management coaching and decision making.
- Advising on, creating and implementing HR policies and practices that are in sync with the Studio's collaborative culture.

### Executive Director Hedgebrook

07/2006 - 01/2020

Whidbey Island, WA

Internationally renowned nonprofit known for supporting women authoring change, and cultivating a global community of influential writers.

- Led Hedgebrook's evolution from a reputable but relatively unknown writer's residency program, founded as a private foundation, to a dynamic, well-funded nonprofit with a global impact and reach.
- Catalyzed a culturally diverse alumnae community of influential writers and thought leaders, 80% BIPOC, who are reaching millions of readers and audiences through their creative works, TEDTalks, OpEds, podcasts & blogs.
- Created eight groundbreaking programs, expanding Hedgebrook's reach into new industries (film, theatre, music, TV), mentoring young writers, and producing writing classes in Italy, India and online.
- Grew the annual budget from \$600K to \$1.7M, raising an additional \$4.5M over the years for capital, capacity building & cash reserves.
- Built a robust fundraising operation, with annual fund, events & special campaigns to support financial sustainability.
- Innovated fee-for-service programs, creating new revenue streams that increased earned income from \$13K to \$325K.
- Increased community of supporters and program participants from 2,500 to 25,000+ writers, readers & audiences.
- Expanded from a local to a national Board and launched a Creative Advisory Council in partnership with Gloria Steinem.
- Directly oversaw Program Director and Director of Development & Outreach, who managed a staff of 20 in two locations.
- Created & produced EQUVOX, an exciting annual Seattle fundraiser that grew into a sold-out event generating \$350K+, and drawing 300 guests: philanthropists, book lovers, film, theatre and music enthusiasts.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Adjunct Professor** Cornish College of the Arts

2001 - 2006

*Arts school with a mission to empower Artists, Citizens and Innovators.*

Seattle, WA

- Taught multiple beginning, intermediate and advanced playwriting classes in the Theatre Department.
- Taught four semesters of creative writing classes with students from all artistic disciplines.

### **Teaching Artist** ACT Theatre

2002 - 2006

*Engaged middle & high school students in Seattle public and private schools in discovering their voices and writing One Act plays.*

Seattle, WA

### **Playwriting Instructor** Freehold Studio Theatre Lab & Hugo House

2001 - 2006

*Led writing workshops in a diversity of genres for students at all levels of writing & life experience, including incarcerated women and at-risk teens.*

Seattle, WA

### **Assistant Development Director & Development Associate** Paul Taylor Dance Company and New York Philharmonic

1992 - 1996

*Learned all aspects of the art of raising money for nonprofits during my early years in New York.*

New York, NY

## AFFILIATIONS

### Artist Communities Alliance (current)

*National Board of Directors*

### Warriors for the Human Spirit (2020 - 2021)

*Participant in writer Meg Wheatley's international cohort of leaders training to lead with courage, compassion, generosity and clear seeing.*

### Hedgebrook Board President (2003 - 2006)

## EDUCATION

### **Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts** Cornish College of the Arts

### **Master of Fine Arts** University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop

### **Bachelor of Fine Arts** University of Kansas

## HONORS & AWARDS

### Prowda Literary Champion Award (2020)

*Seattle Arts & Lectures*

- *Awarded for demonstrating true commitment to the Pacific Northwest's community of readers and writers.*

### Seattle Mayor's Arts Award (Hedgebrook, 2016)

*Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture*

- Awarded for "making Seattle a city that values arts and culture at its core."

### Humanitas Award (Hedgebrook, 2017)

*Humanitas Foundation*

### Artist Trust Playwriting Fellowship to Ireland (2005)

*Artist Trust (Seattle)*

### Yaddo & Hedgebrook Fellowships

*Yaddo & Hedgebrook*

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### NATIONALLY PRODUCED PLAYWRIGHT

*Original plays & musicals are being developed and produced at theatres across the country.*

### INTERVIEWER

*Passion for conducting live interviews with influential creatives & thought leaders. Interviewees have included: Gloria Steinem, V (Eve Ensler), Cheryl Strayed, Ruth Ozeki, Elizabeth George, Carolyn Forché and more.*

### PUBLIC SPEAKER

*Dynamic speaker, comfortable in any setting: conferences, keynotes & plenaries, theatres, concert halls, with audiences of a dozen to thousands.*

### PANEL MODERATOR

*Moderated panels of thought leaders on wide-ranging topics: racial & gender equity, writing for social justice, film & theatre making, writing craft across industries, and the issues & causes writers give voice to.*

## PUBLICATIONS

*Anthology*

### MANIFESTO PLAY SERIES (Vol 1 & 3)

*2008 & 2014*

Rain City Projects, Seattle

Two of my plays are published in the anthology series.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

V (formerly known as Eve Ensler), playwright

*"Amy's passion to raise women's voices has had a profound impact on the landscape of women writers, fueling the creation of extraordinary work which has gone on to transform the world. Amy embodies curiosity and empathy, qualities that make her an unparalleled community builder and visionary."*

Gayle Karen Young Whyte, catalyst for human and organizational development

*"Amy is a visionary leader who can deal with adversity and inspires loyalty. She has a beautiful capacity to take perspectives, to marry both her creative gifts and her organizational gifts, and to think outside the box and yet deal with the day-to-day."*

Rinku Sen, author & racial justice leader (Hedgebrook Board member)

*"Amy brought vision, tenacity and heart to her role as Hedgebrook's Executive Director. She is an inventive thinker who pursues lines of inquiry to find the most promising possibilities. An inspiring public speaker, she articulates vision and generates good will, is relaxed and facile on any stage. A bold fundraiser, Amy enjoys cultivation and is unafraid to ask. Hedgebrook is grateful that we got to benefit from Amy's dedication and groundbreaking spirit for so long."*

## INTERESTS

Hiking & Paddle Boarding

Learning ukulele

My wife Kate & I live in 112 year old dance hall