

John D. Knecht

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MUSIC EXPERIENCE

PULSE BEAT MUSIC, LLC

Mar 2003–present

Founder, education and entertainment enterprise

- Teaching percussion classes at Highland Park High School and over 30 private lessons each week
- Teaching weekly world percussion classes in Highland Park
- Facilitated dozens drum circles for churches, corporations and community groups
- Performed locally with a variety of groups, including *Ain't Misbehavin*; the children's choir *Youth Choral Theater of Chicago*; entertainment companies like Fig Media; and local rock, jazz and African bands
- Highlight gigs include playing with Yo-Yo Ma at Millennium Park; soloing on djembe with the Chicago Sinfonietta at Symphony Center; and sitting in with Baba Maal at the Old Town School of Folk Music

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF BLUES FOUNDATION

Sept 2003– present

Percussion instructor and program designer

- Designed and implemented percussion program at Tilton Elementary School, teaching weekly group lessons to over 40 children
- Created “Cultural Journeys” assembly covering a history of rhythms around the world
- Led the local development of the national “Roots of Rhythm” program

URBAN GATEWAYS: CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Sept 1999–present

Board member; artist-in-residence; touring artist

- Served as six-year board member, steering the strategic direction of Urban Gateways and leading fundraising activities and board-level projects
- Developed two touring shows: “The Birthplace of Rhythm” and “Morikeba: The Griot of Senegal,” both performing regularly to hundreds of Chicago students
- Taught dozens of 6-12 week residencies in Chicago area schools, introducing hundreds of students to world rhythms, music theory and performance acumen

CLUB RHYTHM

Sept 2002-Sept 2006

Drum circle facilitator and offsite program manager

- Led over 150 public drum circles at Rhythm, a public drumming club; taught group lesson and led three circles each night
- Facilitated over 75 private drum circles for organizations, families and communities seeking to develop team unity and spirit

OTHER EXPERIENCE

DOBLIN, INC.

Mar 2001-Mar 2003

Strategy consultant and project manager

- Developed innovative corporate strategies for McDonald's Corp, Pfizer, Citigroup, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Civitas using ethnographic market research and brainstorming sessions

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sept 2002-Dec 2002

Associate Professor

- Taught masters-level course on business plan writing, including market research, concept creation and ‘making the pitch’

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Sept 1999-Mar 2001

Strategy consultant and start-up leader

- Created an online startup business for the consumer goods industry called Transora
- Built the human resources department and assisted in strategy development

L.A. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: EDUCATION DIVISION **Aug 1994-Aug 1997**

Manager of artist-in-residency program

- Designed and implemented 75 artist-in-residence programs each year in the Los Angeles Unified School district; worked with artists from all fields

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION, LA **Aug 1994-Aug 1997**

Board member dedicated to creating political support for arts education statewide

- Directed the CAAE legislative action teams, a network of over 300 California leaders promoting government funding for arts education

DUNCAN AND ASSOCIATES **Aug 1993-Aug 1994**

Washington, DC-based advocacy law firm representing national arts organizations

- Tracked important legislation in U.S. Congress and recommended actions for over 100 arts leaders, contributing to the passage of several key arts education bills

EDUCATION

UCLA - THE ANDERSON SCHOOL **Sept 1997-June 1999**

M.B.A., Strategic Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Elected class president of the Anderson Student Association (ASA), the governing council for over 1,100 MBA students
- Selected as Johnson and Johnson/Head Start teaching assistant, responsible for training over 80 Head Start administrators in strategy development

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL **Sept 1989-June 1993**

B.A., Journalism and Mass Communications, Minor in Jazz Music Studies

- Selected president of the University of North Carolina Marching Bands, responsible for the organization of 350 students and over 150 annual performances

PERSONAL

- Undertook two round-the-world trips to study world cultures and music in 2006 and 2008
- Boy Scouts of America – Eagle Rank
- Got married in the backyard of a purple house in Nova Scotia
- Triathlete and avid camper