



Amy DeCaussin



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Award-winning artist and content creator in Phoenix, Arizona who uses whimsical illustrations and animations to inspire fresh perspectives and help connect people more deeply with themselves, one another, and the Earth.

## Education

### Grand Valley State University

BFA Art & Design, Minor in Business, Allendale, MI | 2009

### The School of the Art Institute of Chicago – Ox-Bow Summer School of Art

Film & Video, Saugatuck, MI | 2008

### John Cabot University

Photography & Art History, Rome, Italy | 2007

## Work Experience

### Owner

DeCaussin Studios LLC

Online (2010-Present)

- Freelance illustrator and animator; creating music videos, posters, illustrated package design, book cover illustration, private commissions including original watercolor and collage artwork, photographed dioramas, content creation.
- Manage all aspects of business including administration, finances, marketing and employment.
- Provide comprehensive consulting to clients seeking to tell stories, provide education and share messages through marketing and communications.
- Responsible for overall vision and daily operation of e-commerce business.
- Design all promotional and brand materials including logo, business cards, advertisements, website.
- Deliver exceptional customer service through e-commerce websites garnering press from *MSNLiving.com* article "10 Christmas gifts for Dogs and the Humans who Love Them" for custom pet portraits in 2012.

## Work Experience Continued

### Director of Communications

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church  
Scottsdale, AZ (January 2017 - June 2023)

- Oversee the mission and vision of Saint Barnabas as desired by the Rector/Senior Pastor through all forms of communication. Develop and implement comprehensive campaign strategies to amplify the messages and the missions of Saint Barnabas.
- Oversee communications for each ministry area: Worship Ministries, Parish Life, Contemplative Life, Children & Families, Youth Ministries, Faith Formation, Music & The Arts, Pastoral Care and Missions. Missions Ministries included 13 different Missions Partners. Prior to the pandemic, the parish required communications for 116 different ministries. Oversight included working with staff and lay leaders from each program to meet their needs.
- Worked closely with the Rector/Senior Pastor to enhance writing and official messaging. This work included helping to develop and promote "The Listening Initiative," a program developed by the Rector to create safe spaces for people of different backgrounds and perspectives to learn from one another and find common ground. The program contributes to promoting healthier civil discourse in our communities.
- Create stunning graphics, animation and video that cut through the online noise and pull focus toward our programs ministries, and messages. Photograph and video events and programs.
- Leverage and integrate various and evolving digital platforms and social media to increase inquiries and visits to the Saint Barnabas website, and grow community. Track analytics to develop comprehensive reports to inform key decisions for use of resources and meeting set goals. Present reports and strategy plans to board members, staff and the Rector.
- Manage a team of creative professionals, providing direction for overall look and feel and approval for each publication. Publications included website presence, digital marketing, Sunday bulletin inserts, fliers, posters, postcards and monthly magazines. Trained staff and volunteers on proper use of logo and branding guidelines. Support and encourage sharing, storytelling and creativity.
- Provided dedicated support throughout the pandemic as the church transitioned to a broader online presence.
- Developed pledge campaign adapted during the 2020 pandemic focused on keeping parishioners connected by facilitating letters sent in the mail to one another. With the support of dedicated lay leaders, strategic coordination and planning, every household in the parish (approx. 850) received encouraging letters in the mail from other parishioners. As a result of the campaign, the church was able to raise \$1.5 million through hundreds of pledges, providing sustainable funding during a difficult time.
- Led capital campaign to transform church grounds, upgrading the parish hall kitchen, education buildings and renovating the children's education building. Launched in January 2020, the campaign endured through the Pandemic, reaching the goal of raising \$4.5 million upon completion.

### Events Assistant

Scottsdale Arts/Scottsdale Public Art  
Scottsdale, AZ (October 2015 – February 2017)

- Responsible for planning, budgeting and implementing engaging public art events in conjunction with public art installations such as workshops, receptions and other community events including Canal Convergence | Water + Art + Light located along the Scottsdale Waterfront, helping to build event to 56,000 attendees in 2016.
- Assist with the management of Canal Convergence
  - Received all proposals for Canal Convergence and provided initial review of over 100 submissions before coordinating and leading review process for full staff review and selection of finalists.
  - Managed special events within Canal Convergence including VIP donor and fundraising events.
  - Coordinated outside venues and vendors.
  - Organized logistics and tracked analytics
  - Coordinate projects with local, national and international artists and performance groups.
  - Managed artist contracts
  - Arranged flights and hotel accommodations.
  - Coordinate, recruit, schedule, and train all volunteers for Canal Convergence. Educating them about the details of each art exhibition.
- Design printed & digital promotional material for events and assist with social media management.
- Assist with development tasks including researching grants, sponsorship, and donation opportunities, and creating sponsorship packages and presentations.
- Led meetings with community businesses and organizations to develop partnerships, collaborations and donations.
- Work closely with the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts and Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Arts to spotlight cross-divisional projects at Scottsdale Arts.

## Teaching Experience

### Digital Marketing Workshop Instructor

Episcopal Diocese of Arizona  
Phoenix, AZ (2021)

At the request of Bishop Reddall, led "Digital Evangelism & the Art of Storytelling" workshop to marketing and communications leaders from churches throughout the Diocese of Arizona at the annual convention. Used knowledge and experience, along with real time analytics to design workshop to guide parishes through best practices for digital marketing and meet the needs of small churches with limited resources.

### Summer Music & Arts Camp Dance Instructor

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church  
Scottsdale, AZ (2018, 2023)

Week long summer program teaching kids ages 5-9

2018 - choreographed and taught dance routine over the course of the week which was performed for parents on the final day during a full camp production.

2023 - taught interactive dance classes to campers in small groups, incorporating individual expression with team engagement through creative expression.

### Dance Team Coach/Choreographer

Kenowa Hills Middle School Dance Team  
Grand Rapids, MI (2004-2008)

Served as coach for the middle school dance team, creating and implementing full season programs.

- Led auditions and selected the team, which usually ranged from 10-20 members.
- Led parent meetings and discussed individual needs and performance as needed.
- Managed administrative duties including permission slips, parent communication and payments.
- Led weekly practices that included building strength, endurance, flexibility.
- Taught and refined technical skills and discipline.
- Encouraged healthy relationships between teammates, facilitated team building, cultivating culture of support.
- Choreographed all routines.
- Prepared and led team to competitions across West Michigan.

### Hip Hop Dance Choreographer

Grand Valley State University  
Allendale, MI (2007)

Choreographed and taught hip hop routine to under privileged students during special summer program for high school kids.

## Teaching Experience Continued

### Studio Dance Instructor

Coopersville Dance Academy  
Coopersville, MI (2007-2009)

Taught weekly jazz, hip hop, ballet and lyrical classes as a studio dance instructor. Students ranged from ages 8 to adult and included both group and private lessons.

- Encouraged students to build strength, endurance, flexibility, and discipline.
- Helped develop technique and style.
- Choreographed all routines, both for technical practice and for recitals.
- Worked with studio director to ensure needs of students and classes were met.
- Served as a substitute teacher for other classes including tap, ballet, jazz and acrobatics ages 3+

### Musical Choreographer

Kenowa Hills High School  
Grand Rapids, MI (2005-2009)

Collaborated in partnership with musical director to bring visual concepts to life through dance, movement and stage blocking. Participated in auditions including selecting the best actor and dancer for different roles. In addition to seeking ideal matches, special consideration was given to a student's potential to grow in given opportunities. The cast reflected a diverse group of students with a wide range of abilities in dance from beginner to advanced. Choreography was designed to blend diversity together to create harmony throughout each scene. Productions included "Bye, Bye Birdie," "Footloose," "Suessical the Musical," and "Once Upon a Mattress." Number of dancers ranged from 60-80 depending on the production.

### Color guard Instructor/Dance Choreographer

Kenowa Hills Marching Band  
Grand Rapids, MI (2005-2008)

- Co-instructed color guard team of 15-25 performers.
- Led practices and attended competitions across the state.
- Oversaw body line execution underneath equipment
- Staff member responsible for polishing all choreography
- Choreographed all dance routines and dance elements.
- Served as main color guard instructor at annual summer band camp at Central Michigan University.

### Musical Choreographer

Lakeview High School  
Battle Creek, MI (2007)

Choreographer For the production "The Sound of Music" in a black box theatre, created the movement--some of which included bike riding!

### Dance Choreographer and Assistant Color guard Instructor

Grandville High school Marching Band  
Grandville, MI (2004-2007)

Assisted with color guard instruction, overseeing the body lines underneath equipment. Choreographed all dance routines and dance elements. Led practices and attended competitions.

### Dance Choreographer and Assistant Winter guard Instructor

Hart High School Winter Guard  
Hart, MI (2006)

Assisted main instructor with indoor winter guard team overseeing and polishing body lines underneath rifles. Choreographed all dance routines and dance elements for the competition season.

## Awards & Exhibitions

### **Sam Koji Hale Puppet Film Partial Scholarship Award**

*Creative Talent Network (CTN), 2025*

Award created by Emmy-nominated animator and filmmaker Sam Koji Hale to support aspiring talents in stop-motion animation and puppetry. Ceremony to be held in November 2025, Burbank, CA.

### **Torsten Schrank Scholarship Award - Honorable Mention**

*Creative Talent Network (CTN), 2025*

Selected by award-winning character designer Torsten Schrank (Klaus, Netflix) to celebrate emerging talent in character design.

### **Maps - Contours of a Story**

*Scottsdale Public Art, Juried Gallery Exhibition, 2025*

Exhibit of artist-created maps exploring moments, ideas, and narrative through visual storytelling. Curated by Saskia Jorda, multidisciplinary artist and educator.

### **Mini Masterpieces Short Film Showcase**

*Creative Talent Network (CTN) Expo, Burbank, CA 2025*

Juried showcase of short films by emerging filmmakers, highlighting innovation and storytelling through visual media.

### **Stick Together - Collage Exhibition**

*Scottsdale Public Art, Juried Gallery Exhibition, 2024*

Curated by Airi and Riho Katsuta of Cut+Paste Phoenix. Focused on community-building through collaborative collage and hands-on creativity.

### **Music Video of the Year**

*Michigan Music Video Awards, 2023*

Awarded for "On the Road Again" by Detroit-based gypsy jazz band, Djangophonique.

### **Best Animated Music Video**

*Michigan Music Video Awards, 2023*

Recognized for animated music video of "On the Road Again" by Djangophonique.

## References

### **The Rev. Jim Clark**

**Rector/Senior Pastor, Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church (Recently retired)**

Former supervisor

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### **Cyndi Coon**

**Founder/CEO of Laboratory5 and Director of Threatcasting.ai**

Former supervisor at Laboratory5

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### **Andrea Teutli**

**Art Project Manager, Friends of Highline, New York, NY**

Former Supervisor at Scottsdale Public Art

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