

Let me tell you a little about myself ...

My career is unapologetically diverse. I attended Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York for Liberal Arts and Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI for Hotel & Restaurant Management. The bulk of my career background is in hospitality & I have worked in and/or run hotels, inns, bed & breakfasts, restaurants and owned two personal chef & catering businesses. I have always applied my hospitality, administrative & logistical skills to job opportunities that might have seemed untraditional, but offered great possibility.

I founded a national disaster relief agency, guiding thousands of volunteers through tornado & hurricane cleanup, forest fire recovery & prevention, as well as flood mitigation. I handled all fund raising, marketing, networking, volunteer trip coordination, speaking engagements & was consequently hired as the Disaster Consultant for St. Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero, immediately following 9/11. I developed a comprehensive plan for volunteer coordination, donations management & the scheduling of supplemental service providers (podiatrists, chiropractors, massage therapists & musicians) at St. Paul's. It was a place of respite for first responders for the entire nine months that the site was being cleared. I was honored to be asked & humbled to serve the city of NY.

I managed a Democratic campaign for New York State Assembly, networking every day with the staff of Hilary Clinton (re-election for NYS Congress) & Eliot Spitzer (NYS Governor). My strengths were in the door-knocking coordination, event planning & volunteer recruitment. Although running against a millionaire legacy political opponent, my candidate won 48% of the vote in a massive, two-county district populated by 70% Republicans.

I owned a music management agency on Martha's Vineyard, MA providing business skills, brand management, national & international tour development, individualized press kits & general booking responsibilities for a diverse collection of professional musicians spread throughout the eastern United States. While on the island I also free-lanced as a business consultant for artists, authors & small businesses providing much-needed admin services.

I have worked for two symphonies – Syracuse, NY (development & volunteer coordination) & Asheville, NC (marketing, admin & event planning). I worked for two international film festivals on Martha's Vineyard, curating a children's film festival & launching a kid critic program for one of them. I also worked for the Jewish Film & Lecture series on Martha's Vineyard. I sat on the BOD for a large summer camp in Asheville, NC, have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity & worked as a Big Sister. While volunteering for the Make A Wish Foundation in Connecticut, in addition to being a wish-granter, I worked with dozens of culinary vendors to get every single morsel of food donated for a 400-person, black-tie fundraiser. All funds raised at the annual event were applied to wish granting, due to the elimination of food costs.

I have now lived in Ajijic for five years and moved here from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Upon my arrival in Ajijic, I became the Installation Director for Kate Gubelman's medical art installation, Transcendence. Twice a month for two years (pre-COVID), we hosted invitation-only luncheons at her studio, as a way to promote the project. I coordinated the events, prepared all of the meals, developed logo, branding & marketing materials, crafted a significant social media presence, secured print media interviews (MX & USA) & designed press kits to be distributed internationally. We estimate that over a thousand people viewed her work over those two years.

Since being at Lakeside, I discovered I was missing the collaboration I experienced amongst the legendary photography community in Santa Fe. It was welcoming, educational & inspiring and I wanted the same for Ajijic, so I started a photography group in 2021. Our members engage in a lively discussion group, monthly photo excursions to interesting locations & weekly photo challenges that are conducted through social media and keep us engaged. The mailing list is currently over one hundred and thirty strong and the number of participants grows every month. It is a really lovely group of supportive and encouraging photography enthusiasts. Please join us.

In February of 2022, I was elected President of the Artists Alliance of Lake Chapala - AALC (formerly the Ajijic Society of the Arts). At the time of the election there were (137) members and by the end of 2022, the membership had grown to (320) members. Over the course of the last eighteen months, we have created a successful monthly art market with (50+) artists and over (300) attendees at each event. We have held the traditional Spring and Fall Art Shows, the annual ART WALK, and two additional exhibitions. We have set aside funds to be designated for community art projects and established a separate account for an art scholarship which is named for a local artist who had an impact on so many of us. We provide a translator for all of our meetings and special events while ensuring that all documents, advertising and promotional pieces are distributed in both English and Spanish. We have invited the Mexican artist community to become active and over ninety Mexican artists have joined the organization. It has been an exciting year and the organization continues to grow and develop into a thriving and successful endeavor.

Cobra and I have talked about her interest in selling the 360 Xochi Quetzal (360XQ) residency for some time. When we contracted to move the residency from the QQ Hotel in Chapala to the Garden of Dreams in Ajijic, it seemed like the right time to also make a change in leadership. By moving the residency to the Garden of Dreams, the artists will be provided more privacy, as the hotel does not have a public restaurant. The artists will be provided a lovely breakfast in the tranquil garden every day and will have access to the entire property for inspiration, reflection and workspace, if they wish. Being more centrally located in Ajijic will allow for more interaction with our thriving artist community. For the residents that wish to be involved in the local art scene, specialty art gatherings, workshops, writer groups, gallery openings and opportunities for participation will be easier to attend. Any 360XQ participants staying in Chapala will continue to be invited and encouraged to attend all of these experiences. It is important to me that your expectations for your residency are exceeded.

Additional internal programming will be developed for the 360XQ residents. We have begun a monthly salon series that takes place at the Garden of Dreams. Three of the residency participants are invited to share their work and the local art community is invited to attend and engage with each other. Self-care spa days will be coordinated at the Garden of Dreams and could include massages, mani/pedis, water aerobics in the solar-heated pool and a light lunch. Day trips and excursions into Guadalajara to explore the museums and galleries will become part of the regular schedule. We will be setting in motion a strong social media plan that promotes and supports our resident artists before, during and after their stay at Lakeside. Local press is very important and between the two local papers and two monthly magazines the plan is to create more buzz around those of you who are here to work. A special membership rate has been designated for 360XQ artists to join AALC and participate in the exhibitions and monthly markets. A workshop room is available at the Garden of Dreams. If you wish to lead a workshop during your residency, I will collaborate with you to plan, promote and execute an instructional class that will be attended by local artists from the community.

As the new Owner and Director of this program, I am very excited to build on the strong reputation that Cobra has built and expand upon it. As you have read, my background is diverse and deliciously versatile. All of that comes into play when I think about what this program has to offer and can become. While interviewing past participants, they suggested they would enjoy more engagement with the local community with activities planned for networking, sharing and connection. I am open to suggestions and will do my absolute best to create opportunities for all of the resident artists.

Please let me know how I can help you craft the most significant and rewarding residency that meets your immediate needs as an artist. I look forward to meeting with you and learning about your creative work at home and the work you will be doing while at Lakeside.



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