

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS



Ross Holzman is a San Francisco, CA based visionary artist, social entrepreneur, and spiritual activist. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Create Peace Project. Ross' passion for facilitating collaborative arts experiences and empowering positive feelings through creativity has led him to launch numerous art-for-peace projects. Ross employs his philosophy that the cultivation of self-awareness through self-expression is one of the most powerful tools for strengthening our connection to our self, to others, and the world around us, and thus creating peace. Ross has a bachelors in Marketing from Miami, University in Oxford, Ohio is a published author, accomplished public speaker, and arts facilitator; having lead more than 100 Peace Exchange workshops, 25 Banners for Peace workshops, and several murals with thousands of students around the world.



Laurie Marshall is a Marin County, CA artist, teacher and spiritual activist. She has been on the cutting edge of project-based learning in public schools for thirty years. With a bachelors in history and education from Antioch College and a masters in art and education from Beacon College, she is a certified K-12 art and secondary social studies teacher. Laurie has also trained over 3,000 teachers in visual literacy for the Polaroid Foundation, led visual art and mural making workshops, facilitated leadership training and conflict prevention with NASA, the Department of Interior, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Her book, *Beating the Odds Now! - Ten Steps for Teachers to Meet the Standards and Still Love What You Do*, is used in teaching project-based learning around the world.



Amanda is an educator, counselor, activist and writer. She has a Masters degree in Somatic Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS). She now teaches in the School of Undergraduate Studies at CIIS, where she employs her training in somatics, expressive arts, and eco-psychology to encourage students to engage creatively in an interdisciplinary course of studies. In addition to her regularly teaching at CIIS, Amanda also counsels individuals at the Holos Institute in San Francisco; facilitates group work in San Quentin and at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Marin; and runs seasonal experiential urban ecotherapy workshops. Her article, "Embodying Sentience" was published in the book, *Ecotherapy: Healing with Nature in Mind*. Formerly a high-tech project manager, Amanda had the joy of changing her focus in life from climbing the corporate ladder to living on purpose as an engaged and concerned citizen. Having personally known the power of personal transformation, Amanda is committed to helping others take the leap into a life of service. Amanda is engaged with many causes, including: local food and farming, climate change, and voter outreach. She is a regular practitioner of yoga and meditation.