

Niki Ciccotelli Stewart

Niki Ciccotelli Stewart is the Director of Education and Exhibitions at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. She has been with the Museum since before it opened in 2011, and was part of the team that took Crystal Bridges from idea to reality. In her role, Niki oversees the design, development and implementation of all educational programs for families, adults, youth, teachers, students, and community groups. She also directs the temporary exhibitions program, managing the incoming and outgoing exhibitions, their design and the overall content of each show.

Prior to Crystal Bridges, Niki served as Associate Curator of Education for School Programs at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida where she created and delivered programming for thousands of students and teachers every year.

Before her museum career, Niki was a public school teacher for students of all ages, kindergarten through college. She has also worked for the Walt Disney Company in a variety of art and education divisions including Disney Design Group, Entertainment, Imagineering, Animation, Creative Costuming, and Disney's Youth Education Series. Two of her favorite assignments at Disney found her on opening teams, creating new experiences and content. The first was The Disney Institute, a fantastic learning facility where Niki created more than twenty original programs. The second was building The Disney Wonder, the second ship in the Disney Cruise Line fleet. She lived and worked in Venice, Italy, building the ship, the staff, and the programs on board.

Niki is an experienced speaker, facilitator, and presenter. She serves on the board of the state art education association, and holds committee positions in the National Art Education Association and the American Alliance of Museums.

Niki holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, where she majored in Illustration and minored in Photography. She has also studied at The College of New Jersey and at two Philadelphia Colleges - Hussein School of Art and Moore College of Art and Design. She is certified to teach art (K-12) in Arkansas, and certified in both art (K-12) and gifted education in Florida.

Niki lives in Bella Vista, Arkansas with her husband, Paul, and son, Max.