

Kristen Chapman Gibbons

Throughout three previous careers in counseling, education, and communications, I was preparing for my work as an artist, without knowing it. I've been a writer and a performer for many decades, producing events, shows, and a podcast. My own creative evolution prompted the question, how can I use my talents and skills to support communities? I found my answer in placemaking, and my training in Metro Arts' [Learning Lab program](#).

This foundation has helped me create opportunities for people to connect in meaningful and unexpected ways. My work encourages efficacy in individuals and in communities, through creative expression and problem-solving. Often times, I focus on elevating story sharing, storytelling, and listening.

I do not work in a studio. The projects that excite me take place in spaces that have been under-utilized. Helping communities verbalize their needs and wants, bringing arts experiences, and creating spaces for engagement are my practice. Placemaking makes good use of my skills and aligns with my values. In essence, I bring people to the table, although the table might be a bus, a pop-up recording studio, or a DJ spinning soul classics to Senior Citizens.

I do this work because I believe in the power of engaging in the world around you. I believe that arts and humanities are critical in helping individuals and communities find their voice, solve their challenges, and create a vision for their futures.