

Short Version

Anne Romens | Program Director, Arts Midwest

Anne Romens oversees strategic planning, fundraising, communications, and operations for Creating Connection, a national social change initiative that leverages the relationship between existing public values and arts and culture. A growing national movement seeking to shift the way in which arts, culture, and creativity are recognized and valued in everyday life, Creating Connection is currently supporting arts leaders across the United States via training and technical assistance, network building, and knowledge sharing. As part of her leadership in this program, Anne has presented at national and regional conferences such as the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Chorus America, League of American Orchestras, Western Arts Alliance, and Arts Midwest Conference, among others.

Prior to her work on Creating Connection, Anne served as Arts Midwest's external relations manager for six years, where she supported fundraising and communications for the organization's portfolio of 10+ programs. Anne currently serves on the board of Sunshine Montessori School in Minneapolis. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago and an M.A. in Arts Administration and Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Long Version

Anne Romens | Program Director, Arts Midwest

Anne Romens oversees strategy development, fundraising, and operations for the national social change initiative, Creating Connection. Her portfolio includes the identification, cultivation, and management of relationships with funding partners, and her efforts have helped to secure multiyear gifts that support long-term project sustainability. Anne also leads communication strategy and program delivery for Creating Connection, drawing on research, trends, and best practices to keep leaders across the country informed about project milestones and accomplishments. As part of her leadership in this program, Anne has presented at national and regional conferences such as the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Chorus America, League of American Orchestras, Western Arts Alliance, and Arts Midwest Conference, among others. During the project's early research phase in 2014, Anne supported the development and launch of national qualitative and quantitative research that examined the relationship between existing public values and arts and culture. She co-authored the findings and recommendations from that study, "Creating Connection: Research Findings and Proposed Message Framework to Build Public Will for Arts and Culture."

Prior to her role as program director for Creating Connection, Anne served as external relations manager for Arts Midwest. In this capacity, she successfully cultivated major gifts from foundations and corporations—securing more than \$5.28 million for programs and services—and developed individual giving campaign strategies that leveraged a 70% increase in giving to the organization over five years. In her 9+ years with the organization, Anne has also supported strategic planning and program management for national performing and visual arts programs; managed an organization-wide rebranding process; supported strategic planning, needs assessment, and goal monitoring for all contributed income channels; and oversaw external communications efforts including public relations and social media.

Beyond her work at Arts Midwest, Anne has held a variety of fundraising, communications, and management positions at nonprofit organizations, including museums, schools, and social service agencies. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago and a Master of Arts degree in Arts Administration and Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.