

# Nance Klehm

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## PROFILE

Nance is a process-oriented ecologist with proven experience in restructuring existing situations into more functional systems with a strong social dynamic. Nance and her work has been reported on in over 50 national and international media outlets including radio, print and 13 books. She has formally exhibited her work nationally and internationally in galleries and museums. She was named a 2012 Utne Visionary and has been a two time finalist for the Curry-Stone Prize. She is currently at work on a book on: Soil.

## CURRENT POSITIONS

DIRECTOR, Social Ecologies, L3C, CHICAGO, IL, USA 2011 – present

Social Ecologies creates durational projects that aim to build healthy habitat and interaction through direct engagement of place with those who dwell there. Social Ecologies seeks to encourage holistic, systematic thinking through varying levels and degrees of project participation. Projects are typically birthed and supported for several years for substantial research, learning and dialogue to develop and ideas to emerge and become embodied in continued action.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CLIENTS

- NANCE KLEHM GARDENS, INC., CHICAGO, IL, USA 1994 – 2010

Ecological design, creation, consultation, and maintenance of landscapes and gardens for individuals, organizations and private businesses.

- PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION, CHICAGO, IL, USA October 2005 – September 2010

Designed two 2500 square foot greenhouses and a training program for one of the largest social service agencies in Chicago: a shelter that serves up to 1500 overnight guests each evening, with an average of 200-300 permanent residents year-round. Worked with architects for two years on the social design of the greenhouses. Created and managed program that trained residents in composting, vermicomposting, vegetable production, horticulture, landscaping, and carpentry, using the greenhouses as a training site.

- THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND GARDENS, SAN MARINO, CA January - February 2014, 2015

Designed, wrote and currently teach their month long Urban Agroecology Intensive. The Urban Agroecology Intensive consists of two full days of principles and practices of ecosystem-based gardening that are further explored with many hands on half day Supplementary Skill Building Workshops.

- ARCHEWORKS, CHICAGO, IL October 2012 – August 2013

Developed cross disciplinary educational opportunities for design and architecture professionals: SOILunit and WATERunit. SOILunit explores the life within soils, and tracing soil formation in the landscape offering an integrated perspective of the biological, social, cultural and environmental factors that relate to soil and human ecology, WATERunit focuses on water conservation and remediation, exploring natural bodies of water, the water cycle and urban water systems including learning how to design and build a grey water system responsive to site. Developed and curated The Wastestreams Film Series- a 4 part, participatory film salon.

- CITY REPAIR/VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE May 2012

Designed and created community-driven greywater and soil solutions at four city sites. This involved Group conversation, design and execution of a constructed wetland to filter greywater, a mulch basin to feed laundrywater to fruit trees, a dark grey water system from a kitchen sink to a burgeoning foodforest (formally a driveway), a compost bin system made from an entire recycled tree, and a conversation to reinvigorate healthy engagement of a derelict alleyway.

- GIVE LOVE HAITI, PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI February – March 2010

Provided consultation and participated in initial discussions about low-energy, community-based systems of eco-sanitation to be implemented in post-earthquake Haiti: rainwater catchment, earthworks, and human waste composting systems for a camp of 3000 displaced people in Port au Prince.

- METABOLIC STUDIO, LOS ANGELES, CA, USA December 2009 - February 2010

Studio's extensive existing raised gardens lacked healthy soil and water-wise irrigation options; designed and built modular biofiltration systems to interface with warehouse rainwater cisterns and intensive vegetable production beds. Trained teams of military veterans and at-risk youth in building and maintaining large, thermophilic composting systems culled from the warehouse's fruit waste and regenerative vermiculture systems at two sites: downtown Los Angeles as well as at the Veterans' Hospital.

## **SPEAKING and TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS**

American Embassy (Warsaw), World Soil Week (Berlin), Soils in The City (Chicago), Pixelache (Tampere, Finland), Archeworks (Chicago), Jutland Kunstakademi (Århus, Denmark), MICA (Baltimore), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Hammer Museum (L.A.), UCLA (L.A.), The Huntington Library and Gardens (San Marino, CA), Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), Temple University (Philadelphia), Great Lakes Bioneers (Chicago), CalArts (L.A.), Basekamp (Philadelphia), Art Institute of Chicago, Washington College (Chestertown, MD), Cal State Long Beach, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Cincinnati, Farmlab (L.A.), Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA), Dartington College of Arts (Devon, England), Village Building Convergence (Portland, OR), Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago), Garfield Park Conservatory (Chicago), Gesundheit Institute (West Virginia), Heifer Project International (Chicago), Escuela Ollini (Morelos, Mexico), The Edible Schoolyard (Berkeley)

## **PRESS**

TIME magazine, MSN Money, Philadelphia Inquirer, Le Devoir, Mother Earth News, Reuters, American Public Radio, Chicago Tribune, GOOD Magazine and BBC Radio Canada, amongst others...

## **WORK REFERENCED IN BOOKS:**

Fortune, Bonnie, ed., *An Edge Effect: Art and Ecology in the Nordic Landscape*, Copenhagen, Half Letter Press, 2014  
Tucker, Daniel, ed., *Immersive Life Practices* Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2014  
Darwish, Leila. *Earthrepair: A grassroots guide to community bioremediation*: New Society Publishers, 2013  
Hren, Stephen. *Tales from the Sustainable Underground* British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 2011  
Hayes, Shannon. *Radical Homemakers* West Fulton, NY: Left to Write Press, 2010  
Daniel Pinchbeck & Ken Jordan, ed., *Toward 2012: Perspectives on the Next Age* New York: Penguin, 2008  
The Learning Group. *Tales from the Sustainable Underground* Copenhagen: TLG, 2008  
Rick Smolan and Jennifer Erwit. *America At Home* Philadelphia: Running Press, 2007  
Gribenas, Rick. *Participatory Autonomy* Chicago: University of Illinois Chicago, 2006  
Katz, Sandor. *The Revolution will not be Microwaved* White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green, 2006  
*PR '00 Intervenciones en la Ciudad* San Juan: Proyecto M, 2000

## **RESIDENCIES**

Learning Site Copenhagen, Denmark 2006  
Center of Land Use Interpretation Wendover, UT 2007-2012

## **EDUCATION**

B.A. in Archaeology and Spanish Literature. George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1988.

## **OTHER**

Fluent in Spanish. Working knowledge of French. Published writer. Certified Yoga instructor. Small livestock holder. Orchardist. Wine maker. Cheese maker. Herbalist. Beekeeper.