

In the year 2000, after I received my MFA in Scene and Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University, my husband's job brought us to San Antonio. During the first six months, I tried to contact as many people as I could in the local theatre scene. What I heard many times was "you are not in the right city". I then accepted an offer as Assistant Professor of Drama at Kenyon College, in Ohio. Professionally, my work at Kenyon brought much satisfaction. However, three years of commuting between Texas and Ohio imposed tremendous hardship on our family; so I resigned at Kenyon and started working as a freelance designer from San Antonio.

Even though I still rely on commissions from outside San Antonio for financial survival, in the few years we have lived here, I have witnessed a rapid change in the development of the arts within the city. In fact, the city has offered me diverse opportunities for growth as a designer, and to maintain myself challenged. My experience designing for productions for the Drama program at the North School for the Arts (NESA) has been particularly gratifying. The level of the students is high, and collaborating with the faculty has been a pleasure. Being in a top conservatory school such as Carnegie Mellon I was always impressed by the level of many of the incoming students. I now understand that those students came from schools like NESA.

I thank the Tobin Foundation and the Artist Foundation of San Antonio wholeheartedly for offering these grants to the community. As indicated in the Budget section, the bulk of the funds will be utilized to purchase professional equipment and supplies which were made readily available to me while I was in academia, but are sorely needed for my current work.