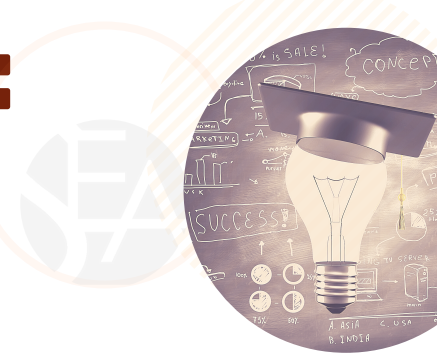


# VIRTUAL SEA SUMMIT:

Graduating with an Arts Degree during a Pandemic Now What?



## Pre-recorded Sessions: Now Available

(Final as of 3/15/21)

- **Panel: Mental Health Postgrad:** Senior year and post graduation are full of a lot of changes that can affect your mental health; from finding a job to starting a career to paying off student loans and so much more. During this panel discussion we'll have an open discussion about:
  - How to have a good mental mindset when the job search is challenging
  - Coping strategies for when you feel stressed or even hopeless about the future
  - How to handle rejection during the job search
  - Tips for starting a job with a positive attitude
  - Taking a job that doesn't reflect what you hoped for

*Panelists: Allie Pleiter, Denise Laurin-Donatelle, Francesca Leo, Tyler Lenn Bradley, and Mike Veny*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 12 PM CST*

- **Panel: Acing the Interview:** We'll dive deep into what you need to ace the interview from your resume and portfolio to interview strategies. Here's a brief overview of what will be covered:
  - Resume, portfolio, and interview strategies
  - Tips on how to tailor your resume to industries
  - Resources for creating the resume such as keyword utilization and verb usage
  - Tips for the interview: how to tailor your answers to common interview questions
  - Dos and don'ts, when to ask about salary/benefits
  - Tips on negotiating the job

*Panelists: Zach Hartley, Hale Ekinci, Saudia Davis, Melissa Hennessy, Laura Daniels, Kay Gravesande, and Maurice Hissink*

*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 4 PM CST and Sunday, March 21st @ 12 PM CST*

- **Panel: Advice for 2021 Grads:** Graduation and starting off on your career journey can seem overwhelming under normal circumstances. Throw in a pandemic, and well....here we are. During this panel we'll discuss:
  - Mentally preparing for the shift from student to professional
  - Mentally preparing for the vision you had vs. the reality
  - Strategies for managing the first year of post college life

*Panelists: Molly Miklosz, Jennifer Barrett, Nicole Anderson, and Elizabeth Kilpatrick*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 10 AM CST*

- **Panel: Is Grad School Right for Me?:** During the pandemic, many students are re-thinking grad school. We'll dive into what you should take into consideration when looking at your options for post undergrad.
  - What are the different options for grad school - full time vs. part time, online options, night school
  - How is grad school different from undergrad - how is it the same?
  - What are the benefits of going to grad school?
  - Are there certain fields where a graduate degree is necessary?
  - How can you finance grad school?

*Panelists: Carin Silkaitis (Columbia College Chicago), Gary Beckman (North Carolina State University), Francesca Leo (flutist / educator), Dianne Welsh (University of North Carolina Greensboro), and Kelly Schmader (Columbia College Chicago)*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 1 PM CST*

## Pre-recorded Sessions Continued: Available starting March 12th

- **Panel: Taking a Job that's not Ideal:** You've got your first job! Congratulations! However, it isn't exactly what you had hoped for. Don't worry - your first job has a lot more to offer than you realize. During this panel we'll discuss:
  - Finding ways to enjoy the job even if it isn't what you had hoped for
  - Mental health strategies to manage the ups and downs of the job
  - Changing your perspective - how to focus on what the job has to offer you
  - Strategies for keeping yourself on the right track and moving towards the job you really want

*Panelists: Evan Price, Rebecca Reuland, Brian Witkowski, Amen Jafri, Brianna Hairlson, and Brent Rolland*

*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 5 PM CST and Sunday, March 21st @ 1 PM CST*

- **Panel: Translating Your Creative Skills to Job Skills:** Your creative skills are of value to your future employers. During this session we will discuss:
  - How to translate those skills to the job skills employers are seeking.
  - Soft skills and creative skills, where they meet
  - How to highlight your creative skills in your resume
  - How to talk about your creative skills in the same language as what your employer is seeking

*Panelists: Amen Jafri, Laura Daniels, Mari Reisberg, Melissa Hennessy, Denise Laurin-Donatell, and Lidia Varesco Racoma*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 2 PM CST and Sunday, March 21st @ 2 PM CST*

- **Panel: The Wait for the Right Job:** Is that first job not the dream job you were hoping for? During this panel discussion we'll discuss how to manage while you wait for the right job opportunity. We'll discuss:
  - What you can do to keep yourself on the right path
  - How to fulfill your need to be creative
  - How to manage your mental health during the wait
  - How utilize your non dream job to grow your skills while you wait
  - How to keep the big picture in perspective when the wait seems like it will never end

*Panelists: Linnette Harrigan, Lindsey Hastings, and Margi Cole*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 3 PM CST*

- **Navigating Your First Year Out of College**

In this workshop, we will bust the myth that your first year out of college is critical to have career success. Let's start here: your first year out of college can take ANY form, and still unfold into a rich, rewarding, and successful career! We will look at real people's careers as case studies of diverse, winding career pathways; cover strategies for identifying and showcasing transferable skills learned from an art degree to roles both in and outside of the arts; and talk about how to be nimble and keep your head above water while you build your career post-grad.

*Presenter: Nicole Anderson*

*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 6 PM CST*

- **Designing a Resume for the Creative**

Join Associate Professor of Art & Design at North Central College, Hale Ekinici, as she shares best practices and tips for putting together a resume specifically with the creative in mind.

*Presenter: Hale Ekinici*

*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 11 AM CST*

- **Business Model Canvas for the Creative**

Are you interested in creating your own business? The business model canvas is a one page format to help you visualize and gather the important elements of your idea. Join Gary Vaughan, founder of Guident Business Solutions and lecturer of economics/entrepreneurship at Lawrence University as he walks you through the model. Then, join him for a conversation and Q&A time on Sunday, March 21st.

*Presenter: Gary Vaughan*

*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 11 AM*

## Pre-recorded Sessions Continued: Available starting March 12th

- **Getting to WOW!!! How to Plan a Portfolio with Maximum Impact**

Geared toward graphic designers, fine artists, and photographers, this session provides best practices for planning an effective and stunning visual arts portfolio. Your portfolio represents you, and is the first impression many potential clients see. You want to be certain that your portfolio stands out from the crowd. We will cover strategies for both traditional and web-based portfolios such as how to select the right examples, personal branding, and choosing the right format for showcasing your work. Remember, your portfolio itself is an example of how you approach visual solutions, so make it the best possible representation of your visual problem-solving skills and creativity.

*Presenter: Denise Laurin-Donatelle – Living Creatively, Founder*  
*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 4 PM CST*

- **Building Your Music Business During the Pandemic!**

What You Should Be Doing Now to Prepare for Success! Dr. Greta Pope discusses a wide range of topics including SMART goals, branding, and marketing.

*Presenter: Dr. Greta Pope*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 9 AM CST*

- **How an artist can use their passion in the world of an artistic nonprofit business.**

In this session, individuals would learn how others have taken their passion for art into the world of nonprofits. Individuals in the art world will discuss their role in various nonprofits.

*Session Moderator: Barrett Baebler*  
*Panelists: Michale Baxter, Alan R. Kay, and Shawna Flanigan*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 10 AM CST*

- **The Writer Side Hustle: Launching Your Fiction Career Around That Pesky Day Job**

Multi-published author Allie Pleiter provides tips and strategies for getting your fiction career underway while you're waiting for that stellar agent or contract to land on your desk. Whether you're pursuing traditional publishing or going the indie route, we'll explore how to stay productive while juggling the demands of a rent-paying day job.

*Presenter: Allie Pleiter*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 2 PM CST*

- **Arts Innovations**

Daniel Arthur has a unique approach to incorporating art into learning. Through this approach, he shares about innovation through art and how you can utilize your own creative skills to innovate throughout your career journey.

*Presenter: Daniel Arthur*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 11 AM CST*

- **The Art of the Pivot: How to Pivot in Your Personal and Professional Life**

During this session, Brianna will use examples of how her dance studio pivoted during COVID and discuss how it's not always a direct path.

*Presenter: Brianna Hairlson*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 3 PM CST*

- **Creating a Career in Voiceover, even during a Pandemic**

Voiceover actor Joe Bianco will share how to get started in voiceover in today's market.

*Presenter: Joe Bianco*  
*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 6 PM CST*

## Pre-recorded Sessions Continued: Available starting March 12th

- **Business Etiquette during the Job Search and First Year**

Business Etiquette is an assumed skill many think they have until it's time to put it into action. In this session, tenured HR professional and successful business owner Kay Gravesande will guide you through common business etiquette basics to help you better navigate in professional settings. We'll review the proper resume structure, interview do's and don'ts, dress code 101, how to virtually network, corporate communication in a nutshell and how to identify colleagues vs. friends. Attendees are encouraged to take notes throughout the session for our LIVE follow up Q&A.

*Presenter: KaMariea (Kay) Gravesande*  
*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 3 PM CST*

- **The Importance of Community & Sustainable Live/Work Artists Housing**

Artists Design the Future is a project initiated by two women artists, both with shared values and long standing careers in public art projects, placemaking, and economic development strategies directed by artists. Our project engages economic and community development, cultural activities, and education within a larger neighborhood plan. The ultimate result is the creation of a 25 unit mixed use live/work real estate cooperative. Our goal is to provide sustainable and affordable ownership for artists which in turn supports their entrepreneurial growth and community commitment. ADtF's mission is to foster creative, equitable, and stronger communities where African American, Latinx, and marginalized creatives live on Chicago's south side. We activate the intersection and collaboration of placemaking, affordable housing, and community development. We'll share about this project as well as others and discuss what live/work artist housing can provide you.

*Presenters: Kiela Smith-Upton and Laura Weathered*  
*Live Q & A: Friday, March 19th @ 6 PM CST*

- **The Side Hustle in Journalism and Strategic Communications/Public Relations**

In this session, we will give an overview of the news and strategic communications industries, followed by opportunities in and pitfalls of freelancing and concluding with "how to's" of developing a professional brand and getting started in Upwork and similar digital labor marketplaces.

*Presenters: Dr. Anne Hoag and Jenna Spinelle*  
*Live Q & A: Saturday, March 20th @ 9 AM CST*

- **Behind the Image**

Behind the Image addresses the effects social media has on mental health - specifically when it comes to comparing ourselves to others. Tyler uses true stories from industry professionals (including a professional model, Cirque Du Soleil acrobat, and an Executive Film Producer) to provide tips on how we can be kind to ourselves and focus on our own journey while using these platforms.

*Presenters: Tyler Lenn Bradley*  
*Live Q & A: Sunday, March 21st @ 4 PM CST*

- **Why Graduate School at Columbia College Chicago?**

In this pre-recorded presentation, Assistant Directors of Graduate Admissions David Marts and Kelly Schmader discuss the common reasons that students return to school for their graduate degree. They also explore the ways a Columbia education addresses these needs and helps students reach their future goals. Watch the session to learn more, and reach out to Kelly or David with any questions at [gradstudy@colum.edu](mailto:gradstudy@colum.edu).

*Presenters: David Marts and Kelly Schmader*