

DIGITAL STORYTELLING TEAM



DIANE GOLDIN

Diane Goldin founded the Goldin Institute in 2002 to empower grassroots partnerships for global change in the areas of poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, environmental sustainability and conflict resolution. Diane brings an abundance of first-hand experience in building multi-sector collaborations that she gained in serving a wide range of non-profit organizations and social movements around the world. Diane's preference for working directly with communities rather than meetings in Board rooms and her passion for social and environmental justice form the bedrock of the Institute's mission, vision and values.



TRAVIS REJMAN

Travis Rejman is the founding Executive Director of the Goldin Institute. Prior to working with Diane Goldin to create and launch the Goldin Institute in 2002, Travis served as Director for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, leading the international programs and launching the Partner Cities Network. Subsequent to working in the interreligious field, Travis worked in the environmental movement, focusing on coalition building, grassroots education and civic engagement. Travis has conducted consultative site visits and worked on location in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle-East and, South and North America. Travis lives in Chicago with this wife, Gia and sons, Maxwell and Enzo.



LISA DUSH

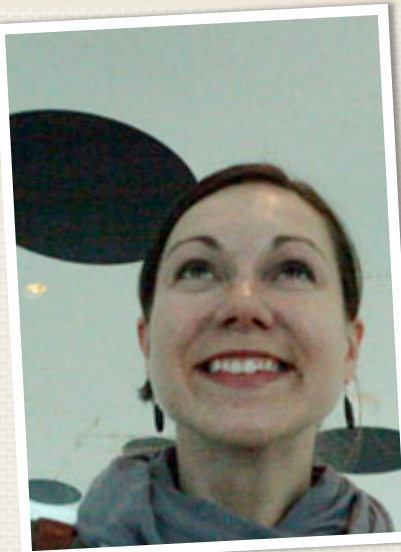
Lisa Dush is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse at DePaul University, where she teaches courses in new media studies and professional writing. Lisa's research involves developing processes, tools, and theories that can help organizations use new media storytelling in their work. Much of her teaching and research is built around efforts to partner students with nonprofit and public service agencies around Chicago, to together develop and deploy digital storytelling projects. Prior to her position at DePaul, Lisa founded and ran a digital storytelling training company, Storybuilders, in Boston, MA. She has taught writing at the university level for nearly 15 years.

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JOSEPH GENSLAK

Joseph Genslak became interested in the intersection of grassroots organizing and its ability to work on a global scale as a member of a goodwill ambassadorship mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2004. Traveling the country broadly – an uncommon destination for Westerners - he became aware that those things all people share in common, far outnumber their differences. Prior to joining the Goldin Institute, Joseph worked in desktop publishing, delivering content in several commercial environments, including the Reed-Elsevier Company. Joseph has a daughter Izabella and lives in Chicago.



HEATHER EIDSON

Heather Eidson is a Master in Arts Candidate at the school of New Media Studies at DePaul University. This year, she worked as an assistant to Professor Lisa Dush, providing digital storytelling assistance to non-profit organizations. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and a 2011 recipient of the Meister Scholarship. Heather also runs her own editorial and commercial photography business. Heather is a seven-year veteran of the news industry, working as a full-time visual journalist for the Sun Times Media Group and The Times of Northwest Indiana. She has provided video documentary and photography services for a wide variety of non-profit organizations.



MICHAEL DI MARIA

Michael Di Maria has ten years educational content experience focusing on aiding content development and assuring accuracy. He most recently spent over five years as Senior Research Editor and Corrections Manager with Pearson Education. He received a Masters of Fine Arts in Fiction Writing at Columbia College and a BA in English at St. Leo University. Michael currently serves as Distance Learning Coordinator for the Goldin Institute. Michael currently lives in Chicago with his wife Kimberly, and daughters, Antonia and Francesca.

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GIA BIAGI

Gia Biagi is the director of planning and development for the Chicago Park District. She manages research, planning, policy, and design for 580 city parks. Her work involves implementing the District's strategic capital improvement plan on projects ranging from new community centers and playgrounds to athletic fields and urban horticulture sites. Gia earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and received a masters in urban planning/policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a board member of the Chicago non-profit NeighborSpace, and makes her home in the city with her husband Travis and two sons, Maxwell and Enzo.



RENATO VELARDE

Renato Velarde has been making short and long form documentaries since 1998. He is primarily self-taught in filmmaking and still photography, but has also completed the certificate program at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University in North Carolina. Renato's interests in social justice and personal narrative documentary have taken him to Pakistan, India, Haiti, Bolivia, and all over the US. He also works as a cinematographer for commercial and independent fiction films. He grew up in East Lansing, Michigan and currently lives in Chicago, Illinois.

ABOUT THE GOLDIN INSTITUTE



The Goldin Institute **builds grassroots partnerships for global change** that are rooted in the power of communities working together to build their own solutions and determine their own futures. We help communities achieve their goals through online and on the ground initiatives focused on addressing poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, environmental sustainability and conflict resolution.