

Getting To Know Cynthia Frank

By Carolyn Meade

You may not think you know Cynthia Frank – but you’ve seen her work! Cynthia, a graphic designer, teacher and small business owner by profession <http://www.cynthiafrankdesign.com> (think logos, branding and invitations), is the designer behind many of the wall poems you’ll find painted on the walls of a number of buildings in Charlotte including at Villa Francesca, 325 E. 9th St., Treolar House (across from Imaginon) and once upon a time, on the side of Dixie’s Tavern.



The Wall Poems project of Charlotte is the vision of Amy Bagwell and Graham Carew, made possible by a grant from the Knight Foundation, and places snippets of poems by North Carolina poets on blank exterior walls and in other public spaces for all of us to enjoy.

Cynthia is continuing her interest in public art as half of PAC3, a new collaboration with architect and partner Carrie Gault. They have just received a commission to design a 25 foot long Sensory Wall for disabled children in the new park to be built outside Greensboro’s new Children’s Center and Library.

A member of Women’s Impact Fund since 2007, and having served on our Education, Arts and Human Services Grants work teams and on the Community Impact Committee, Cynthia was initially surprised by, and is now rightfully proud of, the complexity and thoroughness of our grant process – from application to evaluation. As she said, “I joined the Women’s Impact Fund to learn *how* to give money. Serving on these committees taught me how to ask good questions of entities applying for grants and how to give money responsibly.”

Do you have a favorite quotation? Two of them, both sitting on my computer:
“It’s okay to look back at the past, just don’t stare.”
“It’s easy to let go of something when you are satisfied.”

While many of us in art and design will tell you that they are never sure when, for instance, a painting is truly done, for me, once I know I’ve done a good job, I can move on.

What are the top qualities that draw you to someone? A good conversation...Someone who can talk about a wide variety of eclectic topics...Someone who is well-informed and well-read, full of ideas.

Where did you grow up and how did it shape you? Just outside of Providence, Rhode Island, a fairly small town. I desperately wanted to “get out,” but the funny thing is that I’ve chosen and like Charlotte which is, in some ways, like Providence in that it is easy to know many people and to be connected to someone through no more than one other person.

When or where do you get your best ideas? When going for a run or in a yoga class. When I’m stuck in the design process, I find physical activity gives me the mental space to find an answer while the rest of my body is occupied.