

Dennis Burke

Secondary Visual Arts Educator | Chicago, Illinois | dennismburke@yahoo.com | dennis-burke.pages.dev

Professional Profile

Illinois-licensed K-12 visual arts educator with experience in secondary classrooms, community arts, higher education, studio practice, fabrication, and project coordination. Strengths include clear demonstrations, safe material use, structured studio routines, feedback, revision, and student independence.

License and Certifications

- Illinois Professional Educator License - Visual Arts, K-12.
- Illinois Substitute Educator License - valid through June 2029.
- Illinois Licensure Testing System, Test 214: Visual Arts - passed.

Education

Master of Education - Visual Arts Secondary Education

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois | 2025

Master of Fine Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts and Media

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois | 2014

Certificate - Painting and Drawing Studies

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois | 2008

Bachelor of Fine Arts - 2-D Studio Art

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois | 2005

Advanced Painting and Drawing

Lorenzo de Medici Art Institute, Florence, Italy | 2004-2005

Teaching Experience

Student Teacher

Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Illinois | Aug-Dec 2025

Co-taught sculpture and illustration; planned demonstrations, studio activities, assessment, critique, revision, and reflection.

Applied Technology Educator

Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Illinois | Aug 2024-Jun 2025

Created lesson materials and procedures; taught safe tool use, construction, design, testing, revision, and craftsmanship.

Substitute Teacher

Consolidated High School District 230, Illinois | Oct 2024-May 2025

Supported student participation, safety, assigned learning, and productive classroom routines.

Visual Arts Instructor

Park District of Highland Park, Highland Park, Illinois | May 2023-Nov 2024

Taught drawing, painting, printmaking, papermaking, sculpture, and community art for varied ages and experience levels.

Chicago Teaching Residency Participant

Chicago Academy High School, Chicago, Illinois | Sep-Nov 2023

Practiced secondary classroom routines, inclusive teaching, and student engagement strategies.

Teaching Associate and Guest Lecturer

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois | Sep 2012-Feb 2014

Facilitated workshops, critiques, technical demonstrations, feedback, and revision across arts and media programs.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Professional Experience

Theatrical Set Designer

Chicago High School for the Arts / Chicago Theatre Company | 2022-2024

Designed and fabricated theatrical sets; managed materials, schedules, budgets, and structural safety.

Instructional Production Coordinator

Cinema and Television, Columbia College Chicago | 2018-2022

Coordinated academic production workflows, logistics, regulations, and technical needs.

Budget Manager and Executive Assistant

Facilities and Operations, Columbia College Chicago | 2016-2018

Managed budgets, records, schedules, contractor logistics, and construction coordination.

Material Handling Specialist

The Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Illinois | 2008-2011

Supported art handling, exhibitions, event logistics, and material staging.

Construction Trades Professional

Walsh Construction / Nebor Construction | 2001-2008

Developed practical knowledge of sequencing, measurement, materials, tools, and workplace safety.

Teaching and Studio Skills

Instruction and Assessment	Unit and lesson planning; demonstrations; vocabulary; critique; feedback; reflection; revision; rubrics; standards-aligned instruction.
Drawing, Painting, and Design	Observation; portraiture; figure drawing; value; proportion; composition; perspective; color; mixed media; visual communication.
Print, Paper, and Sculpture	Relief printmaking; carving; inking; proofing; registration; edition printing; hand papermaking; sculpture; paper construction.
Construction and Media	Wood construction; joinery; model and set construction; installation; performance; video; digital collage; documentation; studio safety.

Selected Awards and Scholarships

- TEACH Grant Recipient, DePaul University, 2023-2025.
- AUSL Chicago Teaching Residency Scholarship, 2023.
- First Place, Citywide Painting Competition, Florence, Italy, 2005.
- Ruth C. Boyd-Cook Memorial Painting Award, 2004.
- Ruth C. Boyd Excellence in Fine Arts Scholarship, Eastern Illinois University, 2001-2005.