

Sarah M. Kent, CIG



EDUCATION:

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY Cincinnati, OH

B.S. in Biology, Minor: Art May 2013

- Thesis: Allopatric speciation across the continental USA (Coleoptera, Neuroptera, and Solifugae)
- Member: Symphonic Band, Pep Band, Black Student Union, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, Mount Gaming League (Founder, Historian), Birding Club (Founder, Secretary)

WORK EXPERIENCE:

GROUNDWORK OHIO RIVER VALLEY Cincinnati, OH

Executive Director, September 2025 – present

- Leading the implementation of the fundraising strategy, identifying appropriate funding opportunities and playing a key role in grant writing and donor stewardship
- Cultivating and managing diverse relationships with community members, community-based organizations, city agencies, elected officials at all levels of government, charitable foundations and other funding sources
- Overseeing all budgeting efforts, including budget development and management, and financial reporting, in collaboration with key staff
- Work with staff and board to plan, implement, and evaluate program activities and to document and communicate GWORV's successes and results
- Manage and develop staff, including hiring, delegating appropriate responsibilities, team-building, coaching, and evaluation

GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON COUNTY Cincinnati, OH

Community Outreach Manager for Great Parks Nature Center at the Summit, May 2019 – September 2025

- Started innovative programming and design for a new nature center in Roselawn in 2019
- Creates programs with her team focused on sustainability, food sovereignty, survival skills, access to green space, gardening, and provides open hours to meet people at their own comfort level in nature
- Started Great Park's first paid internship program that includes transportation and flexible hours
- Began Great Park's first and only yearly Black History Month events, with a focus on local Black people in the outdoor industry and skill sharing
- Works with 22+ organizations in community partnerships for events and service work such as:
 - Built a community garden while coordinating 350 volunteers with the Roselawn Community Council, and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful in 2022
 - Recruited 88 volunteers for a neighborhood cleanup for MLK day in 2024 with New Prospect Baptist Church
- Collaborates with the community members and teachers of Roselawn to encourage unity and resilience through presentations, installation gardens, and school outreach programs
- Writes blogs and hosts Facebook lives for the public, and participates in interviews for local stations
- Established Urban Thrive Festival, an annual award-winning festival with community partners, directing 50+ staff and volunteers
- Secures grants to fund programs, materials, and staffing

STAGECRAFT INC. Cincinnati, OH

Sculpturist/ Artist July 2018- September 2021

- Fabricated costumes and provide precise designs for the clients
- Sculpted displays for museums and amusement parks across the country

YMCA CAMP ORKILA Eastsound, WA

Gardener/ Outdoor Environmental Educator March 2016- November 2017

- Ran an organic, educational, and sustainable 40 plot garden
- Supervised/ evaluated summer interns and volunteers
- Utilized IPM procedures to assess garden health
- Facilitated a variety of classes in the spring and fall seasons including: marine and forest investigation, outdoor living skills, high ropes elements, and team building; taught garden related classes in the summer including insects 101, cooking, harvesting, and food safety
- Created classes for Conference and Retreats including: zombie makeup, home brewing, organic body scrubs, plant mixology, herbalism, edible insects, nature journaling, and jewelry
- Led cultural competency training and DEI workshops for staff and corporate groups •
Designed and implemented a haunted hayride, wrote a script for 42 staff in October 2016

CINCINNATI PARKS EXPLORE NATURE! Cincinnati, OH

Recreational Specialist April 2015- November 2015/ Naturalist August 2013- April 2015/ Summer Camp Staff May 2013- August 2013

- Created naturalist programs with a carousel theme, and provided education on city features
- Hired/ trained staff on operation procedures, POS system, customer service, and public speaking
- Educated the public and school field trips about Cincinnati/ Ohio history and natural history
- Developed lesson plans, crafts, and programs for educating and inspiring the public about STEM
- Updated the museum, cleaned and presented specimens living and deceased

AWARDS:

- Social Justice Award 2024, National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials
- Urban Farming Festival Innovative Program Award 2022, Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- 30 Under 30 2021, presented by National Recreation and Parks Association
- Outstanding New Interpreter 2021 National, National Association for Interpretation
- Outstanding New Interpreter 2021 Region 4, National Association for Interpretation
- 30 Under 30 Cincinnati 2020, presented by Cincinnati Regenerative Schools

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Western Wildlife Corridor Cincinnati, OH

Board Member (June 2022- present)

- Fundraising committee
 - Planning and implementing annual fundraiser
 - Acquiring donations from local businesses, foundations, and grants
 - Social media and newsletter postings

- Playscape committee
 - Designing new nature playscape at Kirby Nature Center
- Coordinated 2-part strategic planning board retreat in 2024

National Association for Interpretation

Member (2019- present)

- Presented at two national conferences
- JEDAI committee member

Monteverde Butterfly Gardens Monteverde, Costa Rica

Tour Guide February 2018- April 2018

- Lead educational tours on insects and invertebrates local to Central America
- Provided care for the plant species in the four elevation themed gardens including: using IPM, pruning, planting, weeding, animal capture and removal, and rerouting watering systems

Hostal Bambú David, Chiriqui, Panama

Host April 2018- June 2018

- Took groups out on interpretive excursions to different locations in Panama
- Created a farmers workshop in Boquete about IPM, using more organic influences to treat coffee plants, and raise the price of their grounds to pay their staff

PUBLICATIONS/ FEATURES:

- Pride Month at Great Parks. 2024. [Link](#)
- Roth, A., & Kent, S. 2022. Personality-mediated-speed-accuracy tradeoffs in mating in a 17-year periodical cicada. Behavioral Ecology. <https://academic.oup.com/beheco/article/33/6/1141/6693382?login=false>
- Here for Connections: Great Parks Hosts First Urban Farming Festival. 2022. [Link](#)
- Cicada Central: Why These Noisy Insects are Important. 2021. [Link](#)
- Stinky Trees Equal Stinky Neighborhoods. 2021. [Link](#)