

Dear Sitar Community,

After 16 years of student showcases, faculty happy hours, glitter portraits, White Elephant exchanges, and Faculty Showcases...on April 28th, I will be moving on from my position at Sitar Arts Center.

What a journey! I have been a part of so many evolutions of this amazing organization and found true joy in developing arts programs and impacting students who are now adults with their own families and starting their own businesses.

To all my students, interns, and alumni - you know how to find me; I will always be available to you. You surprise me every day and I am in awe of your accomplishments. I am so proud of the work I have done with you and the work you will do in the future. Keep being the creative people you are...I'm still watching!

The Sitar staff are the most creative problem solvers around. I'd like to send out a special shoutout to our Sitar Pandemic Staff: Angela Robinson, Megan Short, Essence Newhoff, Jessica Leskin, Diyanna Burton, Paige Girson, Marco Negrete, and Pam Prather, who made the impossible possible and continue to steer the ship today. I have enjoyed working with each new staff member who joined the Sitar team in the last few years and helped Sitar to be back in person to see the students' smiling faces. And though too many to list, it has been such a pleasure to work alongside each colleague and faculty member I collaborated with during these 16 years.

I have had the privilege to work with and be mentored by Maureen Dwyer, who shaped and guided me through the many stages of my career at Sitar, and who laughed with me during our many conversations about parenting our own children.

Rhonda Buckley, another great mentor and Sitar's founder, has always been a listening ear when I needed her. Thank you for your guidance and thoughtfulness throughout the years.

When starting out on my journey 16 years ago, I underestimated the importance of mentors. If you don't have one, you need one.

Thank you to all the Board members, Leadership Councilmembers, Gala Committee members, and other Sitar Volunteers. I have learned so much from being in your presence and I'm grateful for the opportunity to engage with each of you.

And, to the numerous artists, musicians, dancers, photographers, filmmakers, writers, poets, and other creatives who I have had the benefit of working alongside over the years, thank you for who you are and the conversations we shared.

If you wish to stay in contact, please email me or follow me on social media; links are below.

Wishing you the best,

Loretta

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