

Profile

Experience in creating multidisciplinary strategies based on understanding Nature's patterns as a design model, measure of sustainability, and mentoring to solve human challenges. Karla develops and delivers biomimicry and sustainable living educational experiences for professionals, academics, and cultural settings. She fosters regenerative design and nature-inspired solutions to local challenges with a global perspective, drawing on system analysis and detail-orientated design practices. She is also a passionate activist and artist exploring connections between science, art, and technology for social change.

Experience

Biomimicry Foundations, Lecture, UTSA, San Antonio, TX - Spring 2023 - Current

She lectures a course for the School of Architecture and Planning to teach design principles and sustainable living based on biomimicry thinking philosophy and methodology to transfer learnings about Nature into innovative solutions to human-related problems.

Design and Sustainability, Adjunct Professor, Universidad Iberoamericana; Mexico City, MX - 2011 - Current

She petitioned to add a biomimicry course to the design school curricula. She designed a novel curriculum, including setting learning objectives, mapping content to exercises and projects, writing assessment activities, and developing unique teaching approaches to biomimicry thinking for the classroom. Provides enthusiastic and engaging lectures in face-to-face and online lessons to promote a positive learning experience. Inspires students to seek answers in the natural world around them, encourages learning from living systems, and instills a joy of learning and discovery inside and outside the classroom. She facilitates the integration of biomimicry in industrial design, architecture, and environmental science methodology. Mentors undergraduate research and thesis projects.

Museum Educator, Witte Museum; San Antonio, TX 2019 - 2021

She creates site-specific artworks as a dialogue between nature and culture. Uses technology, such as Q.R. coding, to create powerful, interactive learning experiences between exhibitions on-site with scientific research. Designs/creates accompanying online tutorials to provide complimentary hands-on activities. The most relevant work was based on biomechanics and microbiology.

Freelance Designer; Mexico-Australia-USA 2006-Present

Creator of a unique methodology of using regenerative design and public art to encourage community participation in identifying leverage points in a system to promote social change. Projects have been implemented in multicultural settings and emphasize community leadership, women's empowerment, integration of networks for social cohesion, and engagement of vulnerable populations. Emphasis is placed on environmental justice by fostering traditional ecological knowledge and utilizing indigenous wisdom.

Executive Director, Kopalli Arte Publico; Mexico, Mx - 2006 - 2018

Established the vision and mission of the organization. Created a strategic plan to implement public art towards sustainable development. Designed projects and recruited multidisciplinary teams of specialists and volunteers to execute them. Coordinate agreements between local governments, educational and cultural institutions, and secured funding. Monitored projects to provide instructions for continuity and reproducibility. Designed workshops for women's empowerment, eco-literacy for children, and ecological restoration within rural and indigenous communities.

KARLA SAENZ

Education

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA
Master of Science in Biomimicry 2017 - 2020

Academia de San Carlos, Mexico, Mexico
Sculpture 2006 - 2008

RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
Master of Arts in Public Art 2004 - 2006

Universidad Iberoamericana, CDMX, Mexico
Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design 1999- 2003

Instituto Romera, CDMX, Mexico
Technical Bachelor in Business Administration 1997-1999

Training

The Center for Artistic Activism, New York, USA
Art an activism workshop 2022

Schumacher College, Dartington, UK
Terra-psychology 2013

Biomimicry Institute, Veracruz, México
Biomimicry Workshop 2011

Universidad Iberoamericana, CDMX, Mexico
Social anthropology studies 2011

Regenesis Group, CDMX, Mexico
Regenerative Design 2010

CEDPA Exxon Mobile, Washington, D.C., US
International Women's Leadership certification 2009

Skills

Community engagement

Research and analysis

Leadership

Teamwork

Strategic planning

Problem-solving

Public speaking

Advanced software proficiency

Languages

Spanish –Fluent

English – Fluent

Portuguese – Basic