

Carolyn Elaine has emerged as the leader in the Chicago art community, known for her culturally relevant mosaic murals and public art installations. Elaine has collaborated with community groups, schools, talented artists and dedicated construction professionals, expanding her reach and impact and having a profound effect on the community as a whole. It is her energy and dedication that is responsible for the ongoing reputation of excellence that she has become known for.

Elaine holds a Bachelors degree in Communications from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree in Interior Design from the International Academy of Design, in Chicago, Illinois. Born and raised in Chicago, Elaine is a product of the Chicago Public School System and understands the importance of integrating art into the curriculum- especially in communities where children may not otherwise be exposed to it. She is a roster artist with the Illinois Arts Council, a core artist with Chicago Public Art Group and a resident artist with Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.

Elaine has been commissioned to design and fabricate public artworks for large scale development projects such as Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield IL, Green Hills Public Library in Palos Hills IL and the 7th District Englewood Police Station in Chicago IL

In 2010, Elaine founded Restoring the P.I.E.C.E.S. (People Inspired Encouraging Community Empowerment and Strength) and launched the programs inaugural mosaic project at her alma mater, Fenger Academy High School, in honor of Derrion Albert, a student who lost his life due to gang violence. The mission of Restoring the P.I.E.C.E.S is to reconnect schools that have been impacted by violence with their surrounding communities through student-led public art projects. Create an atmosphere where all community stakeholders can work collaboratively toward the restoration of victims and communities. Combine artistic expression, genealogy and the restorative justice *Peace Circle* process in a way that empowers students with a visual voice that responds to their needs as they see them, while gifting the community with a public artwork that serves as a reminder of what is possible through cohesiveness.

In 2009, Elaine co- produced a magnificent community based public art installation in the Bronzeville community, entitled *Reaching Back, Moving Forward, Lest we Forget the Song of 47th Street*. She lead a team composed of senior artists, local high school youth and community resident volunteers and together they created a bricolage mural comprised of over 2000 square feet of undulating mosaic including ceramic tiles specially fused with historical images, mirror, painted patterns and poetry. The finished artwork, which documents the history of the community, perfectly illustrates her power to marry highly innovative technical expertise with artistic sensitivity.

Carolyn Elaine has received recognition and awards from myriad individuals, organizations and media. Her dedicated work with inner city youth has been featured on National Public Radio, Chicagoing with Bill Campbell and Ebony Magazine. She has served as guest curator for various group shows and her studio work has been featured numerously in Chicago's Black Creativity exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry. Her artwork is enjoyed in private collections across the country and her exquisite public mosaic installations can be found throughout the city of Chicago.