



Elissa Sloan Perry A Brief Biography

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Elissa helps people and groups of people with a social change mission be better in what they do. For over 20 years she has worked as an organizational leader, consultant and coach with individuals, organizations and multi-sector networks in the areas of change leadership, equity, education and the arts.

Currently and for the past 3 years, Elissa has held a leadership role with Management Assistance Group (MAG) progressing from the catalyzing role for MAG's Network Leadership Innovation Lab to CoDirector. Elissa also teaches in the Masters in Leadership Program at Saint Mary's College where she facilitates diverse, cross-sector and multi-issue learning communities in developing and implementing leadership plans and practices and recently contributed to the establishment of a social justice concentration.

Throughout her career, Elissa has worked with organizers, funders, scholars, consultants, and other every-day-people focused domestically and abroad to further values-based social change.

Elissa has also been involved in innovative initiatives to improve education and was a Vice President for the Different Ways of Knowing arts-infused education model. A former high school creative writing teacher and after-school program developer, Elissa is also a talented facilitator with a background in both youth and adult differentiated learning.

Her recent work has been primarily focused on developing adaptive practices for individuals, organizations and networks to address complex social issues.

"Elissa brilliantly lives up to her title 'Learning Evangelist.' She deftly moves individuals and groups into deeply reflective processes that generate critical new thinking for the field. As a master of synthesis, Elissa can help groups to collectively extract meaning and important learning from experience and develop as authentic learning organizations or communities of practice. Elissa is a gifted writer and a great human being who brings incredible accountability, integrity and compassion to all interactions. And besides all that, she is very cool and fun!"

Deborah Meehan, Executive Director & Founder, Leadership Learning Community

Selected Positions & Affiliations

- Management Assistance Group, CoDirector
- M.A. in Leadership Program, Saint Mary's College of California, Lecturer
- Goddard College, Board of Trustees
- Salzburg Fellowship – Women, Political Power and Next Generation Global Leadership, Fellow.
- Values Technology, Inc., Accredited Coach.
- Leadership That Works, ICF Certified Coach.
- Coaching for Justice, Affiliate Coach.

Selected Recent Engagements

- University of California, Sustainability Initiative, Adaptive Leadership Development for Climate Resilient Communities in California and Central America, 2016.
- Sum of Us, Leadership Development with a Global Equity Lens, 2015-2016.

- Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Collaboration Conference, *Supporting Networks for Change*, 2015.
- Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, Organizational and Leadership Development, 2015.
- Network Leadership Innovation Lab: Leading at the Nexus of Organizations and Movements, 2013-2015.
- Bay Area Justice Funders Network, *Supporting Movement Networks for Justice*, 2014.
- Building a Culture of Shared Leadership - New York City Mission Society, 2013-2014.
- *Partnership in Action Series – Building a Culture of Leadership*, Nonprofit Services Center of Missouri, 2012.
- *The Art of Leadership – Engaging Communities in Education Summit*, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2011.
- *Building Leaderful Organizations Series*, Strengthening Organizations to Mobilize California – Statewide Learning Community, 2009 & 2010.

Selected Publications

- “Network Leadership Innovation Lab: A Practice for Social Change,” *Handbook of Action Research*. Sage Publications. August, 2015.
- “Widening The Spectrum of Leadership to Dance Where You Are,” *Management Assistance Group*, 2015.
<http://www.managementassistance.org/widening-leadership-spectrum>
- “Arts Leadership Blog Series,” *ArtsFwd: Next Practices for Arts Leaders*. 2012-2013. <http://artsfwd.org/?s=Elissa+Perry>
- “Doing More with More: Lessons from a Shared Leadership Initiative,” *Nonprofit Quarterly*. Summer, 2011.
<http://thinkdorepeat.com>
- *Leadership & Race: How to Develop and Support Leadership that Contributes to Racial Justice*. September 2010.
<http://bit.ly/LeadershipRaceForm>
- “Ten Years Stronger: National Alliance for Media Arts & Culture Leadership Institute 2000-2010,” in *A Closer Look*. July, 2010. <http://namac.org/leading>

“Elissa is a very thoughtful, incredibly well-organized, high integrity person who also brings a deep empathy and remarkable communications skills to the table. The combination of all these attributes makes Elissa a pleasure to work with and a natural leader.”

Riaz Karamali, Partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP & Nonprofit Board Member