

Sam Williamson

Design Thinker, Lead Facilitator



Sam Williamson was born and raised in Denton, Texas a community that emphasizes the arts, education, and service. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BFA and teaching certificate and joined the United States Peace Corps where he served as a teacher trainer in the Pacific Island country of Kiribati, and as a Mentoring Center Director in the West Africa country of Mauritania.

He holds master's degree in Innovation Studies from the College of Visual Arts and Design at the University of North Texas. Sam is an expert at change management, constantly investigating new approaches to planning, implementing and promoting new ideas driven by critical thinking.

Sam worked for 4 years as a lead Teaching Artist and Program Content Specialist at Big Thought – a Dallas based arts learning organization. He led the development of the organization's first Teaching Artists Fellows Program, which seeded careers for an elite cohort of visual and performing artists. This work led him back to the University of North Texas, where is currently Associate Director of the High School Career Connect Initiative, a career development and education service for middle school, high school and college students.

Sam has been on the MJR Partners team for 7 years as a researcher and facilitator; using the process of design thinking to help groups work through assumptions to identify unintentional bias through a process of inquiry and self-assessment. His approach to problem solving pushes groups to ask why before thinking about how? He most recent assignment with MJR Partners included design and facilitation of online DEIA training modules for the City of San Diego and the Missouri Arts Council.