



MIKE SULLIVAN

PROFILE

American educator and experience designer based in Denmark with skills in community development. Devoted to outdoor learning, natural science, and cultural adventure. Passionate about play, creativity, and sustainability.

PERSONAL

Married to NPR journalist Sidsel Overgaard & father of 2 young daughters. Born in NYC and raised in the rural Finger Lakes region. Drummer & Tour Mgr. for various musical groups.

RECOGNITIONS

[Educational Co-Creator Award, 2018](#)

Profile in [JydskeVestkysten](#)

Profile of [Regatta Rally](#) event in Denmark's Pedagogy Yearbook 2014

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Washington DC
MA in Public Anthropology 2005 – 2008

AMHERST COLLEGE, Amherst, MA
BA in Anthropology 1996 – 2000

CURRENT WORK

PLAY HERO – LEGO House, Billund, Denmark

Coordinator of Creative Lab, a LEGO makerspace developed with MIT and The Exploratorium. Educator, developer, and event coordinator in Playful Learning for staff, schools, and public guests.

CONSULTANT – in Denmark and NYC region

[Liberty Science Center](#) – Assisting in development of interactive exhibit featuring augmented reality and LEGO at science museum near NYC.
[Universe Science Park](#) – Designing and facilitating exhibits and activities.
[WOW Park](#) – Creating marketing content and staff training program for outdoor amusement and education center in Billund.
[New York Times Student Journeys](#) – Expedition planner and leader.

PROJECT COORDINATOR – National Museum of Denmark, Jelling

Developing Denmark's only [Viking Poetry Slam](#) and creating an original multimedia project in community history and "citizen archaeology."

LEADERSHIP

EDUCATION DIRECTOR – Finger Lakes Museum, Branchport, NY 2013
Created programs, built partnerships, and managed volunteers, at a start-up museum focused on natural science and cultural history.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Cottonwood Gulch, Albuquerque, NM 2007-12
Leader of a 90-year old wilderness education organization focused on the art, ecology, and history of the Southwest. Responsible for 10 year-round employees and 50 summer staff, including a 500-acre nature preserve and open-air museum. Managed a national board of directors and doubled the number of programs and participants. Sustained longstanding relationships and built new local and state partnerships.

VIDEO PORTFOLIO

LEGO:

[Creative Lab Tinkering](#)

OUTDOORS:

[Playful Engineering / Nature Education](#)

CO-CREATION:

[Playful Learning at school Makerspace](#)

[Escape Room Camp in Portland, ME](#)

[Escape Room After School Program](#)

[Chaos Lab at CounterPlay](#)

EVENTS:

[Fun Palace](#)

[Play Your Way](#)

[Pop-Up Adventure Playground](#)

[WOW Park Sneak Peak Open House](#)

EXPEDITIONS:

[New York Times Student Journeys](#)

[Modern-Day Vikings in New Mexico](#)

OTHER:

[Geografeet](#)

REFERENCES

Amer Mahmutovic, Senior Mgr. of Guest Experience at LEGO House

Jennifer Ryan, Program Director with Harvard's Project Zero

Adam Bak, Curator at National Museum of Denmark in Jelling

Natalie Payne, Executive Director at Finger Lakes Museum

Liza Rawson, Head of Exhibition Development and Design at Liberty Science Center

SCHOOLS & MUSEUMS

TEACHER / MAKERSPACE MGR. – [BILLUND INTERNATIONAL](#) 2013-17

Founding teacher at IB school supported by [LEGO Foundation](#) and grounded in Learning Through Play. Led community outreach and school events, including [First LEGO League](#) and [Billund Builds Music](#).

Study Group Leader in action research with [Harvard's Project Zero](#) in design and facilitation of the large school makerspace.

EDUCATOR & GUIDE – [NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM](#) in DC 2005-06

Led student programs and workshops in engineering and design.

PLAY EDUCATOR / ACTOR – [SMITHSONIAN THEATER](#) in DC 2005-06

Performed in Seasons of Light, a long-running musical about international holiday traditions for schools in the region.

RESEARCHER – [SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFF CENTER](#) in DC. 2005-06

Created digital content for international musical heritage site.

TEACHER – [HENSON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL](#), Temple Hills, MD 2003-05

Developed and delivered a math and science curriculum at a Montessori school. Led trips to Honduras, China, and New Mexico.

TEACHER – [ESCUELA MAYATAN](#), Copan Ruinas, Honduras 2002-03

Fourth grade teacher in a rural bilingual school with few resources, neighboring Mayan ruins (UNESCO World Heritage site). Built strong connections throughout community through field trips and events.

ASSISTANT EXHIBIT DEVELOPER – [BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM](#) 2000-02

Designed hands-on activities and traveling exhibits about cultural history & natural science at world's first museum for kids.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Danish (proficient)

Spanish (comfortable)

IT

Microsoft Office, Quickbooks, iMovie, Audacity, SoMe, & website mgmt.

CERTIFICATIONS

CPR, Wilderness First Aid, AED, pool mgmt., and non-profit leadership.

PASSION PROJECTS

Creator of [Burque Bop](#) family concert series in Albuquerque (2010-2013).

Selected for [Blue Man Group](#) training camp in NYC two years in a row but never made the final cut for the show (2002-2003).

Creator of [Rush Rink](#), a community sports rink on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Worked with city agencies and volunteers to raise funds and renovate an old lot into a new arena for soccer, roller hockey, and bike polo. The rink was honored by the NHL's Washington Capitals in 2006.