

ROBLYN POWLEY

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COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

As an educator in the field of graphic design, I am deeply committed to facilitating a learning environment that celebrates diverse perspectives and respects a broad range of backgrounds, and also encourages students to engage critically with design in ways that go beyond traditional narratives. I believe that design is a powerful medium for cultural expression, social change, and communication across boundaries, and I see my role as a facilitator of diverse thought and creativity in my classroom.

My approach to curriculum development reflects this commitment to diversity and inclusion. I prioritize non-traditional theorists, creators from underrepresented communities, and voices from historically marginalized groups in my lectures and historical references. I seek to expand the canon of design history and theory beyond Eurocentric frameworks by introducing students to diverse methodologies, perspectives, and creators from a global context.

In the classroom, I create an inclusive and equitable environment empowering all students to contribute their unique perspectives. By incorporating diverse case studies, media, and design challenges, I challenge students to consider issues of gender, race, accessibility, and cultural identity in their design work. Additionally, I encourage critical reflection and open dialogue, inviting students to think deeply about their role as designers in a diverse society and share their perspectives.

Expanding beyond the classroom, I aim to engage students in projects that address real-world issues, engaging community stakeholders, and fostering cross-cultural collaboration. I believe that by creating opportunities for students to explore design in service of diverse communities I can help them develop as both skilled designers and socially responsible, engaged citizens.

In all of these efforts, I recognize that diversity is not just a box to check, but a continual process of learning, reflection, and action. I am committed to listening to the needs of my students, adapting my teaching practices to ensure inclusivity, and contributing to a culture of equity in the design field. My goal is to empower students not only to succeed in their design careers but to challenge and reshape the future of the profession through their work.