

Barbara Bitner

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Present Purpose

- **I look forward to joining hands with New Earth leaders to co-create at the highest level and** facilitate enlightened projects. I seek to support programs that are rich in meaning and creativity to harness innate gifts and in doing so, realize our soul's unique purpose.

- **Our planet is ripe for inspired co-creation. It is time for heart resonance to be the basic operating system for new projects coming on line in the New Dawn. I seek to contribute my skills to support whole-brain integration and enhanced strategic skills through the art of play. I have been championing this kind of creative leadership throughout my career and am passionate to build the kind of world we all know is possible!**

Lived Experience

- **My life experiences have revealed and greatly developed my multifaceted nature as a program developer, leader, educator, artist, designer, collaborator and seeker.** The broad focus of my work has been to elevate education, highlight the role of art and creativity in both personal growth and professional development, and enhance visual communication. Each step along the way has been deeply informed by my life's experiences and by the wisdom gained throughout 30+ years of personal and spiritual growth practices.

- **My expertise in program development is focused on creating, expanding, deepening and managing** innovative educational programs for youth and adults. I have a well-honed capacity for:

  - Cultivating partners aligned with the organization's mission, values and goals
  - Gathering knowledge and pooling resources
  - Training, mentoring and empowering staff members
  - Designing and maintaining a solid visual brand
  - Promoting team engagement
  - Thinking creatively and strategically to bring about desired outcomes

- **Applying these faculties in the arenas of education, art and technology is my focus. I enjoy the administrative s**ide of program development as well as teaching, working directly to uplevel my staff through multi-faceted training programs, mentorship and promoting an environment of cooperation, responsibility and authenticity through the pure power of play.

more **work** can be found at: BarbaraBitner.com









Program Development & Leadership

- **I cut my teeth on program planning, directing a continuing education program at Maui College.** I partnered with the world-class Maui Arts & Cultural Center to create a highly successful performing arts program while growing the continuing education department 5-fold over my 10-year tenure. I created and managed over 200 courses per year focused on enhancing the lives of adults in the areas of art, culture, health and personal development. I was deeply involved in hiring and coaching my instructors to ensure their talents and skills translated into a coherent training program directly relevant to participants lives. It is there I developed skills in marketing and graphic design, which have served to expand my creative capacity throughout my life.

- **The Oxbow Summer Youth Art Program, which I founded and directed for 8 years, was** a turn-key program. I was given complete freedom to develop according to my staff's and my vision. My many years of personal and spiritual growth practices had an ever-increasingly positive influence on this work. I learned that for my staff, my personal presence and my heart resonnance was as important as my skill set. Leading by example; coaching, enabling uncompromising teamwork and providing inspired, multi-dimensional training, gave staff the support and guidance to excel with the students. That, in turn, allowed the program to affect lasting positive change for the students at a very pivotal time in their lives.

- **My depth of experience also informed the design of the program. We were privileged to work with** youth ages 14-16 at a time in their lives when they were most vulnerable, confused and curious about who they were, and what was meaningful to them. Drawing on my understanding and awareness of youth at this age, I guided my staff to envision the program's mission, culture, multi-layered goals and pathways to implement them. The program gave adolescents free rein to explore issues they were working on through the medium of "art" and the art of "relationship". We designed a format where students interacted through art and play, forming deep connections with others who shared their interests, challenges and victories. In doing so, they learned that they were uniquely creative individuals who were not alone in their quests.

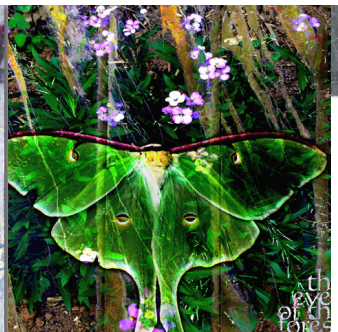
- **I employed a similar philosophy in the 12 years I worked for the Katherine Michiels School as a** consultant. Already a progressive Reggio-Emilia school focusing on experiential learning, I collaborated with teachers and the administrative team to integrate similar values and methodologies into the ways they engaged with each other, thereby creating a more cohesive, collaborative and uplifting working environment.

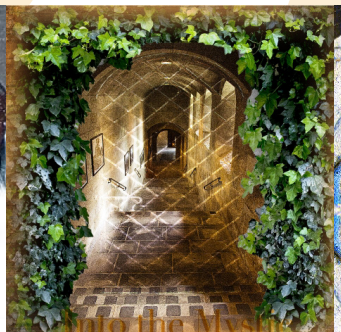
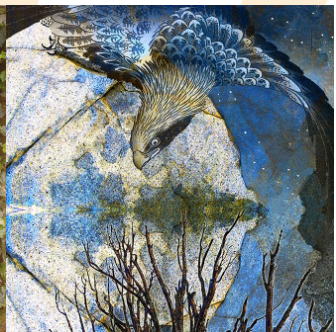
Favorite Ways to Play

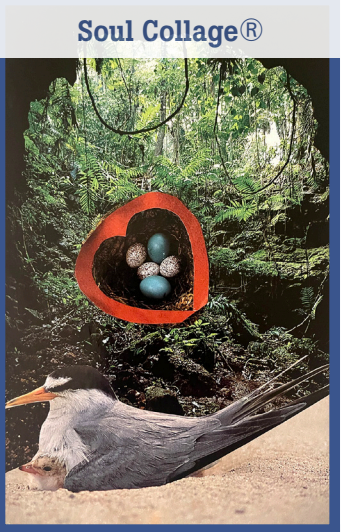
- **An artist and athlete from birth with a profound love of nature, if I am not in my studio painting or** creating in one medium or another, I am out on the trail, hiking, peddling, paddling, skiing and photographing in the great outdoors. I channeled my love for art and technology into expertise as a graphic designer and digital artist, both of which I have been doing professionally and for personal enjoyment for well over 20 years.

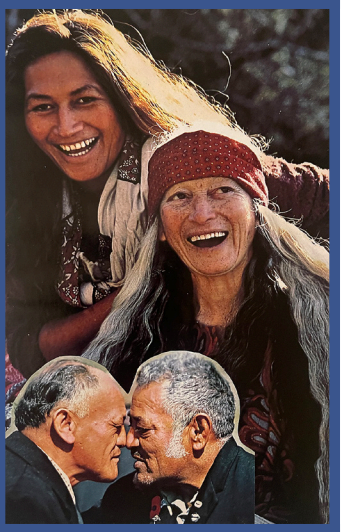
- **Road trips, camping, and traveling to far off-places are also great sources of joy. As are board games,** book clubs, meditating, connecting with family and friends and sipping multiple cups of tea with a dear buddy as we seek to understand our world and ourselves while expressing appreciation for this amazing life we live.

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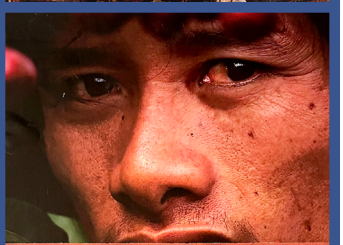



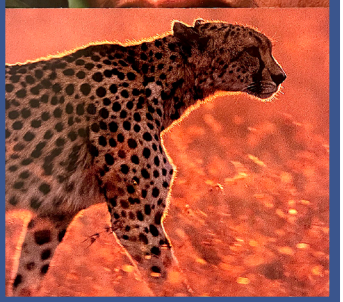













Designer, Artist & Educator

Creative expression is the artist's way of seeing and being in the world. The mediums have varied but the creative drive is a constant imperative. To my great delight, I discovered that building and supporting inspired programs was an ideal channel for creative energy. This precious process is quite natural and effortless for me making the work pure joy. It also fulfilled my heart's desire to be of service and benefit to a greater number of people than solely one-on-one work. Being enamoured of the start-up phase, my best work has been on projects in their early stages of development.

Upon my arrival at Maui College our department was "cash poor". Having an artistic and technical edge over my colleagues, I was assigned to design and layout the 64-page course catalogue 3 times per year. Ten years of that, along with 2 years of art and design classes solidified a foundation from which to integrate design and brand creation into my consulting offerings. My DESIGN portfolio can be viewed at: **BarbaraBitner.com**

In addition to program and design work, I have always created in multiple mediums. For the first 30 years, it was designing and sewing my clothes. At Maui College, with free access to a ceramics studio, I fell in love with this medium. The moment my hands touched the clay I felt transported to another world. After 20 years, I wanted to "say more" with my work, and shifted to photography. By that time I had very advanced graphic design and Photoshop skills. I put them to work reconciling the difference between what my camera caught and what I saw with my inner vision. I showcased that work at galleries in Grass Valley, CA for eight years before moving to the Northwest in 2019. Nine years ago, wanting to once again get my hands in "touch" with the work, I began exploring encaustic. This delightful combination of beeswax, tree resin, shellac, pigment and fire produces luminous, multi-layered works of wonder, beauty and depth. My FINE ART portfolio can be viewed at: **BarbaraBitnerArt.com**

Ten years ago, with the urge to assist others to explore their creativity, I took facilitator training for both Soul Collage® and Digital Storytelling® and earned a California State Certificate in Adult Education. I taught both of the aforementioned classes along with Digital Design, Photoshop, InDesign and WordPress. My facility for clear communication, heartfelt guidance and collaborative learning led to many empowering, fun, enriching and highly rewarding experiences for my students and myself.

Travel

I have traveled independently in **Africa, China, Scandinavia, and Japan,** and organized and led trips in **Egypt, Nepal and Tibet** through a San Francisco-based spiritually-focused travel company.

