

CARMELA MURPHY

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Enthusiastic and driven filmmaker and artist with a passion for puppet fabrication and queer visual storytelling. Self-motivated worker with an attention to detail and strength in multitasking. Proven skills in collaboration and communication with a positive attitude looking to assist and learn at all times. Flexible to adapt under pressure and comfortable taking direction and quickly solving problems.

THESIS FILM | 2024 - 2025

“A Bird Hit My Window and Now I’m a Lesbian”

- Co-director, writer, and production designer on an eight minute stop motion short film
- Lead mold, puppet and prop maker: created three puppets with silicone arms and wire armatures
- Accepted into over 25 film festivals including the Annecy International Animation Film Festival
- The trailer can be found [here](#) and has over 1.5 million views on Instagram

Awards:

Best Animated Short ~ DC Independent Film Festival
Best Short. Sweet. Film ~ Short. Sweet. Film Fest
Best of Fest and Best Short Film ~ SaFFlicks
1st Place ~ SAIC ExFest

Skills Acquired: fabrication, collaboration, project management, adaptability, problem solving

LEADERSHIP

USA Climbing Collegiate Committee Member 2024 - Present

- Selected to sit on the board because of proven commitment to lowering financial and social barriers to rock climbing
- Working to make climbing safe and more accessible for trans, genderqueer, and neurodivergent climbers

Founder and President, SAIC Climbing Club Chicago, IL | 2022 - 2024

- Founded and led the largest club and first sports team at SAIC, growing membership to nearly 300 students
- Secured and managed a \$50,000 budget, wrote proposals, and executed diverse programs, such as weekly meetings, competitions, movie nights and outdoor trips

Selected Student for SAIC Presidential Search Chicago, IL | Fall 2023

- One of eight students selected to help choose the next president of SAIC
- Interviewed candidates and provided critical feedback while maintaining professionalism and confidentiality

EDUCATION

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)

Summer 2024

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Puppet Animation

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Stop Motion Workshop Facilitator | 2024 – present

- Develops and leads stop motion workshops aimed at young adults looking to explore animation

Production Assistant (Freelance) | 2025

- Acts as a supportive team member, generally assisting the director and production designer for various live action short films

Art Director, First Ascent Climbing, Chicago, IL | 2023

- Directed a team of eight to design and execute a 1,600 sq ft tape mural for a rock climbing competition, “Black Light Boulder Bash”

SELECTED AWARDS/GRANTS

- Sam Koji Hale Puppet Film Scholarship Award | 2025
- Colin Higgins Youth Filmmaker Grant | 2025
- World Less Traveled Award/Grant | 2024
Currently in pre-production to create an animated documentary about climbing and creativity
- USA Climbing Collegiate Ambassador | 2024
- SAIC Graduating Student Leadership Award | 2024
- Time Warp Weekend Best Special Effects | 2023
- SAIC Artist and Leader Award | 2022
- The National Association of Women Artists Scholarship | 2020

ORGANIZATIONS

- Boston Area Guild of Puppetry
 - BRIC Foundation
 - Media Mavens
 - Women in Animation (WIA)
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SKILLS/TOOLS

- Mold making/casting
- Machine and hand tools
- Woodworking
- 3D modeling (Blender) and printing
- Puppet Armatures
- Hand and machine sewing
- Adobe Creative Suite (Premiere Pro, After Effects, Photoshop)