

Robert Mark Morgan

Creativity and Design, Speaker, Teaching Professor, and Author

Curriculum Vitae

February 6th, 2026

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ACADEMIC AWARDS / RECOGNITION:

2025 Winner: [UIIN](#) Future of Universities Award at the 2025 UIIN Conference in Amsterdam

2019 Represented WashU on panel of award-winning faculty at FTTC – [Faculty Teaching and Technology Conference](#) (Sept 27, 2019)

2018 Recipient of Emerson Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching (Nov 2018)

COMMITTEES & SERVICE: Washington University in St. Louis

Feb 2026	Observed teaching of Senior Lecturer Lisa Gilbert at the request of Interim Chair Peter Kastor in the Education Dept
Nov 2025	Guest taught in Claire Sommers' Intro to TPS course
Jan-April 2025	Served as department Technical Director for the Spring Semester and participated in interviews for permanent replacement TD
Feb 2025	Delivered a 'Teaching with Joy' workshop on Elevating Creativity in the Classroom - Center for Teaching and Learning
Sept 2025	Guest taught in Sean Savoie's Business of Entertainment course
Aug 2025 to present	(Unofficial) Committee Chair for VR/AR in Education group involving Vice Chancellor James Dwyer, CTL and Data Services representatives
Mar 2025 to present	Guest teaching in Jackson Potter's MEMS 3110 Machine Elements course on stage technology (actively trying to connect Theatre + EN)
Oct 2024 to present	Teaching & Learning Technologies Domain Governance Committee
Aug 2024 to present	Director of Alumni Outreach for the Performing Arts Department
Mar 2024 to present	Host of the PAD Podcast highlighting alumni of PAD
Oct 2021 to present	Represent PAD (Design) at the Major/Minor Fair
Feb 2024 to present	Regularly advise and participate in Black Anthology production
Nov 2023 to Spring 24	Undergraduate Humanities Research Task Force member
Fall 2023	Participated in Teaching Triangles program hosted by CTL
Feb 2023	Gephardt Civic Scholars Selection Committee member
Fall 2022 to present	Immersive Technology Collective committee member/ presenter
Fall 2019 to Spring 2023	Founding Director of the Beyond Boundaries Program

May 2023	PAD Review committee for grad director of <i>God of Carnage</i>
Jan 2023 - present	Guest teach for Olin class (Solberg) on Business of Theatrical Design
Mar 2022 to 2023	Tenure Standards Committee member for PAD
2022	Student Sunrise Faculty Advisory Group member
Jan 2022 to 2023	Multiple meetings with Ebrahim Moshiri of Unity Foundation exploring connections between WashU and Unity Foundation goals
2021-2022	Guest taught in the following courses: Arch 316, 350 (Gay Lorberbaum, Sam Fox), Mgmt 432E (Business of Arts, Solberg, Olin), and Madagascar course workshop on Design Thinking (Judi McLean Parks, Olin)
Mar 2022	Co-Hosted virtual Individualized Major Programs Conference
Aug 2021 to May 2022	Undergraduate Academic Affairs Board, Chair: Jen Smith
Apr to Sept 2021	Undergraduate Education Working Group (Univ Strategic Plan) Co-Chairs: Jay Turner and Jen Smith
Mar 2020-Mar 2023	Host of the Beyond Boundaries Podcast for WashU Beyond Boundaries Program. Pod has proven a good recruiting tool for prospective students
Feb 2021	Hosted a 'Fox Friday' Workshop on Sketchup 3D modeling
Dec 2020	Hosted panel discussion on Human-Centered Design for students interested in careers/opportunities in that field
Aug 2020	Built Studio Greenscreen Kits for students performing online PAD shows and projects.
June 2020	Innovation Subcommittee for Fall 2020 Plan (developed outdoor pageant wagon idea that became COVID Mysteries in Spring 2021)
FL 2019/SP 2020	Career ReDesign Committee at the invitation of Dr. Lori White
Mar 2020	Parent Salon guest speaker in Chicago: March 1 st , 2020 representing Beyond Boundaries Program to invited parents
Feb 2020	Attended Individualized Major Programs Conference in Orlando, FL on behalf of the Beyond Boundaries Program
Fall 2019	Member of Academic Integrations Taskforce at Gephardt Institute as part of their Strategic Planning
Feb 2019	Attended Individualized Major Programs Conference in Norman, OK on behalf of the Beyond Boundaries Program
Nov 2018	Attended Reinvention Collaborative Conference in Arlington, VA on behalf of Washington University and the Teaching Center
SP 2018 and 2019	Guest Lecturer for Arch 212 taught by Constance Vale on Theatre Architecture and guest judge for pinup reviews
Fall 2017	Committee Member: Undergraduate Education Committee (at request of Provost) developed curriculum for Interdisciplinary Studies program for incoming 1 st Years (became Beyond Boundaries)
Nov. 7, 2014	Presenter: <i>Teaching Creative Thinking and Problem Solving</i> a2ru National Conference in Ames, IA

Feb. 20, 2014	Keynote Speaker on Design: Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: Region VII Conference in Boise, ID
Feb 3, 2014	Presenter: Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity Co-presenter with Maxine Wright, Build-A-Bear
2014 to 2015	Committee Chair: Bring Your Own Idea Creative Process discussion with colleagues
2011 to 2018	Production Committee – Performing Arts Department
2011 to Present	Webmaster for Design for Performing Arts website
2011 to 2019	Alberti Program at the Sam Fox School

FACULTY ADVISOR/MENTOR SERVICE: *Washington University*

Spring 2026	Running Drama 3100 (Indep Study) for three students who desired to take the Advanced Scenic Design course (not offered due to minimum enrollment)
2026-present	WashU Experience Design (Redux) launching on Feb 27th
2019-2023	WashU Experience Design
2018-2023	Creative Collaborations for Big Projects, Committee Mem/Mentor
2016-2022	Faculty Associate for WashU Residential Life (Wheeler, Umrath, Heitzman, Dardick)
2013-2023	Design For America (DFA) WashU

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES / AWARDS / CERTIFICATES / AFFILIATIONS:

2025 to present	Association of Teaching, Research, & Practice Faculty co-president
2024 to 2025	Alan Turing Institute Expert in Residence related to VR Theatre work
2023 to present	Central Region Board Member of United Scenic Artists – Local #829
2023 to 2024	Association of Teaching, Research, & Practice Faculty board member
2022 to present	Officially a Prezi Certified Educator for use of Prezi in instruction
2021 to 2023	Steering Committee and Webmaster for IMP (national organization on interdisciplinary and individualized major programs)
2012 to 2019	Teaching Artist for COCAbiz program Highlighting creativity concepts in business applications
2012 to 2017	Member of City/Arch/River 2015 consultation committee Consultant on the exhibit design of the Arch Museum
2004 to Present	Member of United Scenic Artists – Local #829 – Scenic Design

PUBLIC LECTURES, PANELS, FEATURED ARTICLES, & TELEVISION APPEARANCES:

June 2026	Invited to present ‘Creativity Call’ at the 2026 UIIN Conference in Stockholm
Dec 2025	The PAD podcast featured on How to build a creative career - The Source
Oct 2025	Attended Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference (FTTC) UMSL
Oct 2025	Presented ‘The Creativity Call’ at the 2025 NACCE Conference in San Diego
July 2025	Featured guest on a UIIN ‘Fireside Chat’ podcast episode entitled <i>Creativity at the Heart of Modern Education at Washington University</i>

July 2025	Featured presenter at Rep Backstage Event presenting design for <i>The Cottage</i>
June 2025	Presented 'The Creativity Call' at the 2025 UIIN Conference in Amsterdam
April 2025	Taught class on Sketchup for Theatre Design for USA-829 (designer union)
Oct 2024	Featured guest on the Teaching in Higher Ed podcast episode entitled How Creativity May Just Save Us All
Oct 2024	Presented 'The Creativity Call' for a University Seminar class at Maryville University for Dr. Beth Cudney, Professor of Data Analytics
June 2024	Co-presented about VR Theatre research at the York Festival of Ideas with 8 sessions of 'Making Musicals in the Metaverse' at the University of York, UK.
June 2024	Guest lecture on design at Rose Bruford College in the UK at the invitation of design and higher-ed colleague Nick Hunt
Mar 2024	Invited to present a workshop titled <i>The Creativity Combination: A Revolution is Needed in Higher Education to Teach to the Full Creative Capacities of Students</i> at the Eighteenth International Conference on Design Principles & Practices to deliver this talk on creativity in Valencia, Spain
Sept 2023	Led workshop on creativity at the Faculty Teaching & Technology Conference
Mar 2023	Hosted a colloquium on creativity for WashU colleagues and students
Nov 2022	Led a workshop on creativity and design thinking at Whitfield School in STL
May 2022	Guest for CreativeHE workshop on ' Growing Creativity in our Learners '
Feb 2022	Guest panelist for Prezi on Impact of Video on Blended Learning
June 2021	Featured guest speaker for Digital Creativity Speaker Series on my design research, the Beyond Boundaries Program, and interdisciplinary learning
Feb 2021	Guest on Brendan Bradley's youtube channel to discuss VR Storytelling
Aug 2020	a2ru (Arts for Research Universities) guest panelist on 'How We Teach Performing During A Pandemic'
Apr 2020	Hosted 3D Modeling Using Sketchup Workshop for USITT (United States Institute of Theatre Technology) online
Mar 2020	Missouri S&T lectures on March 2 nd , 2020 representing the Beyond Boundaries Program to two faculty committees on teaching
Oct 2019	Invited to lecture at East Central College event in Union, MO about stage design for Shakespeare plays
Aug 2019	Delivered 'Power of Play' lecture to employees at the Lawrence Group
June 2019	Featured guest lecturer for COCABiz ' The Power of Play ' Workshop
Spring 2019	Served as guest for 2 events to promote the MUNY exhibit at Missouri History Museum including this Facebook live interview
Feb 2019	Featured in the ' Fail Better ' series at Washington University.
Oct 2017	Set Design for <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> at Cleveland Play House featured in media
June 2015	KMOV television appearance about designing a Muny set.
July 2014	Artists Corner at the MUNY : discussing <i>Seussical</i> design
June 2014	KMOV Interview for television coverage of Muny season
Aug 2013	Artists Corner at the MUNY : discussing <i>West Side Story</i> design
Aug 2013	KSDK Interview for 'behind the scenes' coverage

PUBLICATIONS:

Dec 2025: Published [Setting the Stage with Your Story — The Playwrights Realm](#)
April 2025: [Audiobook](#) (self-narrated) released on Audible of *The Art of Scenic Design: A Practical Guide to the Creative Process*.
Oct 2024: Subject of a [Broadway World article](#) on the design of Ragtime at Stages, StL
July 2024: Featured in St. Louis Post-Dispatch article:
[St. Louis scenic designer tries theater in virtual reality](#)
Aug 2022: Published:
[The Art of Scenic Design: A Practical Guide to the Creative Process](#) (Bloomsbury, UK)
Dec 2021: Featured in Source article on [Creativity](#) by Rosalind Early
Co-authored and interviewed for two blog posts for Prezi:
[Rules of threes: How Prezi Video Can Supplement and Even Improve Instruction](#)
[Teaching as a performance: How one teacher stays connected to his class](#)
Featured in [Amersand article](#) on PAD embracing new technology (Oct 2020)
Interview for article in Alive Magazine on *Power of PLAY* (May 2019)
Featured in the 'Fail Better' series at Washington University. Article/video [HERE](#)
Muny Designers [Article for St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) by Judith Newmark
Western States Theatre Review article on [Design Thinking/Creative Process](#)
Scenic Design & Stage Lighting: 8th Edition by Parker, Wolf, & Block
(Design for 'Moon for the Misbegotten' featured in this edition of the text.)
Communication Arts Magazine: Exhibit Design for Avatar the Exhibition featured:
Careers in Technical Theatre by Mike Lawler
Cleveland Play House guest [blog and video](#) entries
Stage Directions Magazine, April 2012
Interviewed for [article on the use of scrim in theatrical productions](#)

SOFTWARE PROGRAMS & EXPERIENCE:

AutoCAD - including raster imaging
Prezi presentation software
Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign)
Microsoft Office programs including Powerpoint, Excel, etc.
Sketchup, Blender, and Enscape (3D computer modeling)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (NON-THEATRICAL):

Feb 2026 Collaborator on PhD Dissertation (Viva Live Demo) presentation for Mary Stewart-David at York University, UK on Metaverse Musicals
Jan 2026-present Sub-Contractor (3D modeling) for a theme park in NJ and Zoo in CA for [JCO – Themed Entertainment Planning & Design](#)
Fall 2023 Staged side-by-side comparison of a musical in Virtual Reality called [Sondheim in the Storyplex](#) w/ colleagues from University of York (UK)

April 2022	Collaborated with VR artists to prototype and test production of a musical in VR – in conjunction with Digital Creativity Labs at the University of York (UK). Results shared HERE
2020-present	Continuing research on using virtual reality (VR) as a storytelling tool outlined HERE .
2018-present	Production Designer for <i>Blackface: The Story of Nobody</i> A film short about Bert Williams – official site HERE
May 2014	Sub-contractor for design of 2014 Angry Birds Theme Park St. Petersburg, Russia
April 2014	Consultant on Science Fiction exhibit <i>Infinite Worlds</i> Experience Music Project / Sci-Fi Museum, Seattle, WA
Sept 2012	Production Designer for <i>El Camino Real</i> film short - WorkWithMe Films
2010 to 2011	Exhibit Designer: <i>Avatar the Exhibition</i> Experience Music Project / Sci-Fi Museum, Seattle, WA Toured nationally until 2014
2004 to 2010	Production Designer / Art Director: 2005 <i>Sea Lion & Otter Show</i> SeaWorld of San Diego
1996 to 1999	Production Designer / Art Director: <i>Intensity Games</i> SeaWorld of San Diego

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (THEATRICAL):

(selected works: 2003 to 2023)

2026	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Gulfshore Playhouse (Naples, FL)
2026	<i>The Mousetrap</i>	Gulfshore Playhouse (Naples, FL)
2025	<i>The Cottage</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2024	<i>The Roommate</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2024	<i>Ragtime</i>	STAGES, St. Louis
2023	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Denver Center for the Performing Arts
2022	<i>39 Steps</i>	Merrimack Repertory Theatre (Lowell, MA)
2020	<i>Into the Breeches</i>	Asolo Repertory Theatre
2019	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Denver Center for the Performing Arts
2019	<i>Into the Breeches</i>	Cleveland Play House
2018	<i>SWEAT</i>	Cleveland Play House
2018	<i>Holmes & Watson</i>	Indiana Repertory Theatre
2018	<i>Morning After Grace</i>	Asolo Repertory Theatre (Sarasota, FL)
2017	<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Cleveland Play House
2017	<i>School for Lies</i>	Arkansas Repertory Theatre
2017	<i>Two Degrees</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2016	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2016	<i>Finding Home</i>	Indiana Repertory Theatre
2016	<i>All The Way</i>	Cleveland Play House
2016	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	The Muny – St. Louis

2016	<i>Wizard of Oz</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2016	<i>All The Way</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2015	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2015	<i>Buddy</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2015	<i>Billy Elliot</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2015	<i>Calico Buffalo</i>	New York Musical Festival
2015	<i>The Giver</i>	Indiana Repertory Theatre
2014	<i>A Christmas Story (12 seasons)</i>	Cleveland Play House
2014	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Indiana Repertory Theatre
2014	<i>Seussical</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2014	<i>Billy Elliot</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2013	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Cleveland Play House
2013	<i>West Side Story</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2013	<i>Les Miserables</i>	The Muny – St. Louis
2013	Adams Stage Shows: <i>King John, Love's Labours Lost, and Tempest</i>	Utah Shakespeare Festival
2013	<i>4000 Miles</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2012	<i>The Whipping Man</i>	Cleveland Play House
2013	<i>The Giver</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2012	Adams Stage Shows: <i>Mary Stuart, Titus Andronicus, and Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Utah Shakespeare Festival
2011	<i>Fallen Angels</i>	Asolo Repertory Theatre
2011	<i>Dracula</i>	Indiana Repertory Theatre/Geva Theatre
2011	<i>Fall of Heaven</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2010	<i>House of the Spirits</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2010	<i>The Whipping Man</i>	The Old Globe Theatre
2010	<i>Emma</i>	Cleveland Play House
2010	<i>Bill W. & Dr. Bob</i>	Cleveland Play House
2009	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
2009	<i>Jekyll & Hyde</i>	Rep of St. Louis and Cincinnati Playhouse
2009	<i>Saint Joan</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2008	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Cleveland Play House
2008	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Marin Theatre Company
2007	<i>Rabbit Hole</i>	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
2007	<i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2007	<i>The Rainmaker</i>	American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.)
2007	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	American Players Theatre (Wisconsin)
2006	<i>Jesus Hates Me</i>	Denver Center Theatre Company
2005	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Studio Arena Theatre – Buffalo, NY
2005	<i>A Moon for the Misbegotten</i>	American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.)
2005	<i>Just Stopped by to See the Man</i>	The Old Globe Theatre – San Diego
2004	<i>Major Barbara</i>	San Jose Repertory Theatre

2003 *The Subject Tonight is Love* Alliance Theatre Company
 2003 *Lobby Hero* Denver Center Theatre Company

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS / RECOGNITION:

2026 Nominated for St. Louis Theatre Circle award for Best Set Design for a Play in 2025 for *The Cottage* at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

2018 Winner of 'Judy Award' for Best Set Design for 2018 for *Caught* at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

Jun 2018-Jun 2019 Design work featured in the *Muny Memories: 100 Seasons Onstage* exhibit at the St. Louis History Museum. [Details](#)

Seussical Winner: Best Set Design for a Musical in 2015
 St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards

West Side Story Winner: Best Set Design for a Musical in 2014
 St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards

A Moon for the Misbegotten Displayed in the U.S. Exhibit at the 2007 Prague Quadrennial

Major Barbara Winner of 9 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards including Best Set Design of 2004

COURSES TAUGHT:

(click titles for course website)

I60-100 Beyond Boundaries Seminar
 (Every semester Fall 2019 to Spring 2023)

Beyond 1007 [Designing Creativity](#): Innovation Across Disciplines
 Fall 2015 to present

Drama 135 Ideation: Idea Generation (Freshman Seminar)
 Fall 2013 to Spring 2017

Drama 2100 [Introduction to Theatre Production](#)
 Spring Semesters since 2012 (also once in Fall 2017, 2022)

Drama 3106 [Scenic Design](#): Fall Semesters since 2011

Drama 450 [Advanced Scenic Design](#)

Drama 300 Production Practicum

PAD Design Designed 2 to 3 productions per season for the Performing Arts Department while mentoring student designers on remaining productions – Fall 2011 to Spring 2018

PAD Design Design one production per PAD season – Fall 2018 to present