

Robert John Schlehuber
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Professional Summary: Multi-disciplinary artist, producer, and community organizer with over 12 years of experience executing diverse community based projects, launching local, national, and international-scale initiatives, and building and sustaining multi sectoral coalitions comprised of broad and diverse individuals and organizations to advance political, social and economic causes, with particular expertise around community mobilization and cultural exchange to advance peace and nonviolence; improve the effectiveness of civil society organizations; supporting efforts to strengthen social cohesion within and between communities; and advancing public safety. As founder and executive director of Peacebuilding Connections, can be engaged as an organization or as a contracted individual to co-create, ideate, and execute peacebuilding activities that provoke community conversation; accelerate community learning; and create enduring positive change.

Peacebuilding Projects

Founder and Executive Director May 2013- Present

Peacebuilding Connections

Leads, fundraises, conceptualizes, organizes and executes initiatives that build and strengthen bonds in communities; provoke change-making discussions; and accelerates fledgling ideas into fully realized community development activities and concepts. Produces and manages large scale events and local, multi-city, and international arts initiatives.

International Peacebuilding Projects:

- Dugri, a social venture that unites young Jews and Arabs around a new Israeli-Palestinian narrative, partnered with Peacebuilding Connections to hold community concerts and peacebuilding workshops in 13 cities within the United States. The concerts raise funds to expand Dugri's programming in Israel/Palestine while connecting diverse community members in each US tour stop.
- Declarations of Interdependence, a participatory arts project, asks people to sign the Declarations if they agree to "end violence, end prejudice, and achieve respect for all." Peacebuilding Connections has facilitated signings at Stanford University, American University, Rockford University and with individuals and organizations in 15 countries and 80 international cities.
- Justice4DJ strives to seek economic, social, and political justice for Dominic Jerome "D.J." Broadus, murdered by Gardner Fraser in Macclenny, Florida on February 3rd, 2018. Serving at the Broadus family's direction, Peacebuilding Connections has organized media campaigns, direct actions, and legal challenges in an effort to repeal Stand Your Ground laws across the US and to expose past and present acts of white supremacist violence.

Localized Peacebuilding Projects:

- Washington D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade serves all eight of D.C.'s wards bringing nonprofits, health groups, civil society, senior centers, high schools, and the D.C. government together to celebrate Dr. King. Peacebuilding Connections, for six years, served as a co-lead organizer for the parade, overseeing day of parade logistics and community outreach.
- The Ward 1 N.E.A.R. Act Study Group, created by Peacebuilding Connections in response to community violence, brought together diverse neighbors in Washington, D.C.'s Columbia Heights neighborhood to discuss methods for reduction of violent crime. Community solutions included organizing community outreach events, lobbying government officials for an increase of health interventions, and the formation of public safety study groups.
- Operation Respect Rock River Valley worked to bring executive leaders from the nonprofit, business, government, health and education sectors together for community

dialogue and mediation. The conversations in Rockford, Illinois were facilitated by Peacebuilding Connections and led to several community concerts, after-school training programs, and the raising of over \$100,000 for program implementation.

- U-Inspire Hospitality Training in Washington, D.C. held community forums, teach-ins, and food events that made community connections between US veterans, disabled youth participants, Inspire staff, and local community members of diverse age, culture, and employment status.

Media and Arts Production

Executive Producer and Co-Host “Political Misfits” January 2020- December 2021

Producer “By Any Means Necessary” May 2016 - January 2020

Radio Sputnik Washington, D.C.

As host, producer, and reporter, created and broadcast daily current events radio programs featuring news items and discussions on 105.5 FM in Washington D.C., and 31 internationally syndicated radio stations. Expanded the conversations about politics and world events by sourcing, researching, and preparing interviews and segments with expert guests on issues related to climate change, social and racial justice, global movements, poverty, arts and culture, sports and economics, with the aim of exploring underrepresented viewpoints and arguments, and presenting narratives less covered by traditional media.

Select achievements:

- Produced and hosted over 1,300 episodes of daily 2 hour radio shows, including booking of 20+ guests per week, guest services and show marketing. The podcast versions of the show has been downloaded over 1.1 million times.
- Coordinated and completed field reporting across the United States, and in Taiwan, Puerto Rico, Israel/Palestine, Hong Kong, and Ethiopia including arranging travel accommodations, conducting interviews, and producing news packages.

Associate Producer for Public Programming November 2016- February 2018

Mosaic Theater Company of Washington D.C. Washington, D.C.

In keeping with the theater’s aims to democratize the stage, worked to curate post-show discussions between the artists, the community, and the audience, further exploring the themes of the work, and facilitating a discussion to improve community thought and understanding around issues such as the human impact of the climate crisis, gender based violence, mass incarceration, gun violence and themes around privacy, identity, and consent.

Select achievements:

- Oversaw the Public Programming committee consisting of 15 staff, board members, and community volunteers, leveraging the unique resources of each member to produce over 300 post-show discussions in 27 months.
- Exhibited a breadth of knowledge related to political and social art through the facilitation of post-show discussions between experts, artists, and 1,000s of audience members.

Political and Community Organizing

Field Manager and General Consultant April 2022- June 2022

Erin Palmer for DC Council Chairwoman Washington, D.C.

The progressive campaign of Erin Palmer looked to unseat a 20+ year career politician who was largely financed by out of district corporations and solely serving the rich class of the nation’s capital. Through a grassroots field program, employing over a dozen low income organizers, thousands of residents were engaged in community conversations that mobilized the democratic vote calling for equality in housing, education, health, food, and jobs.

Select accomplishments:

- Interviewed, hired, trained, and managed a team of 15 D.C. street canvassers and

- phone bankers for the campaign.
- Updated the campaign's field plan daily, incorporating new data and relationships into an evolving and responsive community campaign strategy.
- Oversaw the campaign's mass text message and phone call system, targeting over 100,000 likely voters.
- Collaborated with the campaign finance department to track all payments and receipts while identifying new campaign finance opportunities.

Founder and Core Organizer February 2020- November 2021

Mutual Aid Movement DC (MAM DC) Washington D.C.

With government and health systems overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic local communities relied heavily on informal mutual aid networks to help feed, care for, and house its residents. MAM D.C. in partnership with the Columbia Heights Village Tenants Association created an apparatus that recruited and trained volunteers, garnered, sorted, packaged, and delivered donated goods, and worked through political, social, and economic means to create responsive systems to people in need of support.

Select achievements:

- Co-conceptualized MAM D.C. and organized 30 organizations into a coalition to support community needs such as food assistance, housing stability, and medical aid in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Oversaw 50+ volunteers to provide groceries, cleaning supplies, daily meals, health support, and financial assistance to thousands in the greater Washington D.C. community.
- MAM D.C. held political forums in partnership with dozens of community organizations and institutions, developing questions that critically challenged candidates on vital issues and concerns, for the races of Ward 1 Councilmember, Chairperson, and State Board of Education.

Aide to Andy Shallal December 2013- April 2014

The Committee to Elect Andy Shallal for Mayor Washington, D.C.

The campaign of Andy Shallal worked to shed light on those lost in the shadows of building cranes in a rapidly gentrifying district. The insurgent campaign called for drastic changes to D.C.'s education, health, food, transportation, tax, and business policies, taking power from developers and corporations and giving it back to everyday people, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.

Select achievements:

- Supported candidate and the campaign in policy research, message formation, database management, canvassing and campaign event creation and marketing.
- Traveled with the candidate and supported campaign outreach efforts to broad and diverse individuals and interest groups throughout Washington, D.C..

National Service

Peace Corps Volunteer April 2009- May 2011

Peace Corps Ukraine, Pryvillya, Ukraine

Worked as a youth development volunteer to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling Peace Corps' three goals: To help the countries interested in meeting their need for trained people. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Select achievements:

- Spearheaded the creation of Operation Respect Ukraine, a collaboration between the U.S. Embassy of Ukraine, Peace Corps Ukraine, Ukrainian NGOs, Peace Corps volunteers, and Ukrainian teachers in order to provide anti-bullying trainings to over 500 Ukrainian educators nationally.
- Headed review and approval committee which allocated funding of grants through USAID

Small Projects Assistance Program; allocated over \$325,000 for 107 civic-based projects

EDUCATION

American University, Washington D.C. May 2013

M.A International Peace and Conflict Resolution, School of International Service

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign May 2008

B.A. Political Science and Communication (with honors)

University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, Department of Political Science Semester Abroad

IN THE NEWS

[Tour of Florida Historic Sites Illuminates White Supremacy in the Legal System](#), Southern Poverty Law Center, 2024

['Legal Lynching': Stand Your Ground laws reflect legacy of white supremacist vigilantism in deep south](#), Southern Poverty Law Center, 2023

[Dugri duo bring a fresh take on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#), Jerusalem Post, 2023

[How A Rockford Artist's Work Is Connecting People Across The Globe](#), Rock River Current, 2022

[Addis Dialogue: Interview with American Journalist Bob Schlehuber](#), Ethiopian Broadcast Corporation, 2021

[American Journalist Bob Schlehuber Debunks Western Media Fake News On Ethiopia](#), Fana Broadcasting Corporation, 2021

[Ward 1's new Public Safety Coalition brings resources to those who need them most](#), The Wash, 2019

[Activists, father set up town hall in Broadus shooting case](#), Baker County Press, 2018

[Slice: Rockford native Bob Schlehuber makes peacebuilding his life's work](#), Rockford Register Star, 2015

[Will Peter Yarrow come back to Rockford? 'Absolutely'](#), Rockford Register Star, 2011

WEB AND VIDEO LINKS

[Peacebuilding Connections Events Reel](#)

[Peacebuilding Connections Homepage](#)

- [Declarations of Interdependence Project Page](#)
 - [Global Photo Album of Declaration Signings](#)
 - [Declarations Of Interdependence - Global Highlights](#)
 - [Declarations of Interdependence - Rockford Series](#)
- [Justice4DJ Broadus Project Page](#)

[#Justice4DJBroadus GoFundMe Video](#)

[Operation Respect Anti-Bullying Program in Ukraine](#), Peace Corps, 2012

TESTIMONIALS

“Robert is a rare example of an exceptionally creative, dynamic, and resolute organizer who possesses a global understanding of how our country can be an ever greater force for good, for equity and for peace in the world. Additionally, he has translated this understanding into concrete action. In my opinion, the young Mr. Schlehuber belongs at the top of anyone’s list of those who are most likely to head the next generation of truly gifted leaders of America.”

- Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary

Dear Mr. Schlehuber,

I’ve learned in my last years in high school that change, especially social change, starts with each of us. This made your visit so encouraging. You showed us that if you are passionate for something, you can make a difference, and there is always something you can do to help people, from the Peace Corps to your peacebuilding organization. Hearing you draw out a passion for social change from every one of us gave me so much hope that this generation will create lasting change.

- letter excerpt from Cate Paterson, Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, in *Opening Minds, Stirring Hearts: The Peace Studies Class*, by Colman McCarthy

Bob's Peace Corps service was especially notable as he showed such wide range versatility. I am honored to recommend Bob; he will be a wonderful addition to any organization or project that would have him.

- Douglass Teschner, Peace Corps Ukraine, County Director

“I am beyond impressed at Bob's process, from project ideation to the final product.”

- Professor Caroline Light, Harvard University

"Very impressive job getting student engagement. Congrats. Well done!"

- Professor Bob Sicina, American University

"Bob's peacebuilding work fosters a powerful sense of belonging across diverse cultures."

- Andrew Gray, Resident Life, Stanford University