





DAVID WILLIAMS

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Visual Artist • Storyteller • Community Builder

Emmy-winning songwriter, professional cartoonist, gallery-exhibited painter, and published author with over two decades of experience cultivating creative communities and engaging public audiences. As both an artist and a writer, I've helped thousands of learners, readers, and creators connect more deeply with art. From cartoons in national publications to virtual classrooms and gallery shows curated by the Smithsonian, I've always worked at the intersection of creativity, clarity, and human connection.

◆ HIGHLIGHTS

- 15+ years with the **Illinois Arts Council's Artist-in-the-Schools Program**, teaching visual arts and writing
 - Paintings featured in **galleries curated by the Smithsonian**
 - Cartoonist for **The Chronicle of Higher Education**, **Carlton Cards**, and **Soultrader of London**
 - Taught visual storytelling, writing, and media at **CU Boulder**, **Colorado School of Mines**, **NIU**, and more
 - Deep experience in content strategy, video storytelling, and platform-based engagement
 - PhD in Writing, trained in Anthropology and Visual Arts
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◆ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Creative Director

Trapdoor Media / VisionNote Graphic Recording / ZenTrickster.com

2005–Present

- Create and curate visual content for educational, environmental, and arts-focused organizations
- Lead community engagement through newsletters, social media, and interactive workshops

- Use illustration, animation, and storytelling to drive emotional engagement with audiences

Teaching Artist – Writing, Songwriting & Visual Arts

Illinois Arts Council Artist-in-the-Schools Program

2000–2015

- Led interactive art and writing residencies in public schools across Illinois
- Designed multimedia curricula blending painting, narrative art, and self-expression
- Built lasting connections with students and communities through hands-on creative learning

University Instructor – Writing & Creative Communication

CU Boulder • Colorado School of Mines • Northern Illinois University • Knox College

2000–2020

- Taught writing, digital media, and visual storytelling to undergrads and graduate students
- Developed community-centered learning environments around expression, identity, and clarity
- Facilitated workshops on voice, creativity, and visual narrative

Cartoonist & Visual Artist

Chronicle of Higher Education • Carlton Cards • Soultrader of London • Numerous Galleries

1990s–Present

- Published cartoons and illustrations nationally and internationally
- Exhibited mixed-media and painting works in curated art spaces
- Produced consistent visual content aligned with brand tone and audience expectations

◆ EDUCATION

PhD in English/Writing – University of Illinois at Chicago

MA in English – Northern Illinois University

BA in Anthropology & Studio Art – Northern Illinois University

◆ CERTIFICATIONS & TOOLS

- UX Writing (Google) • AI Content Creation (Vanderbilt)
- Canva • Instagram • TikTok • Substack • iMovie • Final Cut Pro
- Fluent in Adobe Creative Suite • Procreate • Goodnotes • Freeform
- WordPress • Mailchimp • Notion • Content strategy tools