

# PROJECT UPCYCLE

## 2019 COMMUNITY ROLE MODELS

**JOSH DENTON** (Employee/Labor Relations, Federal Government) Josh fell in love with Portsmouth as a UNH undergrad, thought about the city often while he was in the army, and moved here upon returning from Iraq. He waited tables downtown while working on his Masters, used the GI Bill to become an attorney, and was elected to the Portsmouth City Council in 2015. Josh is currently training to become a barre instructor, enjoys frequenting numerous local establishments, and is by far best known for his poodles downtown.

"Becoming the public face of the effort to ban plastic shopping bags in Portsmouth over the past five years, being a longstanding Sustainability Committee Member, and having chaired Portsmouth's Renewable Energy Committee makes me a great Community Role Model for Project Upcycle."

**JANAKI FONSEKA** (Hospitalist Physician, Wentworth Douglass Hospital) Jan moved to Portsmouth a few years ago and enjoys living in the Seacoast when she's not out globetrotting.

"I have been impressed with the quality of the programs and artwork at 3S. It adds pizzaz to an already charming town and offers an opportunity to enjoy art 'outside the box.' Saying yes to Project Upcycle was a no-brainer!"

**KATE HARRIS** (Owner/Photographer, Kate & Keith Photography) Kate is one half of a wedding photography duo, co-founder of Sustainable Seacoast (a non-profit working to reduce single use plastics in the restaurant industry) and an avid environmentalist. She believes the answer to many of the world's problems can be solved by supporting local and has committed to only wearing 2nd hand or sustainably sourced clothing. When not engaging in awesome community events, you can find her exploring creative plant based recipes, road tripping with her husband, and taking her puppy on long runs.

"I said yes [to being a Community Role Model] because it's something that taps into so many of my passions - creativity, community, sustainability and friendly competition."

**LAURA HORWOOD-BENTON** (Public Programming & Community Relations Librarian, Portsmouth Public Library) Laura Horwood-Benton is a librarian, writer, graphic designer who's lived in Portsmouth for nearly 9 years. Her interests include science fiction, Buddhism, vegan baking, making art, and ethical and sustainable fashion.

"I have been a dedicated ethical consumer - buying secondhand or handmade wherever possible - for several years. Project Upcycle is such a beautiful way to celebrate this movement. The event embodies everything I love about fashion - clothing as a manifesto, a statement of personality, and an artistic choice. As a local librarian, I am invested in equity, vibrance and sustainability in the Seacoast community. I have also worked with both Recovergirl and 3S Artspace on projects before! I am so thrilled to take part in Project Upcycle for all of these reasons!"

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**TRISTAN LAW** (Talent Buyer, 3S Artspace) Tristan grew up in a brown house off of a dirt road in the lakes region of NH. Now he lives in a pink house off a dirt road in Portsmouth. He used to write books, now he books bands.

"Aside from my eternal love for 3S, I said yes because becoming more sustainably minded is the greatest challenge - and opportunity - facing humanity right now. And I'm excited about the opportunity to wear something other than flannel and jeans."

**ROCHELLE NAVELSKI** (Detective/Community Outreach Coordinator, Portsmouth Police Department) As Community Outreach Coordinator, Rochelle specializes in providing safety trainings to the public in safety, and building relationships between the Portsmouth community and the police.

Born and raised in Portsmouth, NH, and still a Portsmouth resident, a US Military Police Army veteran, and Portsmouth Police Officer for 16 + years, Rochelle loves to play competitive softball, and is best known for being the repeat Margaritas Restaurant 2lb taco gigante eating contest champion (2017/2018), beating out the Army Reserves, and the Portsmouth Fire Department.

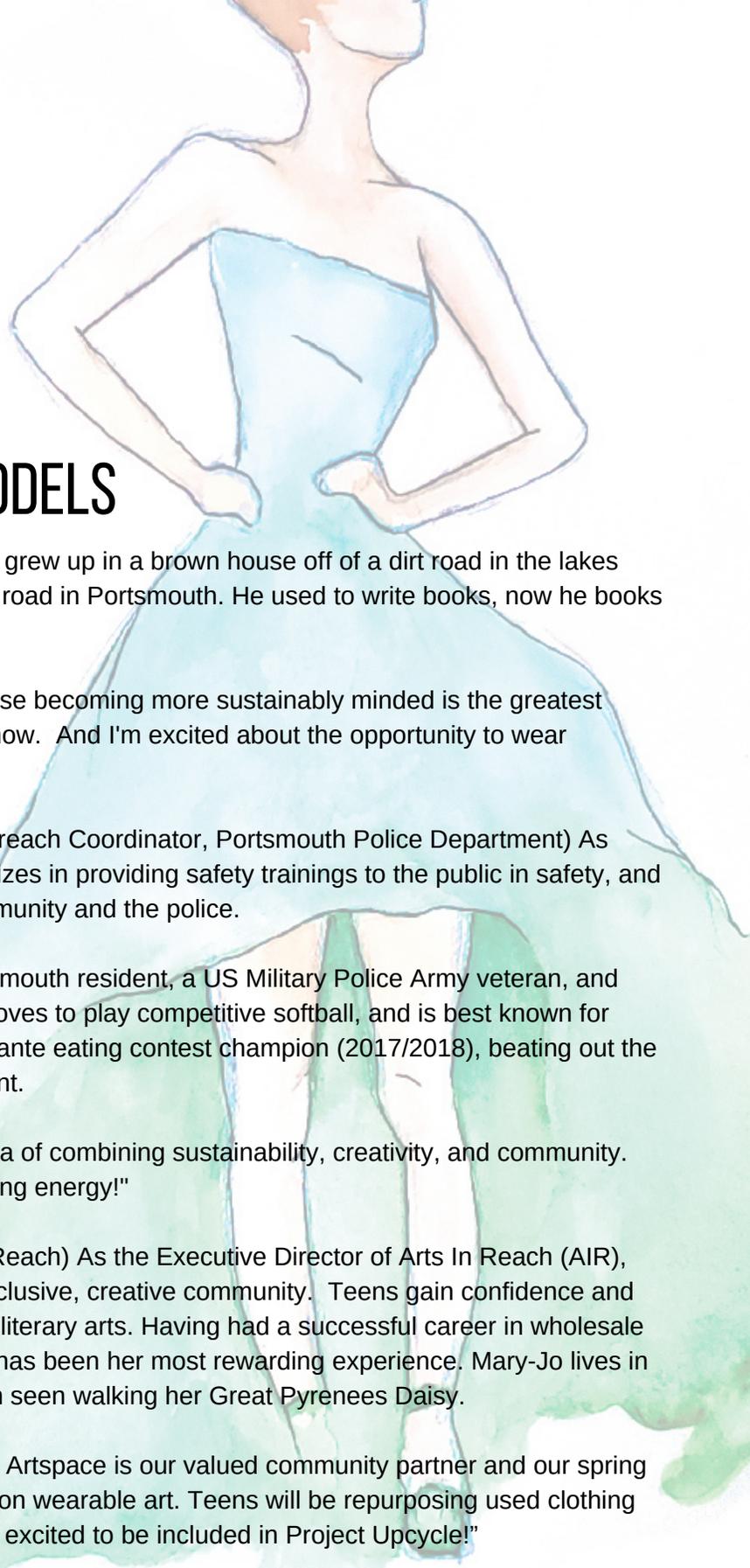
"I said yes to Project Upcycle because I love the idea of combining sustainability, creativity, and community. And it sounds like so much fun, coupled with amazing energy!"

**MARY-JO MONUSKY** (Executive Director, Arts In Reach) As the Executive Director of Arts In Reach (AIR), Mary-Jo works to empower teenage girls through inclusive, creative community. Teens gain confidence and find their voices through the visual, performing, and literary arts. Having had a successful career in wholesale jewelry sales and owning her own businesses, AIR has been her most rewarding experience. Mary-Jo lives in Portsmouth with her husband Pete and can be often seen walking her Great Pyrenees Daisy.

"Of course I had to say yes [to Project Upcycle]! 3S Artspace is our valued community partner and our spring after-school program led by Sam Paolini is focused on wearable art. Teens will be repurposing used clothing and learning dying/printmaking techniques. I am so excited to be included in Project Upcycle!"

**EMILY TRESSA** (student, YouTuber, and drag queen) Emily is a 17 year old transgender YouTuber and LGBTQ+ activist. Her message is to spread love, positivity and awareness for the transgender community. She loves makeup, fashion, dancing and is obsessed with Lady Gaga.

"I said yes to this because I think it is a great opportunity for self expression and for designers to get their names out there!"



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## 2019 EMCEE

**BUNNY WONDERLAND (K Nate Higgins)** Bunny Wonderland has been performing in and around New England for over 14 years. A Portland/Gorham Maine native, Bunny now calls the Seacoast her home. In everything from cult film screenings, to burlesque, to drag queen story hour, and even horror movie trivia, Bunny Wonderland is a veritable force of drag goodness.

Most recently, Bunny has been producing and performing with Joslyn Fox (RuPaul's Drag Race Season 6). Together, Joslyn and Bunny have their wildly successful multimedia drag show, Bunny and the Fox at 3S Artspace. High camp conceptive performance and comedy have always been Bunny's strengths.

When Bunny is not on stage, you can usually find her lurking in antique shops, scrounging for tapes to add to her epic VHS collection, or traveling the world seeking holy and mythic sites.

