

Artist Statement

I am a listening artist who centers listening as a vital cultural experience. Rooted in my Indian Indigenous Gond heritage—where song, story, and collective presence shape artistic expression, and where Gond Pardhans are traveling storytellers—I create participatory experiences that invite people to slow down and connect.

As shared civic and cultural spaces have declined—through fewer intergenerational households, less time in communal gathering places, and the loss of everyday rituals—many people experience loneliness. In response, my art is to create the conditions for communal listening.

My practice uses artistic media to shape spaces, prompts, and rhythms that allow listening to emerge. Using my S.O.N.G. framework—listening to Self, Others, Nature, and the Greater whole—I design free, welcoming, drop-in programs for libraries, recreation centers, parks, and community spaces. These experiences explore literary arts, history, and diverse cultures through simple creative activities that foster presence, connection, and belonging.

Education

Master's Degree in Human-Computer Interaction, University of Mumbai
Diploma in Graphic Design & Computer Arts, EDIT Institute
ASC Cultural Leadership Training, 2025 Cohort

Selected Projects

2027 — Finding Your Song - *One Voice Chorus Charlotte* (Anthology, in progress).

A community-centered anthology documenting local queer histories in Charlotte. **Freedom Tunnel Press.**

2026 — *Breakthrough Conversations.*

A facilitated program supporting individuals navigating conflict in the workplace, developed in collaboration with **Professor Jeffrey Yip**, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.

2026 — *The Understory: Roots of a New India* (Anthology, in progress).

An international anthology creating space for artists, activists, and organizers working at the intersections of bridge-building and grassroots social impact in India and the U.S. **Freedom Tunnel Press.**

2026 — *Finding Your S.O.N.G. in Tea.*

A participatory listening and storytelling experience in collaboration with archivist and poet **Olivia Dorsey Peacock**, UNC Charlotte professor **Debarati Dutta**, and artist **Heather Marcelle Crickenberger**, hosted at **Pauline's Tea Bar & Apothecary**, Charlotte.

2025 — *Finding Your S.O.N.G. in Nature.*

A guided listening and reflection experience co-created with author and journalist **Jen McGivney**, held at **Evergreen Nature Preserve**, Charlotte.

2025–present — *Listening in Service of Access to Arts & STEM*

Ongoing board service with **Arts+**, **One Voice Chorus**, and **Queen City Robotics Alliance**, centering community listening to expand access, equity, and participation in arts education, queer cultural expression, and STEM learning across Charlotte.

2025 — *Creating Spaces for Listening to Plant Workers in Corporate America.*

Workshop presented at the **International Listening Association Conference**, Washington, DC.

2025 — *Speaking Into Being: The Collective Power of Queer Intersectional Storytelling.*

Public talk and facilitated dialogue at the **Union County Pride Conference.**

2024/25 — *Listening to the Local Arts and Science Non-profit Ecosystem.*

A year long Cultural Leadership Training program facilitated by the **Arts and Science Council, Charlotte.**

2024 — *Listening in the Air: Passenger & Crew Audio Experience*

Designed and facilitated listening-driven inquiry into how sound shapes human experience in flight, informing the development of more empathetic audio environments for passengers and crews at **Honeywell.**

2024 — *It's Soulful and It's Survival: A Conversation with Four Drag Artists in the U.S. South.*

Public dialogues hosted at **Goodyear Arts** with local artists Oso Chanel, Lolita Chanel, Nova Stella and Onya Nerves, Charlotte.

2024 — *It's Soulful and It's Survival: A Conversation with Four Drag Artists in the U.S. South.* (Book)

An oral history and documentation of queer life and resistance in the U.S. South. **Freedom Tunnel Press.**

Work Experience & Memberships

Co-Founder & Lead Facilitator, *Listening Labs* (2024–present)

Artist-led public practice centered on generative listening as a cultural experience. Designs and facilitates free, participatory workshops and community gatherings that invite reflection, creativity, and connection across diverse public settings.

Co-Founder, *Freedom Tunnel Press* (2024–present)

Independent, mission-driven press publishing oral histories, anthologies, and socially engaged cultural projects that amplify marginalized voices and community-based storytelling.

Board Member, *Arts+* (2025–present)

Board Member, *One Voice Chorus* (2025–present)

Board Member, *Queen City Robotics Alliance* (2025–present)

Provides governance and community-centered leadership in arts education, queer cultural expression, and youth STEAM access.

Member, *International Listening Association*

Customer & Employee Listening Practice, *Honeywell Inc.* (2003–2024)

Developed and facilitated large-scale listening, dialogue, and reflection practices within complex organizations, experience that now informs inclusive employee programming and corporate listening policies.

Instructor, *Graphic Design & Computer Arts*, EDIT Institute (2000–2002)

Taught foundational design and visual communication to emerging artists and practitioners.