



## SexEd

[www.sexedproject.org](http://www.sexedproject.org)

SexEd is an ongoing quest to expose the current state of sexual education in the US, encourage a public discourse around the topics of sexual health and education, and develop a sex education curriculum that is artist-inspired and community-based. SexEd evolved over a series of conversations between curator Liz Slagus and artist Norene Leddy about the documented lack of adequate sexual education in the US, particularly for youth and young adults.

### Projects to date:

#### **“YouwishyouwouldhaveknownTube” online exhibition**

A curated open call for videos on YouTube addressing what people of different ages wish they were taught or told about sex. (Ongoing) <http://sexedproject.org/youtube-video-calls>

#### **Collab: SexEd course at Parsons/The New School**

The SexEd project is the focus of this ongoing Fine Arts course at Parsons/The New School, led by Norene and Liz. Students are invited to be semester-long collaborators of SexEd, gaining a critical sexual health education while designing projects for public dissemination and/or placement in local schools or community centers. (Spring 2013, 2014, 2015)

<http://amt.parsons.edu/blog/sexed-collab-videos-showing-now-through-the-weekend-at-cuchifritos-gallery/>

#### **HealthClass2.0 + SexEd healthy relationships curriculum**

Liz and Norene developed and ran three arts-based sexual health sessions at WIHS for the grant funded health and wellness project, HealthClass2.0. The sessions explored healthy relationships, which developed out of community and student feedback collected at the Fall 2013 422 Health Fair. Students created posters for WIHS that will be exhibited in the 422 Health Center. (December 2013)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sexedproject/sets/72157639589795326/>

#### **“SexEd: Chapter 1” exhibition**

The SexEd project officially launched with this exhibition featuring three commissioned videos for the *YouwishyouwouldhaveknownTube* project at Cuchifritos Gallery on the Lower East Side. Each video combined aspects of art and sex education. (February 9-March 22, 2013)

<http://sexedproject.org/sexed-chapter-1-exhibition-at-cuchifritos-gallery-february-9-march-10-2013>

**SexEd at Washington Irving High School Campus:** In March, SexEd was awarded a socially-engaged art fellowship by A Blade of Grass ([www.abladeofgrass.org](http://www.abladeofgrass.org)), providing the necessary funding to realize our first model for sexual health education: a residency with the 422 Health Center. This residency will produce projects with two schools at WIHS. Mapping onto specific topics in the existing 8-week reproductive health curriculum developed by the 422 Health Center, SexEd will develop art projects with a targeted group of classes to expand on key themes identified by students, teachers and health center staff as areas in need of further investigation: HIV/AIDS, gender, healthy relationships, etc. In order to work with the WIHS students to obtain critical input on these themes, we will participate in existing school activities run by the health center, including the 422 Health Fair, lunchtime workshops, and the health center’s after-school discussion group.

### Who’s involved:

**Liz Slagus** is the Director of Public Programs for the NY Hall of Science, a part-time faculty member of Parsons/The New School, and founder and Director of the SexEd Project. She consults in the areas of art and technology education, public programming and community engagement. She holds a BA in Art History and Anthropology from Bucknell University and an MA in Visual Arts Administration from NYU. Liz conceived of SexEd armed with 10+ years working with artists/art collectives and youth enrolled in the NYC public school system, and a growing sadness over the huge gap between the sexual health education she received growing up in the public schools of NJ in the 80s, and the current curriculum.

**Norene Leddy** creates platforms to talk about technology, history, sex, art, and social justice. Projects include working with LGBTQI youth, sex workers, young women, and others to create shoes, garments, alarm systems, maps, DIY electronics kits, and other ways to explore high and low technology for protection and self-expression. Her work has been shown internationally at venues including Eyebeam (New York), Henie Onstad Kunstsenter (Norway), and Sarai Media Lab (India). She has been the recipient of numerous grants and residencies including a Fulbright Fellowship, two Eyebeam residencies, and funding from NYSCA, Bronx Council for the Arts, and the Experimental Television Center. In 2011 she was nominated for a 2011 World Technology award. Norene earned her B.F.A. from Boston University in 1994 and a M.F.A. from Parsons/The

New School in 2000, where she is a Part-Time Assistant Professor. Norene is Co-Director of SexEd. She will participate in the project as both a curator involved with public programming and in select venues as an exhibiting artist, developing her artistic practice involving sexual health issues and participatory tools.

### **Sexual Health Advisory Board**

SexEd's sexual health advisory board exists to provide current, accurate and comprehensive information regarding sexual health policies, medical discoveries and resources. This group works closely with SexEd to guide and support the projects by participating in artist selection processes and ensuring that the information disseminated by collaborations is relevant and presented in an accessible and accurate manner.

**Caitlin Hanson, MA:** Director of School Based Health and Adolescent Medicine at the Institute for Family Health. Caitlin currently manages three SBHCs in Manhattan serving ten public schools. Before working with the Institute, Caitlin received an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Clark University in Worcester, MA, where she stayed to earn a master's degree in Community Development and Planning.

**Kerstin Pahl, Ph.D.:** Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from NYU's Steinhardt School for Culture, Education, and Human Development. Much of her research has focused on the longitudinal pathways to and the developmental patterns of health behaviors and well-being, including substance use and sexual behaviors, among adolescents and adults.

**Cory Silverberg:** Sexuality educator, trainer, author, and a founding member of the Come As You Are Co-operative. He received his Masters of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He served as the chair of sexuality educator certification for the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT), was a board member of YTH Live, and teaches across North America on topics including sex and disability, sex and technology, and pleasure, inclusion, and access.