



## PANELIST BIO

# JOAN PERCH

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Ms. Perch has a history of creating pioneering programs and start-ups that incorporate cutting edge developments in the arts, technology, business, education, workforce and economic development. A results-oriented innovator with a broad range of experience in arts and STEAM education, entrepreneurship, creative place making, and the intersection of arts and technology, she began her career as an arts educator, owned and operated several successful art galleries in downtown Cleveland, and was the founder of RED Dot Project, a social enterprise that utilized web based technologies to market the art of NEO regional artists. She is a founder of the Cleveland Sparx Arts Hop and was an arts coordinator in the early Ingenuity Festivals of Art and Technology.

Formerly the Coordinator of Lorain Community Colleges' Beth K Stocker Art Gallery, Joan Perch founded the FireFish STEAM Teen Academy, a summer apprentice program for culturally at risk urban teens developed in partnership with the FireFish Festival in Lorain, Ohio. The STEAM Makers Teen Academy is now housed at the new Lorain County Community College Patsie C. and Delores Jené Campana Center for Ideation and Invention STEAM Makers educational programming, where Ms. Perch coordinates community outreach and programming. She is currently working with a team of artists, educators, makers and faculty across disciplines to encourage broader use the LCCC Fab Lab and Campana Center to pilot STEAM integration and digital fabrication technologies into existing courses and programs.