

HOLLY SHEN

Senior Director



Holly Shen is a Senior Director at Lord Cultural Resources, based in San José, California. A recognized leader in public art, creative placemaking, and digital strategy, she brings deep expertise in leading innovative cultural initiatives that foreground inclusive community engagement and reflect equity-centered values. Her career spans museums, civic and public agencies, private corporations, and independent platforms, where she has consistently championed access and social impact through the arts.

Prior to joining Lord, Holly served as Deputy Director at the San José Museum of Art (2018–2020), where she led a comprehensive digital transformation, launched the Museum’s first digital publication (50X50: Stories from the Collection), and spearheaded a major partnership with Facebook Open Arts to provide free admission through monthly First Fridays. She also initiated the Museum’s first DEI plan and secured its largest California Arts Council grant to date, supporting a creative placemaking project that celebrated the contributions of San José’s Vietnamese community. Earlier career positions include Director and Curator of Visual Arts at Brooklyn Academy of Music (2013–2018); Curatorial Consultant for Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (2012–2013), and Research & Content Consultant for Artsy (2011–2012).

Since joining Lord, Holly has led or co-led several high-profile cultural planning projects. She recently served as Project Lead for Somos Uno, a Cultural Heritage Strategy for Tucson, Arizona, which was formally adopted by Tucson City Council in January 2025. She is also currently leading the Public Art Plan for Columbus and Franklin County, OH, and the Cultural Amenities Master Plan for Warner Center in Los Angeles. Her strategic planning work with the Academy Museum in Los Angeles has further demonstrated her ability to guide complex, cross-sector initiatives with vision and clarity.

Holly is a passionate advocate for arts access and anti-racist organizing, especially in the Asian American community. She was named a Women in Power Fellow at 92Y’s Belfer Center for Social Innovation in 2018 for her work co-founding an artist-activist platform in the wake of the 2016 U.S. election.