



Name: [Gina Renzi](#)

Years at Penn: [14!!](#)

Years at FRES: [14 years, though I work around 40th Street, which means I don't get to see most of the FRES family often.](#)

Job title (and brief description of job duties):

[Director of The Rotunda and Director of the 40th Street Artist-in-Residence Program \(AIR\).](#)

[I work for FRES Institutional Real Estate, managing a number of arts and culture community projects.](#)

[My main role is the Director of The Rotunda, a vibrant arts and culture community venue housed in the former Church of Christ Scientist, the gorgeous Beaux Arts building next to the Cinemark movie theater, at 4014 Walnut Street. We work with community members, artists, musicians, activists, students, and, frankly, anyone to produce their own artistic work and to present original events. We use Penn resources to pay artists and performers directly in most cases so that many of the events are free for audiences. Check us out at <http://TheRotunda.org>](#)

[The 40th Street Artist-in-Residence Program \(AIR\) is based in two twin houses at 40th and Chestnut. These Penn-owned spots are used as studio and exhibition spaces for emerging West Philadelphia visual artists. We give free studios to five artists every year, and we exhibit their work and the work of guest artists in our small gallery space at 4007. I also coordinate the 40th Street Summer Series, a long-running, outdoor, family-friendly, concert and dance series that takes place on five Saturdays, May through September, at the 40th Street Field on 40th between Walnut and Locust.](#)

Have you taken any classes, received a degree, or attended any lectures at Penn? If so, please describe... [I took a class on African Religions and one on Political Science. I have attended almost too many lectures to count. The subjects have](#)

ranged from female filmmakers in Iran and the resistance movement in Russia led by the punk band Pussy Riot, to transcendental meditation with David Lynch, Sufi poetry, plant-based nutrition with Dr. Michael Gregor, and animal rights with Gary Francione and Anna Charlton.

What is your favorite building on campus? Other than The Rotunda, I would have to say my favorite is the Fischer Fine Arts Library AKA the Furness Library.

Favorite place on campus to eat/drink? ...to shop? ...to sit quietly? ...to gather with friends/coworkers? My absolute favorite place on campus to sit quietly, eat a snack, or meet friends is James G. Kaskey Memorial Park AKA the biopond. I bring out-of-towners there, I've played there with the three-year-old niece, I meet up with friends there, and go on my own as often as possible. I love to see how it changes with the seasons. After all this time, I still find it magical.

Who is your favorite hero (fictional or real life)? It's a tie between Emma Goldman and Nina Simone.

What talent or power would you most like to have? I would love to be able to understand every language in the world.

What are your favorite things to do in your free time, outside of work?

Travel near and far. I love learning about languages, customs, and street art in different cities and countries. My next trip, this coming April, will be to Malaysia (mostly Kuala Lumpur) and Bali, Indonesia. When I can't travel far distances, I love to explore my city. Philadelphia continues to excite and surprise me with its architecture, street art, food, and people. I walk miles at a time, just checking out everything I can.

What characteristic or trait do you most value in your colleagues? Honesty and clear communication – I always prefer that people give it to me straight rather than sugar coating anything.

What is your motto, words to live by, or best advice? It would probably be this – approach everything and everyone with humility and an open mind.