Kelly Manjula Koza

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Conduit to Sardinian Textiles + Culture | Curates Human Values + Arts | Leads Transformative Change

Curates human values and *anima* (spirit) as the key components of our lives, including our technology. Builds awareness of Sardinian textile artists and connects collectors and textile enthusiasts with luxurious rugs, art, and culture of Sardinia through events, tours, and special sales. Promotes a sustainable future for Sardinian textile artists, their art, and Sardinia. Brings the vital, positive influence of Sardinian art, culture, and heritage to the tech world. Serves as a conduit to Sardinia and the uniqueness and value of the handmade in our modern world. Leverages a background in corporate program management and change management to provide creatives, small business owners, and nonprofits with processes, tools, and mechanisms that drive operational efficiency and change management. Guides organizations and individuals in their own transformation and evolution. A lifelong learner, traveler, writer, designer, optimist, and seeker of our highest good, I split my time between Sardegna, Milano, and Silicon Valley.

EXPERIENCE

Founder and Leader, Sardinian Arts

2013 - Present

Founder and leader of organization promoting handwoven textiles, arts, culture, and spirit of Sardinia:

- Presents programs and events supporting awareness, sustainable growth, evolution, and preservation of Sardinian handwoven textiles; key events include Sardinian Textiles: An Exhibit of Handwoven Art at The Italian Cultural Institute San Francisco in 2017 [Link]; Intrecciati, an interactive cross-cultural project between students in Italy and California [Link]; and an ongoing series of presentations and activities to museums, arts groups, and the public;
- Connects textile collectors and enthusiasts with handwoven luxury Sardinian textiles;
- Provides textile and arts tours of Sardinia;
- Supports the intellectual property rights, art, cultural heritage, and traditions of Sardinian handweavers;
- Partners with Sardinian handweavers, museums, and hospitality providers to promote Sardinia in a sustainable manner;
- Creates content featuring Sardinian handweaving, the value of handmade items and their makers, and their relevance in today's world;
- Creates documentaries including I Want to Weave the Weft of Time [Link]
- Handles all the strategic, operational, and day-to-day of this work!

Strategic Consultant for Change Management + Program Management, Tramite (KM Koza Consulting) 2019 - Present

Advises small businesses and nonprofits in US and Italy to improve cross-cultural communications, business strategy, and operational efficiencies; create communications assets; and provide Italian-English translations. Evolving focus emphasizes promoting the humanities, arts, and the handmade, supporting artists and bringing the world of handmade art, uniqueness, and luxury to a wider audience.

Program Manager, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

2022 - 2025

Led change management programs improving operational efficiency for the Technical Content Experience (TCX) department in the AWS Artificial Intelligence (AI) division, including removing redundant documentation on GitHub and delivering WCAG 2.1 Accessibility compliance for the AWS Documentation website.

Department Manager for User Documentation - Technical Writers, The Interpublic Group - Mediabrands 2014 - 2019

Built and managed Technical Writing/Documentation department and led Content Strategy for a startup within The Interpublic Group, ensuring delivery and evolution of release notes, user documentation, and training scripts for a groundbreaking digital advertising suite of 15+ products.

Senior Program Manager, PG&E 2011 - 2014

Managed a high-profile, critical training program leading ~15 concurrent projects with budget reaching 1.5M/quarter in complex, highly regulated environment with constantly changing priorities (consultant working through The Mosaic Company).

Communications, Training, Writing, Public Relations, Outreach Expert (various roles) 1990 - 2011

Improved public awareness for global and domestic clients by developing communications strategies and providing public relations, event management, and outreach services. Improved internal and external communications by providing writing, video, training, instructional design, and web design services. Interspersed corporate work with consulting, startup ventures, and sabbaticals to provide volunteer/pro bono services to NGOs, pursue self-study, and travel.

Clients/employers: Oracle (PeopleSoft), Hotwire (Expedia), Condé Nast, Bearing Point, Lafarge, AT&T, KB Homes, M.A. Math (Embracing the World), Intelligo, Colorado Business Council, The City of Tucson, and international adoption agencies, financial services providers, attorneys, and real estate developers.

Previous Experience

1980 - 1990

Starting as a teenager: Professional touring athlete; authored a monthly column, wrote regular articles, and edited a national sports newspaper for more than two years; started and ran four innovative businesses including a home services provider and a handmade greeting card company; sports trainer; restaurant chef.

LANGUAGES

- English (mother tongue)
- Italian

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Fine Arts, Graphic Design, University of Arizona
- Significant ongoing self-motivated study and international travel
- Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL)
- Jin Shin Jyutsu and other certifications/licenses notable only within specific contexts in which I'm no longer working.