

LIZ NEELEY

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FOUNDER AND CEO, LIMINAL

Liminal is a science communication collective that cuts through the noise with sensemaking. Our approach to science communication is deeply personal, politically engaged, and massively multidisciplinary. Through coaching, training, and collaborations, we make science communication make sense to scientists, to help science make sense for everyone.

STRENGTHS AND EXPERTISE

Critical Analysis
Creative Synthesis
Principled Leadership

Event Design
Program Development
Adult & Informal Learning

Facilitation
Messaging & Advocacy
Community Building

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liminal Founder & CEO

September 2020–Present

Making science make sense

In my first solo venture, I am integrating fifteen years of science communication theory and practice.

- Designed and am leading the USC Storymakers Fellowship. Launched in 2022, each cohort draws faculty together from across North America for a life-changing creative retreat on Catalina island
- Created and lead an innovative Science Writing Practicum piloted at Yale, Princeton, and Columbia
- Hosted and moderated powerful events (e.g., UCSF Future of the Brain Summit, IForE Convergence)

Solving For Science Co-Founder and Board Member

January 2022–Present

Because nothing changes unless we do

I have launched an incubator designed to change the culture of science from within.

- Refined concept and organizational strategy, and developed communications infrastructure (Notion)
- Recruited, onboarded, and continue to mentor the organization's founding Executive Director
- Designed, developed, and led an inaugural campaign and professional development course

The Story Collider Founding Executive Director

June 2015–August 2020

True, personal stories about science

I grew a beloved New York storytelling show into an international science communication organization.

- Multiplied annual operating budget 5X while expanding to 18 cities, including in CA, UK, and NZ
- Expanded team from five to forty producers and led transition from contractors to full-time staff
- Designed, developed, and led an educational program of best-in-class science storytelling trainings

COMPASS

March 2008–May 2015

Assistant Director of Science Outreach*Connecting scientists with journalists and policymakers*

I modernized and expanded an elite science communication and media training program.

- Built new materials and modules on the science of science communication and social media.
- Created the organization's online presence and social media strategy
- Co-led the NSF-funded #gradscicomm project

SeaWeb

June 2005 - May 2008

International Coral Program Manager (2007-2008)**Asia Pacific Program Manager (2005-2007)***Using social marketing for ocean conservation*

I cultivated an unusual set of partnerships to create awareness of and action on ocean issues.

- Helped create a high-end campaign for coral conservation with the Tiffany & Co. Foundation
- Built the scientific case for a CITES Appendix II listing of pink and red deep sea coral
- Led press operations for the 2008 International Coral Reef Symposium
- Created and led crash courses in ocean science for journalists in Fiji and Papua New Guinea
- Built a formal partnership with FLMMA (Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network).

SERVICE & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONSCommittee Member, **National Academies Schmidt Awards**, 2022–CurrentAdvisor, **Simons Foundation Science, Society & Culture Program**, 2022–CurrentAdvisor, **Aspen Science & Society Program**, 2021–CurrentMember, **AAAS Committee on Science & Technology Engagement with the Public**, 2020–2023Senior Advisor for SciComm, **National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative**, 2019–2022Lecturer, **Yale University**, 2018–2022Advisor, **NPR SciComms**, 2018–2020Co-Organizer, **National Academies Colloquium on Misinformation**, 2018–2019Editor, **PLOS Biology** special issue "Conservation Stories from the Front Lines," 2017–2018Board of Advisors, **Enzia Magazine**, 2016–2018Advisor and Fiscal Sponsor, **ComSciCon**, 2016–2019Advisor, **MIT CommLab**, 2015–2017Co-Organizer, **ScienceOnline Climate**, 2013Founder, **ScienceOnline Seattle**, 2012–2014Affiliate Staff, **University of Washington**, 2010–2015Board of Advisors, **ENGAGE: The Science Speaker Series**, 2010–2015Contributing Author, **Escape from the Ivory Tower**, 2010

EDUCATION**University of Maryland**

B.S. - Marine Biology - 2002

Boston University

M.A. - Ecology & Evolution - 2003