TRAVIS CHANDLER

Educator & Filmmaker

Chicago, Illinois | travischandler@mac.com
travischandler.com | linkedin.com/in/travischandler

PROFILE

Visual arts educator, department chair, university lecturer, and documentary filmmaker with more than 15 years of experience in media-rich learning, curriculum development, and nonfiction production. Combines progressive education, creative technology, and professional practice to engage students and audiences through storytelling.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP & TEACHING

DePaul University - School of Cinematic Arts

Lecturer | 2010-present

Teaches Editing the Documentary. Previous courses include Editing I, Intro to VFX, Ethics in Games & Cinema, and Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors.

Francis W. Parker School

Visual Arts Department Chair | 2023-present
Digital Arts Educator, Grades 9-12 | 2012-present

Leads visual arts curriculum and department development; supports faculty collaboration, inclusive teaching, and responsible use of emerging technologies. Teaches filmmaking, documentary production, animation, architecture, Photoshop, and digital art.

Developed Creating Historical Documentaries, guiding student teams through research, interviewing, production, and editing. Student documentaries have screened nationally, including two selections at the 2026 Youth Diversity Film Festival in Los Angeles. Founded and coordinated the May Term senior capstone and facilitated the TIDES design-thinking initiative.

Hamilton College

Walter A. Brumm Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar | 2018, 2019, 2023

Conducted and presented research connecting filmmaking, history, pedagogy, and American communal societies.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DePaul University - B.A., Digital Cinema, with honors, 2007
Harvard Project Zero - Design Thinking Workshop, Cambridge, Massachusetts

SELECTED FILM & MEDIA WORK

Green Candle Films - Co-Founder & Filmmaker | 2016-present

Surviving Zendik Farm | Documentary, 2026

Co-director, editor, cinematographer, composer. A feature exploring the Zendik Farm Arts Cooperative and its legacy. Nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Chicago Film Frenzy and Best Long-form Documentary at the Oak Park Illinois Film Festival.

Far Out West: Inside California's Kerista Commune | Documentary, 2021

Co-director, editor, cinematographer, composer. A feature about the Kerista Commune in San Francisco, distributed by Virgil Films. Best Editing and audience honors at the Blue Whiskey Independent Film Festival; Gina Walker Outstanding Project Award, Communal Studies Association.

Last Believer | Documentary, 2018

Co-director, producer, cinematographer, editor, composer. The story of Ron Taylor, the final surviving member of Mary's City of David religious sect. Debuted on WTTW; distributed on Amazon Prime Video.

PODCASTS

Madness on Trial: John Hinckley, Jr. and the Insanity Defense (2023) - co-host, composer, audio producer.
Communes USA (2022) - co-host, composer, audio producer.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Found Films | A&E, The First 48: Missing Persons | 2009-2011

Ingest Supervisor / Graphic Artist. Motion graphics, footage management, and editorial workflows.

Boyer Productions | PBS, Retirement Revolution | 2009

Assistant Editor for the prime-time documentary series hosted by Paula Zahn.

Mightybytes | Multimedia Producer | 2006-2010

Video, web, and event production, including work for the Chicago Office of Tourism.

SELECTED SKILLS

Curriculum design, department leadership, faculty mentoring, documentary directing and editing, cinematography, motion graphics, podcast and audio production. Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator, Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, and Pro Tools.