

Keisha Deneé Whatley

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Professional Summary

Fine Arts & Education Professional with over 15 years experience. Strong problem-solving, organizational, and leadership skills are utilized to strategically improve the educational and operational outcomes of organizations, schools and communities.

Lead Artist

Custom Arts Studio, Philadelphia, PA

2014 - Present

Lead Artist specializing in portraiture, mural arts and illustration

Program Administration & Instruction Experience

Program Director, The Steppingstone Academy

Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

May 2016 - June 2017

- Recruited specifically to improve academic performance and college completion of Scholars from grades four through college completion
- Successfully coordinated a robust, mission-oriented year-round program including upgrading summer and Saturday programming to better serve Scholars and program mission
- Designed and implemented Scholar programming specific to program goals and mission, including: Saturday monthly Booster Shots, Summer programming specific to Scholar's school-year curriculum and enhanced Career Day programming and mentorship
- Customized data collection systems specific to program mission for valuable data analysis

Program Coordinator: Middle Grades Academy- Duckrey School

Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

August 2015 - Present

Recruited specifically to improve student academic performance and community within the school.

- Successfully coordinating a robust, mission-oriented day and out of school time program while overseeing a team of 8 instructional leaders and support staff.
- Positively impacting student engagement through implementing: STEAM Clubs, The STEAM Newsletter, special academic-based contests, and creating a positive program culture.
- Seamlessly integrating STEAM lessons through in-house training and partnerships with local STEAM-based organizations.
- Customized data collection systems specific to program mission for valuable data analysis.
- Consistent data analysis, and communication with stakeholders, ensures program structure effectively and efficiently responds to program needs.

Program Manager

September 2014 - August 2015

Philadelphia Center for Arts & Technology, Full STEAM Ahead After School Program, Philadelphia, PA

- Coordinated schedule and STEAM curriculum for out of school time program sites serving 400 students while overseeing a diverse team of 45 instructional leaders and support staff.
- Provided technical assistance and instructional training for K-8 out of school time program staff.

Lead Art Instructor

January 2014 - September 2014

Philadelphia Center for Arts & Technology, Full STEAM Ahead After School Program, Philadelphia, PA

- Created arts-focused lesson plans that complimented the STEM focus of the program.
- Encouraged the creative and positive behavioral expression of middle school students through hands-on lessons, classroom environment and relationships.
- Consultant July 2011 – June 2015 Freelance through various companies, Various locations
- Secure business and residential clients cost efficient home and business services.
- Provide a high level of customer service while leading a team of over 15 representatives.

Student Advisor

December 2009 - January 2011

Metropolitan Career Center Computer Technology Institute, Philadelphia, PA

- Increased student retention resulting in increased returning students and participation.
- Customized data collection systems to improve data retrieval for accreditation reports.
- Measurably improved academic performance through implementing The Tutoring Center at CTI, hosting All School Assemblies and coordinating the CTI Newsletter.
- Assisted students experiencing crisis and personal issues

Instructor

February 2009 - January 2011

Metropolitan Career Center Computer Technology Institute, Philadelphia, PA

- Created lesson plans and assessed student progress in diverse subject areas.
- Courses taught include: Basic Composition, Business Communications; Microsoft Office Applications (2003, 2007), Visual Basic; HTML, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript & PHP, Adobe Creative Suite; Personal & Professional Development

Activities Coordinator

July, 2003 - December, 2003

The Girl's Center, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia, PA

- Coordinated activities for entire after school academic & arts program for 501(c)3 extended day program for truant and adjudicated girls ages 13-18
- Provided behavioral intervention for youth in at risk communities.

Graphic Designer

2001

Penn Emblem, Philadelphia, PA Created graphic design files of company emblems to be stitched on garments and promotional materials for major Embroidery Company in a fast-paced, detail oriented environment.

Awards, Programs & Exhibits

- Bartol Foundation** February 2020
Philadelphia, PA *Teaching Artist Grant*
- Visual Democracy: Juried Exhibition** May - July 2019
City Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- America to Zanzibar Exhibit** February - September 2019
The Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, PA *Three life-sized Culture Portraits*
- 2019 Artist of the Year Award** February 2019
Charity 13 Foundation, Philadelphia, PA *Awarded for artistic excellence and community building through the arts*
- Souls Shot Project** November 2018
Philadelphia, PA *Commissioned to create portrait of victim of gun violence*
- RAW Artists Chicago** October 2018
The Metro, Chicago, IL *Exhibit during fashion & music show*
- AIR: Artist in Residency** 2018 - 2019
The Rotunda, Philadelphia, PA *Selected: included studio space and community workshops*
- Barnes Museum, Let's Connect Participating Artist** April - June 2018
The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA *Let's Connect Philly 2018 Call for Artists*
- RAW Artists Philly** July 2018
Trocadero, Philadelphia, PA *Exhibit during fashion & music show*
- Awarded 2019 Artist Residency: America to Zanzibar Exhibit** 2018 - 2019
The Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, PA *Worked with various Muslim community partners and organizations, created four large paintings for parents and children to experience, and learn about the Muslim religion and culture as part of the America to Zanzibar Exhibit*
- “Urgent Care: First Time Ever I Saw Your Face”** 2018
The Colored Girls Museum, Philadelphia, PA *Commissioned to paint a portrait of a young lady to tell her story visually*
- Conference Room: The Black Writers Museum** 2016 - 2018
The Black Writers Museum, Philadelphia, PA *Commissioned to paint portraits of six (6) authors from historical periods & the Harlem Renaissance*

Education & Leadership Courses

Art Institute of Pittsburgh, BS Web & Interactive Media Design 2006 - 2009

Art Institute of Philadelphia, matriculated BS Graphic Design 2003 - 2004

Landmark Education, graduate 2014- 2015

- The Landmark Forum
- The Advanced Course
- The Self Expression & Leadership Course