

# Khaleelah I. L. Harris, MA

*Social Entrepreneur | Arts and Public History Programmer | Visual Artist*

Washington, D.C. | 202.286.3777 | Khaleelah.i.l.harris@gmail.com | [www.khaleelahharris.com](http://www.khaleelahharris.com)

## EDUCATION

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**Yale University**, Master of Art in Religion (Comprehensive) | 60 credit hours

**Bethune-Cookman University**, Bachelor of Art in Religion & Philosophy | 121 credit hours

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Co-Founder & Executive Director** | *The Beauty of Our Wellness* | Washington, D.C.

- Raised nearly \$20,000 in the organization's first year through ticket sales, peer-to-peer fundraising, and donor cultivation.
- Leads strategic planning and daily operations for a governing board and volunteer committees.
- Designs and implements educational programming informed by research with leading medical researchers.
- Builds partnerships with local clinics, cultural spaces, and community organizations, positioning the organization within both health and arts networks.

**Co-Founder & Principal** | *Tabon Path Consulting, LLC* | Washington, D.C.

- Strengthens the capacity of Black faith-based institutions to meet the economic, ecological, and social needs of their communities through grant writing and grant project management.
- Combines historical preservation, environmental justice, and decolonial education with practical strategies such as asset redevelopment, communication modernization, and revenue generation.
- Advises partner organizations on aligning faith-rooted values with measurable educational and community outcomes
- Secured \$5 million grant Lily Endowment grant for Metropolitan AME Church

**Founder & Principal** | *Imanie Leslie Gallery, LLC* | Washington, D.C.

- Serves as lead curatorial consultant for art exhibitions in the Washington, D.C. area, shaping thematic direction and artist selection.
- Provided curatorial consultation to educational and cultural institutions for public history and visual art exhibitions
- Acts as project archivist, developing narratives and organizing materials for commemorative history projects.
- Clients: Sidwell Friends School, The Girl Friends, Inc. (Washington, D.C. Chapter), SNCC Legacy Project, Arena Social, Roadrunner Specialty Group.

**Program Director, Social Impact Initiatives** | *Road Runner Specialty Group* | Bethesda, Maryland

- Served as program developer and supervisor for undergraduate internships programs (Johns Hopkins University, Bowie State University, and Howard University)
- Established partnerships with local charitable non-profit organizations focused on addressing health disparities, increasing health literacy, and fundraising regarding reproductive and oncological diseases

**Fine Art Specialist & Publisher Agent** | *SNAP Collective* | Copenhagen, Germany

- Served as search lead for African Diasporic fine art photographers
- Provided selected clients with guidance and support to develop, design, and pitch their manuscript to fine art publishing agency

**Lead Curator & Gallery Manager** | *Mehari Sequar Gallery* | Washington, D.C.

- Developed and led gallery's monthly educational arts programming reaching nearly 50 monthly attendees
- Led curatorial vision for exhibitions, including artist search, installation, and deinstallation, averaging 250 attendees per opening.
- Managed gallery operations, overseeing a 10-person team of assistants and undergraduate interns and administering an annual budget of over \$100,000 for internal and external initiatives.
- Designed and directed the undergraduate internship program and partnership with Harvard Alumni for Black Advancement.
- Served as editor for all exhibition literature, ensuring alignment with curatorial themes and audience engagement goals.
- Developed and facilitated monthly educational arts programming, reaching over 100 participants.

**Graduate Student Consultant** | *Picture That Consultants, LLC*

- Served as lead graduate consultant on a national digitization project partnering with HBCU galleries, museums, and archives
- Lead research during the early developmental phase of project and organized search committee for prospective institutions
- Assisted with administrative tasks such as organizing meetings with stakeholders, facilitating informational sessions, and editing agreements between the company and prospective partnering institutions

# Khaleelah I. L. Harris, MA

Nonprofit Cultural Programming | Arts Administration | Humanities Education | Social Entrepreneurship

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## ART EXHIBITIONS

- "*She Speaks: Black Women Artists and the Power of Historical Memory*," **Group** | Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, Annapolis, MD (2026)
- "The Women Could Fly," *Scout Art Fair*, Baltimore, MD (2025)
- "*Janie Flying Around*," **Solo** | *I&IA at Hillyer*, Washington, D.C. (2025)
- "*Resplendent*," **Group Curated by Teri Henderson** | *Mehari Sequar Gallery*, Washington, D.C. (2022)

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## INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

- LCAR Professional Artist in Residence Program**, Wesley Theological Seminary
- Folklore & Collage Virtual Artist Residency**, Kasini House/Kolaj Institute
- W. E. B. Du Bois Fellow**, W. E. B. Du Bois Center, *UMass Amherst* (Focus: The articulated spirituality of W. E. B. Du Bois' poems, short stories, fables, and unpublished works)
- Object Bibliographer**, Yale Center for British Art

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## CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

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| "Representative," a selection of works by Carl Van Vechten, <b>Lead Curator</b>                                      | <i>Sidwell Friends School</i>                   |
| "Flying Around," a solo exhibition by Arielle Gray, <b>Lead Curator</b>  | <i>Eaton Hotel</i>                              |
| "Infinity & Beyond," a solo exhibition by Jada Imani M.  | <i>Arena Social</i>                             |
| "Cusp," a solo exhibition by Gherdai Hassell, <b>Curator</b>   | <i>Mehari Sequar Gallery</i>                    |
| " <i>More True Than Fact</i> " retrospective body of work by Djibril Drame, <b>Curator</b>                           | <i>Mehari Sequar Gallery</i>                    |
| " <i>Overgrown</i> ," solo exhibition by Shara Mays, <b>Curator</b>  | <i>Mehari Sequar Gallery</i>                    |
| " <i>An Aesthetic of Blackness,: The Sacred and The Profound</i> ," solo exhibition by Jamilla Okubo, <b>Curator</b> | <i>Mehari Sequar Gallery</i>                    |
| " <i>Space Between</i> ," solo exhibition by Redeat Assefa, <b>Curator</b>   | <i>Mehari Sequar Gallery</i>                    |
| " <i>Allegories, Renditions, and A Small Nation of Women</i> ," <b>Lead Curator</b> , 2021                           | <i>Yale University's Sarah G. Smith Gallery</i> |

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## PUBLICATIONS

- "Of The Meaning of Progress," **Contributor** | The Christian Recorder
- "Cusp," solo exhibition by Gherdai Hassell, **Editor** | Mehari Sequar Gallery
- "*More True Than Fact*" solo exhibition by Djibril Drame, **Editor** | Mehari Sequar Gallery
- "*Overgrown*" catalog, solo exhibition by Shara May, **Editor** | Mehari Sequar Gallery
- "*Palace of Power* ", solo exhibition by Werllayne Nunes, **Editor** | Mehari Sequar Gallery
- "*An Aesthetic of Blackness,: The Sacred and The Profound*," catalog, solo exhibition by Jamilla Okubo, **Editor** | Mehari Sequar Gallery
- "*The Black Collagists Book: A Survey of Fifty Black Contemporary Collage Artists* : The Doug + Laurie Kanyer Art Collection," **Featured** | Black Collagists Arts Incubator
- "*Allegories, Renditions, and A Small Nation of Women*" at the Yale Divinity School, Curated by Khaleelah I. L. Harris and Teri Henderson at Yale University's Divinity School," **Featured** | *Kolaj Magazine*, Issue #34
- <http://kolajmagazine.com/content/content/articles/a-small-nation-of-women/>

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## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- "The Art of the Black Quill: Reflections on the Legacy of Justice Making and Freedom Fighting in African American Literary Arts," *The Monumental Women for The Arts Chapter of The Society, Inc. at Smithsonian American Art Museum*, March | **Lecturer**
- "Philadelphia and the Black Intellectual Tradition," *African American Intellectual History Society at American Historical Association 136th Annual Meeting*, January | **Presenter**
- "African American Activism, Enfranchisement, and Empowerment in 20th Century DC," *DC History Center and DC Public Library*, April | **Moderator**
- "Allegories, Renditions, and a Small Nation of Women: Speculative Fiction, Early African American Photography, and the Articulated Spirituality in African American Women's Cultural History," *Yale Divinity School*, October | **Presenter**
- "History In The Making": A Reflection on the Conceptual Framework of 'Allegories, Renditions, and a Small Nation of Women' and its Archival Foundation," *Kasini House*, October | **Presenter**

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“The Crucified Christ and the Black Literary Imagination: Alternative Expressions and the Relationship between W. E. B. Du Bois’ Articulated Literary Theological Imagination and James Cone’s Liberation Theology,” *Northwestern University*, November |

**Presenter**

“The Edification of the Black Church: A Call to Action for Black Clergy of the Millennial Generation,” *University of KwaZulu Natal*, Durban, South Africa, August | **Presenter**

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## AWARDS/HONORS

Salon 7 Black Bourbon Society Legacy Awards | **2024 Arts and Culture Legacy Award**

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Board Member**, Daniel Alexander Payne Community Development Corporation | Washington, D.C.

**Girl Scout Troop Leader**, Girl Scouts of America | Washington, D.C.

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## SKILLS/INTERESTS

**Skills:** Archival Research, Arts Education, Budget Management, Event Planning, Project Management, Fundraising & Donor Relations, Grant Writing, Nonprofit Leadership, Program Design, Public Speaking, Publication Editing, Strategic Partnerships, Team Management

**Interests:** African American Religious Thought, Black Intellectual History, 19th & 20th Century African American Clubwomen’s Movement, Community Arts, Religious Aesthetics, Literary Art, Cultural Preservation, Visual and Physical Storytelling, Youth Development