

Khaleelah I. L. Harris, MA

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

Washington, D.C. | 202.286.3777 | Khaleelah.i.l.harris@gmail.com | www.khaleelahharris.com

EDUCATION

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

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 curator for multiple 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

Social Impact Coordinator | Revival Lounge

- Program development and management for undergraduate internship program (Johns Hopkins University, Bowie State University, and Howard University)
- Leads partnership cultivation with local charitable non-profit organizations
- Serves as community programming coordinator for community engagement initiatives regarding public health

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.

ART EXHIBITIONS

"Janie Flying Around," **Solo Exhibition** | *I&IA at Hillyer* (2025)

"Resplendent," **Group Exhibition** | *Mehari Sequar Gallery* (2022)

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

W. E. B. Du Bois Fellowship, 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)

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CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

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

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/>

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**

"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**

AWARDS/HONORS

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

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