

Khaleelah I. L. Harris, MA

Humanities Education & Programming | Social Entrepreneur

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

EDUCATION

Howard University, Master of History (Public History)

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 & Chief Visionary Officer | *Tabon Path LLC* | Washington, D.C.

- Strengthens the capacity of Black faith-based institutions to meet the economic, ecological, and social needs of their communities.
- 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

Founder | *Imanie Leslie Gallery* | 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., SNCC Legacy Project, Arena Social

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.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

"Representative," a selection of works by Carl Van Vechten, **Lead Curator**
Friends School

Sidwell

"Flying Around," a solo exhibition by Arielle Gray, **Lead Curator**

Eaton Hotel

"Infinity & Beyond," a solo exhibition by Jada Imani M.

Arena Social

"Cusp," a solo exhibition by Gherdai Hassell, **Curator**

Mehari Sequar Gallery

Khaleelah I. L. Harris, MA

“*More True Than Fact*” retrospective body of work by Djibril Drame, **Curator**
Gallery

Mehari Sequar

“*Overgrown*,” solo exhibition by Shara Mays, **Curator**

Mehari Sequar Gallery

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“*An Aesthetic of Blackness, The Sacred and The Profound*,” solo exhibition by Jamilla Okubo, **Curator**

Mehari Sequar Gallery

“*Space Between*,” solo exhibition by Redeat Assefa, **Curator**

Mehari Sequar Gallery

“*Allegories, Renditions, and A Small Nation of Women*,” **Lead Curator**, 2021

Yale University's Sarah G. Smith Gallery

PUBLICATIONS

“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.

SKILLS/INTERESTS

Skills: Archival Research, Arts Education, Budget Management, Event Planning, 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