



## Allita Irby, Artist Biography

Allita Irby grew up in Oklahoma where her father was career Army.

She studied Sociology, Art History and Drawing at Cameron State University (OK). At Bowie State University (MD), Allita earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with heavy concentration in Anthropology. There she furthered her knowledge of indigenous folkways and arts. Allita went on to get a Masters of Administrative Science from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (MD) and a certificate in Organization Development from Georgetown University (DC).

During her 20+ year career in telecommunications, Allita participated in the development of the Native American People of Verizon (NAPV) employee resource group. She served as National Secretary and Local Chapter Vice President during her involvement with the NAPV association. Allita was also a member of African American Telecommunication Managers (AATM) and the Consortium of Information and Telecommunication Executives (CITE). She retired in 2003. Allita worked for Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC Arts and Cultural Heritage Division and Public Affairs Division) from 2007-2017.

Since 2005, Allita's 2D and 3D visual art work has been juried into multiple shows in the Washington Metropolitan Area. She has been a judge in Prince George's County art exhibitions. Allita has curated and coordinated exhibitions in collaboration with the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and for Artomatic, Inc. in Washington, DC. Allita has also been invited to hold art workshops in Maryland and Virginia. In 2009, Allita was appointed to the Art in Public Places Panel in Prince George's County, MD where she served for two years.

Allita is the coauthor of the novel, *Fourth Sunday, the Journey of a Book Club*, published in 2011 with Simon & Schuster under the pen name B. W. Read. She also writes poetry and short stories.

Professional memberships and volunteer services include:

Current Memberships:

Black Artists of DC (BADDC);

Lake of the Woods Arts (LOWArts) Club;

Past member:

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance (HCAA)

Prince George's Artists Association (PGAA)

Current Writing-related Memberships:

Riverside Writers, a chapter of Virginia Writers Club;

Lake Authors Club of Lake of the Woods;

Pen-to-Paper Writers.

Part member:

Past CoChair of the Cultural Awareness Circle of Locust Grove, VA;

Past Board Member of The Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation in Washington, D. C.

([www.hurstonwright.org](http://www.hurstonwright.org)).

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