

Tieshka K. Smith, MPM

Visual Storyteller | Writer and Author | Speaker | Arts Consultant & Project Manager | Artist Matchmaker

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PROFESSIONAL ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

TKenzi Enterprises, LLC; Philadelphia, PA

2010 - Present

I maintain an active artistic practice exploring questions of American identity through the lenses of race, class and neighborhood change. Below is a selected list of group and solo exhibitions, commissions and projects. A list of photo credits can be made available upon request.

Networks for Training and Development, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

- **February 2024 - present:** Networks incubated a new non-profit organization, Artists for Artists Global (A4AG). As a consultant to this project, I connected the founders with Philadelphia artists and arts organizations; collaborated with artist Kathryn Pannepacker to co-create a peer-to-peer networking/support model to undergird A4AG's virtual monthly gathering of artists; and advised staff members on social media and fundraising best practices.
- **January - June 2023:** Awarded a commission to organize a series of community listening sessions (with Networks staff members Michelle Sparling and Joe Murphy), a pilot adult ESL class (with Melanie Menkevich) and a one-day community weaving event (featuring Kathryn Pannepacker), all at Gifford Playground in northeast Philadelphia.
- **May - December 2022:** Awarded a commission to co-create the Stand With Ukraine Listening Loom project, with textile/mural/community artist Kathryn Pannepacker, who is the founder of the original Listening Loom concept. Served as project manager and photo-documentarian.
- **May - June 2022:** Photographer, Philly Love project and social media campaign
- **August 2020 - February 2021:** Guest curator/producer, two-part virtual artist spotlight event featuring visual artists Betty Leacraft, Dindga McCannon and Dr. Beth Mount.

Prison Education Program, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA

May 2022 - March 2023

Artist in residence/teaching assistant supporting course entitled "Creativity and the Arts Exposed" (FAPA132), taught at the State Correctional Institution in Chester (PA). Organized an exhibit of student work from that class that was entitled "Celebrating Higher Education Behind Bars." Exhibit traveled to the Philadelphia Ethical Society (January 22 - 27, 2023) and also went on view at Eastern University's Warner Memorial Library (January 28 - February 4, 2023). Co-created a series of public programs featuring a film screening, the poetry of international artist Ursula Rucker, and spoken word event featuring local poets reciting the work of incarcerated students.

Historic Germantown, Philadelphia PA

June 2022 - Present

Co-curator and featured artist, "Documenting Juneteenth in Germantown" photography and mixed media exhibit. Opened September 23, 2023 at the Germantown Historical Society. In addition to ephemera, the exhibit features a selection of nearly 80 photographs over 7 years of serving as official event photographer for the Philadelphia Juneteenth Festival, an annual event organized by the Johnson House Historic Site in Germantown.

Trash Academy, Mural Arts Philadelphia

Spring 2019

Photographer, #BYOBAGPHL/Reusable Bag billboard and social media campaign.

African American Museum in Philadelphia

Summer 2018

Featured artist, "Collective Conscious: The Art of Social Change," group exhibition on art and activism.

Evansville-Vanderburgh (Indiana) Public Library

Awarded a commission to create a photo essay entitled "We Still Here/What's Good In My Hood" **Spring 2018**
Awarded a commission to create a photo essay entitled "Making Way for Change" **Winter 2017**

Philadelphia Museum of Art**2016-2017**

“Philadelphia Assembled.” Featured artist, 2017 group exhibition initiated by internationally renowned artist and curator Jeanne van Heeswijk. In 2016, the project commissioned the creation of a photo essay about the Lower Kensington neighborhood entitled “Boundaries.Battlegrounds.Blessings” and a podcast series entitled “Taking My Stake Out Of The Ground” (<https://soundcloud.com/phlassembled>)

Every Zip Philadelphia, WHYY/Finding America**Fall 2016**

Awarded a commission to create a photo set and accompanying essay entitled “Beyond Faith” about the work that Faith Chapel in East Germantown, 19144 is doing to combat hunger and food insecurity.

Racism is A Sickness, Philadelphia PA**2015-2016**

Crowd-funded a photography and mixed-media art installation and community engagement project that critiqued police brutality and the financial impact that it has on cities and its citizens. The project traveled to three venues: The Art Church of West Philadelphia (Winter 2016); the Community College of Philadelphia, (Spring 2016); and the Ethical Society of Philadelphia (Summer 2016).

African American Museum in Philadelphia**November 2015**

Featured artist in “Outcry!” a pop-up group exhibition that was part of the First Person Arts Festival.

Oak Park (Illinois) Public Library & Oak Park Village Hall**January - February 2015**

“This Is My Home: Photographs from 2011-2014,” Invited artist-in-residence, and featured artist, crowd-funded solo exhibition of selected photographs of the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia School Closings Photo Collective**2013 - 2014**

Contributor to a group organized by Philadelphia photographer Zoe Strauss to document the last days of 24 Philadelphia public schools slated for permanent closure at the end of the 2013 academic year. A group exhibit of selected photographs traveled to two venues in Philadelphia: Scribe Video Center in 2013 and the UPenn Graduate Center in 2014. *Photographs by selected members from the Collective were accepted into the Temple University Library’s Urban Archives.*

iMPeRFECT Gallery, Philadelphia, PA**Summer 2013**

“The Other Germantown,” Invited artist in residence and featured artist, solo exhibition of selected photographs of the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

Next City, Philadelphia PA**2012-2013**

“Portraits of Brewerytown.” 2013: Invited artist in residence and featured artist, solo exhibition of commissioned photographs that documented change taking place in the near north Philadelphia neighborhood of Brewerytown.

AWARDS AND GRANTS**#ARTisPHL (formerly Art is Essential) Round 1 grant recipient****July 2022**

With Kathryn Pannepacker, for the Stand With Ukraine Listening Loom project

Philadelphia Assembly grantee**March 2022****Art Is Essential, Round 1 grant recipient****March 2021**

Photo essay: “Reimagining Black Family Reunions in the Age of Covid-19”

Fund for Germantown microgrant recipient**October 2015**

Peaceful Places public signage project in Central Germantown (Philadelphia PA)

PhillyStake, runner-Up and recipient of microgrant for #RacismIsASickness**January 2015**

Winner, Small Stake II microgrant, Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA

May 2012

“Images of Jersey City (NJ),” Project Greenville, Jersey City, NJ

May 2011

Photograph of Audubon Park, Honorable Mention, Neighborhood Parks category

ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

With Kathryn Pannepacker and Rosa McAllister, “Stand With Ukraine Listening Loom,” *Restorative Practices In Education Through Art*, Davis Publications **March 2025**

Compositions of Black Joy:

A Visual Chronicle of the Philadelphia Juneteenth Festival (2015-2022)

Released in hardcover, Feb 2025

“22nd Peoplehood Parade returns to West Philly with art, music, and Gritty costumes”

Billy Penn

October 26, 2022

“Runaway Bride: Painted Bride Art Center will lose its place in Philadelphia”

Broad Street Review

December 12, 2017

“Penn Museum’s Building Transformation: When They Build It, Will You Come?”

Broad Street Review

November 14, 2017

Philadelphia School Closings Photo Collective Statement

2014

Lead Author: Amy Bach; Co-Authors: Katie Brinkley, Harvey Finkel, Melissa Holman, Jill Saull, & Tieshka Smith; *Perspectives on Urban Education*, Volume 11 Issue 2; Graduate School of Education, UPenn

Effect of HealthCorps, a High School Peer Mentoring Program, on Youth Diet and Physical Activity

2011

Lead Author: John Cawley, PhD; Co-Authors: Linda Cisek-Gillman, MS, Rob Roberts, MA, Carolyn Cocotas, MPA, Tieshka Smith-Cook, MPM, Michelle Bouchard, BA, & Mehmet Oz, MD | *Childhood Obesity*, Volume 7, Number 5

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Project Officer, Affinity Health Plan, Bronx NY

2007-2010

Administered the life cycle of the Making a World of Difference portfolio of nearly \$1M in community-based evaluation projects that tested the effectiveness of anti-obesity, asthma education and text messaging reminder interventions.

Grant Writer/Administrator, Provident Counseling, Inc., St. Louis, MO

2002-2007

Administered the life cycle of over \$1,000,000 of foundation grants and government fee-for-service contracts annually, from application to closeout, for new and existing agency programs and services.

Team Sweep Program Site Manager, Operation SafeStreet, St. Louis, MO

2000-2001

Site manager for an innovative community youth development program serving 300 at-risk St. Louis City youth matched with trained adult mentors who were resourced by the program to provide community service opportunities and incentives to empower youth to become positive change agents in their neighborhoods. Secured over \$25,000 for general operations and program support.

Program Delivery Staff, CAEL, Chicago, IL

1994-1998

Administered tuition management and learning programs for CAEL’s corporate clients. Promoted from Program Delivery Associate to Program Delivery Coordinator

Curatorial and Program Assistant, The DuSable Museum, Chicago, IL

1993-1994

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Northwestern University Alumni Club of Greater Philadelphia Director-at-large (2020-2021); Director-at-large, nominating committee (2021-2022); Co-president (2022-2023); President (2023-2024)	2020-2024
Member, Class of 1993 Reunion Committee, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	April - October 2023
Networks for Training and Development, Philadelphia PA Member, Community and Organizational Development Advisory Committee	2019-2021
Broad Street Review, Philadelphia PA , Board member	2018 - 2019
Germantown United, CDC, Philadelphia, PA , Board member	2013 – 2014
Germantown Artists Roundtable, Philadelphia, PA Member, Governance Committee & Co-Chair of the Events Committee	2012 – 2015

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Virtual presentation, “Compositions of Black Joy: Kwanzaa Principles in Action” Annual Kwanzaa celebration of the Black Docents Collective	December 26, 2024
Virtual presentation (with Kathryn Pannepacker, Listening Loom Philly), “What Does An Art Project Featuring a Loom and Two Stools Have To Do With Intentional Listening? Lessons Learned From The Stand With Ukraine Listening Loom project.” 44th International Listening Convention, Mainz Germany	July 28, 2023
In-person presentation (with Kathryn Pannepacker, Listening Loom Philly; and Rosa McAllister, Networks for Training and Development, Inc.), “What Does An Art Project Featuring a Loom and Two Stools Have To Do With Intentional Listening? Lessons Learned From The Stand With Ukraine Listening Loom project.” Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Honolulu, HI	March 6, 2023
Virtual Presentation: “Institutional Power and Ambivalence: Threats To, Or Necessary Controls On the Rights of Prisoners to Learn?” A&HF 4192 Ethics and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University	Nov 17, 2022
Virtual presentation, “Revisiting #RacismIsASickness, 5 Years Later, in the Age of COVID-19,” Karabots Junior Fellows Program, College of Physicians of Philadelphia (PA)	August 20, 2020
Featured speaker, “Gentrification and Education Policy in Philadelphia,” Colgate University Sophomore Residential Seminar organized by Professor Mark Stern, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Educational Studies, presentation given in Philadelphia PA	January 13, 2019
Lead Docent, “A Dream Deferred PHL: Redlining Past Present Future,” a project organized by Little Giant Creative, Philadelphia, PA	September - November 2018
“The Power to See is the Power to Be,” Teva Pharmaceuticals Fellows Program, College of Physicians of Philadelphia (PA)	July 2018
Invited panelist, “Blue Note Salon: Art, Jazz & Activism in North Philly.” Moderated by All That Philly Jazz founder and community activist Faye Anderson, Part of the Black Space Agency, a project of the Black Quantum Futurism Collective, Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA	April 21, 2018

Workshop facilitator, “The Pharmacy for Community Healing: Reimagining Health, Wellness and Creative Expression,” Teva Pharmaceuticals Fellows Program, College of Physicians of Philadelphia (PA)	October 2017
“Respect Through the Construction of Personal Identity,” Teva Pharmaceuticals Fellows Program College of Physicians of Philadelphia (PA)	July 20, 2017
“#RacismIsASickness,” Kaplan International School, Philadelphia, PA	July 2017
“The Photographic Journey of a Sista Who Is Tired, But Fights Anyway,” Featured speaker at Women’s History Month event, Widener University, Chester, PA	March 21, 2017
“Mobility and Freedom: My #OUTBOUND Presentation,” <i>Spoke</i> magazine, MOTO Designshop, Philadelphia PA	November 5, 2016
“#RacismIsASickness: The First Year,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Temple University (Center City Campus), Philadelphia, PA	October 14, 2016
Co-Presenter (with Kimberly Bonner), “#RacismIsASickness,” Literary & Arts Conference Black Arts Festival, Philadelphia PA	May 21, 2016
Co-Presenter (with Cynthia Sturgis Landrum), “Hashtags & Hierarchies: Leading Social Media Activism to Sustained Social Change,” Women’s Leadership Conference, Community College of Philadelphia (PA)	March 29, 2016
“Ready, Set, Go Shoot: A Photography Boot Camp,” for the Culture Keepers program of Historic Germantown, Philadelphia, PA	March 2016
Featured Speaker, Arcadia University	February 8, 2016
“Refreshing Your Grant Writing Skills,” Oak Park (IL) Arts Roundtable, Oak Park, IL	February 27, 2015
Co-Presenter (with Cynthia Sturgis Landrum), “The Final Funding Frontier: Enterprising Libraries and Enterprising Librarians,” Southwest Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association	May 17, 2013

EDUCATION

Master of Project Management, Keller Graduate School of Management, DeVry University, St. Louis, MO
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS

- Trauma-Informed Practice for Teaching Artists (cohort #13), Bartol Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
- Community Development Academy, University of Missouri Extension
- Advanced Grant Writing Skills (Program Code 7871-2005), University of Missouri, St. Louis MO
- Effective Federal Grant Proposals (Program Code 6953-2002), University of Missouri, St. Louis MO
- Grant Writing Clinic, University of Missouri, St. Louis MO
- The Grantsmanship Training Program, The Grantsmanship Center, St. Louis, MO