

MAYA CUNNINGHAM, DIRECTOR



Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL SYNOPSIS

Fulbright scholar, ethnomusicologist and educator with fifteen years of experience. Respected for creative and innovative program development and management. Highly motivated and capable decision maker with ability to coordinate and drive programs and projects from inception to implementation. Noted jazz vocalist.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland College Park
MA and PhD. Ethnomusicology (2020)

Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, CUNY, New York
MA Jazz Studies (2008)

Howard University, Washington DC
B. Mus. Jazz Studies (2001) *Cum Laude*

CERTIFICATIONS

Washington DC Teacher Certification
Music K – 12 (2015)

New York State Teacher Certification (Professional Certificate)
Music K-12 (2008)

National Geographic Certified Educator (2016)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ethnomusicologist in Residence. Black in the World New York, New York (2016)
Responsible for research in ethnomusicology related to music throughout the African Diaspora. Responsible for curating online exhibits. Responsible for curating performance groups to work in partnership with the organization.

Program Director. *Drinking Gourd Festival* Washington DC (2015)
Conceived of and coordinated dynamic public program of African – American history and culture in collaboration with District of Columbia Public Libraries and District of Columbia Public Schools. Facilitated workshops, coordinated teaching artist residency and organized an art exhibition and performance that celebrated antebellum legacies of Black history and culture.

Curriculum Developer and Music Educator. District of Columbia Public Schools
Washington DC (2014 – 2016)

Responsible for music instruction and curriculum development for almost four hundred students from pre-kindergarten to fifth grades. Implemented hands – on music curricula that emphasize vocal music, global education and cultural studies. Wrote units of study and lessons incorporate music reading, music history, instrument making, performance and other projects. Developed curricula including *Songs of the Silk Road; Gullah Voices and Black History through Music for Young Learners*. Team member of Cornerstone Curriculum in elementary school music.

Director. Little Lights Arts New York (2006 to 2016)

Responsible for managing in-school arts residencies, teaching artist residencies, recruiting teaching artists, designing the programs, implementing assessments and coordinating logistics for the program. Managed the Little Lights Arts Workshop that served over one hundred and fifty children with multi-modal music and arts instruction. Designed the curriculum, planned participant recruitment drives with public schools and managed the logistics for final performances. Produced two professional recording sessions. Coordinating first annual the Drinking Gourd Festival in Washington DC in partnership with DC Public Library. Program Director of the Little Lights Arts Academy at JC Nalle Elementary that serves almost fifty students with after school arts programs.

Program Director. Roberta Flack School of Music New York (2007 - 2008)

Responsible for music instruction, grant proposal writing, managing performances and overseeing day to day program operations. Supervised staff of teaching artists and implemented a rigorous evaluation process. Coordinated student performance tours. Profiled in the New York City Daily News and the Vicksburg Post.

Creative Arts Director. Salvation Army, NY (2005 - 2006)

Facilitated a community music program for children at Salvation Army Community Center in Queens. Responsible for grant proposal writing and research. Responsible for co-facilitating After School program for thirty children, from kindergarten to eighth grade. Awarded New York City Council Citation Award for outstanding work in arts administration and music education.

Skills

Non - Profit Organizational Management and Development: grant writing, operations oversight, supervisory experience, reporting and program evaluation

Graphic Design: Ability to design brochures, power point presentations, catalogs and other promotional publications using the Adobe design suite and Microsoft Publisher.

Computer Competencies: Macintosh and Windows capable in: Microsoft Word; Microsoft Excel; Microsoft Publisher; Microsoft PowerPoint; Microsoft Access; Microsoft Outlook; Adobe Acrobat Professional; Adobe Photoshop; Finale music notation software

Awards and Honors

April 2016: Fulbright Award, US Department of State

Awarded prestigious Fulbright Fellowship to travel to Botswana in Southern Africa. The fellowship involves researching traditional Botswanan music, teacher training and writing an elementary music curriculum about traditional Botswanan music for underserved students in kindergarten through fifth grades.

April 2016: Fund for Teachers Fellowship Award

Awarded competitive Fund for Teachers Fellowship to travel to Ghana, West Africa to learn how to teach elementary music students Ghanaian music using Orff instruments. The

fellowship also includes documenting landmark destinations and writing an elementary music curriculum that teaches students about Ghanaian music and culture.

October 2015: Teachers for Global Classrooms Fellowship, IREX, US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Received fellowship to participate in intensive global education program that includes travel abroad to India, a Global Education Symposium in Washington DC and a graduate level Global Education Course.

April 2015: National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar

Received fellowship to participate in Gullah Voices: Traditions and Transformation, a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmark Workshop

October 2014: ArtsNow Grant Recipient, DC Public Education Fund

Received grant funding as to allow students to perform and create murals for a special project called *The Drinking Gourd Festival* about the music of the Underground Railroad.

November 2014: Awarded Arts Alive Grant from Arts Westchester

Received a grant award to performed lead vocals, wrote musical arrangements and created visual art for The Grandmother Project, a multi-media jazz vocal tribute concert.

June 2013 & December 2007. Dare to Dream Grant Award

Received funding to facilitate hands - on music and art workshop for children in the Harlem community of New York City.

November 2006. Arise and Walk Ministries Foundation, Inner City Award

Received an award and grant for work with the innovative Little Lights Children's Arts Workshop for at-risk children living in the Harlem community.

December 2005. New York City Council Citation Award

Received award for outstanding work in 2005 for excellence in arts administration and music education to children at a Salvation Army Community Center Astoria, New York.

Professional Memberships

Society of Ethnomusicology (2014)

Sections - African Music; Latin American and Caribbean Music; Educational Ethnomusicology; Applied Ethnomusicology