

LAUREN JACKSON HARRIS

CONTACT

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summary

Lauren Jackson Harris is a senior-level arts professional and independent curator from Atlanta, GA. With an MA in Creative Business Leadership from SCAD, she uses her innovative strategies and progressive ideas to help ignite the arts community and create new avenues for artists and creatives. Continuing to navigate in the industry as a multi-faceted arts worker, and curator, Lauren offers excellence and knowledge to a variety of platforms and programs for artists and art spaces in Atlanta and beyond.

academic history

Savannah College of Art and Design

M.A. CREATIVE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
Graduate Internship, Museum of Contemporary Art of GA

Howard University

B.F.A. GRAPHIC DESIGN/ART HISTORY
Cum Laude, Dean's List Scholar, Yearbook Art Director

work experience

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

THE BLACK EMBODIMENTS STUDIO (BES) | SEPTEMBER 2023 - PRESENT

Responsible for the development, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of programs that are dedicated to building discourse around contemporary black art.

- Lead the planning, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of all programs and program deliverables.
- Develop and distribute digital communications regarding the organization's programs and deliverables to the organization's public and stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the Executive Director to identify strategic partnerships and opportunities that will enhance BES mission and programs.
- Develop and implement procedures for tracking the quantitative and qualitative success of programming initiatives.

DIRECTOR OF ART SALES

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN | JUNE 2022 - JUNE 2023

Amplifying the artistic talents of SCAD students, staff, faculty and alumni through the sale and placement of their art works in various spaces across the globe while building SCAD Art Sales as a competitive art source.

- Cultivate and manage clientele to encourage sales and artistic opportunities for SCAD artists
- Curate art activations and experiences within corporate, private and individual spaces
- Facilitate educational and informational conversations with SCAD students to inform their practice and approach to art sales and business relations
- Artist relations and inventory management through interpersonal relations and various platforms to create clarity and provide a quality experience for all parties
- Conduct tours and presentations to encourage sales and amplify the large network of talent from SCAD students, faculty and alumni

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

SPELMAN COLLEGE, ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ART HISTORY + CURATORIAL STUDIES COLLECTIVE | OCT 2019 - MAY 2021

Created the logo and the brand style guide for a cohesive look and played a key role in building relationships within the Atlanta community.

- Create and manage communication materials related to programs and events, including the newsletter, website, and external documents to target audiences.
- Support the academic functions with the Director, Manager and faculty
- Manage relationships with AUC institutions and local partners through integrated marketing strategies
- Coordinate student recruitment and marketing the program to the College, the AUC, Atlanta-area high schools, colleges and universities and nationwide.
- Work with key stakeholders within each institution to ensure cross-campus promotion and connection

GALLERY MANAGER + CURATOR

ZUCOT GALLERY | OCT 2017 - AUGUST 2019

Contributed to approximately a 250% increase in website traffic, 2,500+ followers on Instagram, and closed over \$85,000 in art and event sales.

- Developed, curated and coordinated exhibitions
- Produced and promoted community-based programs for tours, curatorial talks, and events supporting the gallery's mission
- Managed key partnerships and cultivated new relationships to create outside sales leads and maximize outreach
- Created social media promotions and digital marketing campaigns to reach the desired audience and increase visibility while managing the brand
- Management of art inventory, monthly sales reports and client relations
- Wrote and distributed press releases and all internal and external materials for the promotion of exhibitions and programs

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ANALYST, MARKETING

WAFFLE HOUSE INC | JUNE 2015 - MAY 2017

Successfully marketing and introduced over six new menu products, four limited items and enhance two major menu items.

- Integrated test products into restaurants and managed outcomes using various consumer insight tactics
- Led a team of stakeholders including external vendors, purchasing and operations management to develop new menu items.
- Created test parameters and analysis for success from a customer, operator, brand and financial perspective.
- Developed nationwide rollout plans including training materials, marketing collateral and internal communications.

BUSINESS MANAGER

WAFFLE HOUSE INC | MAY 2014 - JUNE 2015

- Increased efficiency and productivity for the Catering and Sales team by implementing several practices and processes, such as manuals, new hire training standards and customer accessibility
- Designed website, logo, catering menu, collateral and marketing materials
- Cultivated new business relationships, increasing corporate and small business clientele and managed a customer database of over 750 customers.

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER ATLANTA AUGUST 2012 - APRIL 2013

- Provided key support to various grant programs and managed department teams in the grant review process and organized site visits for staff and partners
- Assisted Senior Program Officer in managing the Nonprofit Effectiveness grant program, which includes both the Nonprofit Toolbox and Nonprofit Scholarships

GRANTS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ATL

JUN 2013 - DEC 2013

- Assisted Grants Development Officer in implementing strategic development and planning for programming
- Developed key sponsorship and partnership relationships, including, but not limited to, media and funding partners
- Assisted with logistics, marketing and management of vendor relationships for the Atlanta Jazz Festival

skillsets

Innovative program development | Creative direction and marketing strategies | Cultivating and managing stakeholder relationships | Proficient in graphic design | Market research and analysis | Audience engagement and community outreach | Executive-level arts administration | Art-based research and projects

Proficiency in: Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator, Mailchimp, SurveyMonkey, Microsoft Office 365, social media platforms, event and marketing applications, publishing software, and front-end web development

relevant roles and affiliations

- Co-Founder/Partner, Black Women in Visual Art, 2019
- Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. BeltLine Public Art Advisory Council, (BPAAC) Member, Co-Chair, 2019-2023
- Tessera Arts Collective, Board of Directors, Secretary, 2019-2021
- High Museum of Art Atlanta, Member, 2013-2021
- Americans for the Arts, Member, 2016-2021
- African American Association of Museums, 2020-2021
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity

professional experience

ADVISOR

Panelist, Swan Coach House Edge Award, December -February 2024
 Grant Reviewer, Verdant Fund/Alabama Contemporary Art Center, Aug - Nov 2023
 Juror, 701 Center for Contemporary Art Biennial, South Carolina, August 2023
 Juror, South Arts Southern Prize Preview Jury, February 2023
 Mentor, Artist/Mother Crit Group, March-May 2022
 Mentor, Powerhaus Creative Artist Residency, May - September 2021
 Curatorial Juror, Mint Gallery, 2020 - 2021
 Juror, Art on the Beltline Exhibition, 2019 - 2020
 Juror, National Arts Program, Hartsfield-Jackson ATL Airport Employee Art Show, 2019
 Juror, "Inspiration," a group show at Douglasville Cultural Arts Center Jan 2019
 Member, Public Arts Advisory Council for Fort McPherson, LRA Development, 2018-2019

CONSULTANT

Coordinator and Curator, art installation for Atlanta City Studio, August - September 2023
 Manager, Guardian Studios, June 2021 - June 2022
 Moderator, Artist Talk with James Williams solo exhibition, "If not up, then what?", Jennifer Balcos Gallery, November 2021
 Founder, The Convening, Women in Art Summit, June 6- 10, 2021
 Moderator, Artist Talk with Jamaal Barber, solo exhibition "Fullness", MINT Gallery, May 2021
 Coordinator, Pop-up Art Exhibition for Peachtree Street Bike Festival, *Peachtree Street Re-Imaged*, January - April 2019
 Programming and Event Management, *If I Told You...*, January - March 2019
 Manager, *Civil Right x Tech: A Convening with Color of Change + Facebook*, art activation, Sept 24, 2019

CURATOR

Still Life, a solo exhibition with Jurell Cayetano, Swan Coach House Gallery, July 2023 September 2023
Of the Fantastic: Extraordinary ATL, group exhibition, A&E Atlanta, Orange Barrel Media, June 1 -July 31, 2022
 Atlanta Contemporary Winter Exhibition Project Spaces (4 spaces/5 artists), January - May 2022
Sweet Discord, group exhibition, Mint Gallery, July - September 2021
Hope|Revolution, a group exhibition, Stay Home Gallery, October 2020
Collision, Wiláy Méndez Páez, solo exhibition, Day & Night Projects, Aug 2020 - Sept 2020
The Artful Journey, group exhibition, The Artful Journey Project, Nov 2019
If I Told You..., a group exhibition and program, The Beacon Art Gallery Jan - Mar 2019
Peachtree Street Reimagined: Peachtree St. Through the Eyes of Urban Designers, Artists, and Photographers, Atlanta City Studio, a group exhibition, Jan - April 2019
 ZuCot Gallery, Atlanta GA, all exhibitions from 2017-2019

SPEAKER

Black Creators in Art Spaces (Virtual Panel), The Met Museum, February 2023
 Being an Artist, Means Being a Business, ARTicualte ATL, Sunday School for Artists, May 2022
 The Life of Arts Worker, Westlake High School AP Art History, February 2022
Managing Art Spaces in Atlanta, ADAMA Art Salon Series, November 2021
Business of Mural Arts Workshop, Living Walls Atlanta, September 2021
 Women in Art, A Talk on Leadership + Connectivity, ArtTable, May 2021
Expanding the Legacy of Mildred Thompson, Galerie Lelong, March 2021
Advocacy & Activism in the Arts, Atlanta Contemporary, January 2021
Fullness, Artist Talk, Jamaal Barber, Mint Gallery, May 2021
Lion, Tigers, Bears and A Draco, Artist Talk, a solo exhibition by Horace Imhotep, Wish Gallery, September 2020
In The ComfiZone: Art & Politics Legal Resources, ComfiArt Inc., May 2020

WRITER

"Droit de suite: Artist's Resale Rights", December 6, 2019, bettershared.co/blogs/news/droit-de-suite.
 "Mirror, Mirror: A look into History and Humanity by Barthélémy Togo's, Urban Requiem exhibition at SCAD Museum of Art", June 2022, Sugarcane Magazine.