

WILLOW NAOMI CURRY

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Author, journalist, and cultural organizer with seven years' experience advocating just, democratic, sustainable change and galvanizing community through storytelling and the arts.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Author & Freelance Journalist

2015 – Present

Houston, Texas

Writer of literary works and journalism for several publications covering a broad array of social issues. I currently contribute monthly issue-focused arts and culture journalism and criticism for *Southwest Contemporary* magazine, and my debut novel *Arcadia*, an environmental justice narrative, will be released in Spring 2023 by YA publisher Levine Querido.

Board Member, National Book Critics Circle

December 2021 – Present

Remote—New York City, NY

In this elected position, I work alongside other board members to manage the inner operations and outward-facing prize selection for the National Book Critics Circle. I am the Vice President of Grants and Fundraising, identifying grant, foundation, and donor support opportunities. I also serve on the reading committee for Criticism and Essays.

Business Development Consultant, RedShift Writers

February – November 2020

Houston, Texas

Brought on to lead the creation of RedShift's new service offerings in authorship coaching and grant/RFP writing. I guided the company's founder and creative director in writing their first client's book proposal and created a grant research process guide and coding system for matching clients with best-fitting grants.

Communications Intern, Writers in the Schools Houston

April – August 2017

Houston, Texas

Under the supervision of the Communications Manager, I created and curated content for WITS' web presence. For social media, this included creating scheduled posts, live tweets/streams, and post-event summaries across all major platforms; for the website, I wrote blog posts, performed website copyediting, and participated in a user experience audit.

KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Expert competency in narrative and message building
- Expert competency in grant/foundation prospect research and accompanying databases
- Fluent in Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and Facebook/Instagram business tools
- Fluent in use of Adobe Photoshop and Canva for branded design & content creation
- Proficient in website and social media content creation & management

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Cultural Organizer

2019 – Present

Houston, Texas

I lead multidisciplinary, community-engaged arts projects that support activist organizing in Houston's historically Black neighborhoods. Projects include *Letters & Lives* (2019), a place-based community writing workshop, and *The Fourth Ward Photo Parlour* (2019-2021), a photography exhibition and community zine.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Cultural Disruptor Award, The Center for Cultural Power (2021)

Literary Fellow, Houston Museum of African American Culture (2021)

Interdisciplinary Artist-in-Residence, Oak Spring Garden Foundation (2021)

Emerging Writer Fellow, Writers in the Schools Houston (2020)

Grant Recipient, Project Grant for BIPOC Writers, Poets & Writers Inc. (2020)

Grant Recipient & Exhibition Participant, We, Women: A Visual Rebellion (2019)

Project Freeway Fellow, DiverseWorks (2019)

Grant Recipient, City of Houston Support for Artists and Creative Individuals Grant (2018)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.