

NIA CELESTE

443-890-8596
nia.c.parks@gmail.com
Baltimore, MD

COMMUNITY ARTIST + SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Disrupting old structures and discovering new systems of care to foster hope in Baltimore and beyond through the agency of creative entrepreneurship.

EDUCATION

Maryland Institute College of Art

MFA in Community Arts Anticipated May 2026

University of Maryland College Park

BFA in Studio Art May 2021
Minor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Certificate in African American Studies

COMMUNITY ARTS EXPERIENCE

France Merrick Fellowship

No Boundaries Youth Organizers Aug 2025 - Current

- Develops curriculum and builds detailed lesson plans to support youth community organizing and leadership development.
- Coordinates art and team-building activities and youth check-in sessions.
- Assists with administrative tasks such as planning youth field trips and general program support as needed.

Bolton North Senior Living Aug 2024 - Current

- Facilitate and design weekly creative entrepreneurship programming with seniors.
- Support seniors' development of discretionary income through their creativity, skills, and hobbies.

SKILLS

- Creative Project Management
- Curriculum Development + Innovation
- Adobe Creative Suite - Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere Pro + InDesign

AWARDS

MICA Emerging Leader Award 2025
Sadat Art for Peace Award 2021

FELLOWSHIPS

France Merrick Fellowship
ATO Fellowship at Ulman Foundation

COMMUNITY ARTS EXPERIENCE

MICA Missions

Aug 2024 - Current

- Mentor undergraduate students as community site leaders at community organizations.
- Empower creativity, collaboration, community change, and civic impact in MICA Missions office and overall campus.
- Cultivate partnerships between MICA students and local organizations through thoughtful dialogue and curated community events and exhibitions.

Dent Education

Site Supervisor

June 2025 - Aug 2025

- Motivated trust, engagement, and relationship building among youth, fellows, and coaches.
- Supervised coaches and youth in completion of projects and milestones while identifying needed shifts or pivots during logistical and learning barriers.

Recruitment Coordinator

March 2025 - June 2025

- Managed and nurtured relationships with school and community partners through engaging programming presentations and consistent communications for youth recruitment.
- Supported team in recruitment and hiring process of coaches and site supervisors for flagship summer programming.

Co-Coach

June 2023 - August 2023

- Co-facilitate design thinking workshops, hands on activities, and group discussions to support youths' entrepreneurial journey from ideation and prototyping to testing and iteration.
- Prepare engaging action-focused entrepreneurial youth programming with co-coach, site supporter, and full-time Dent staff.

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COMMUNITY ARTS EXPERIENCE

Baltimore Youth Arts

Artist-in-Residence September 2023 - June 2025

- Developed curriculum and facilitate SEL-focused, art-based programming to develop youth's social-emotional learning skills.
- Guided youth collaboration in product development and completion of individual and organizational art-based and/or entrepreneurial projects.
- Lead visuals team members with logistical planning and creation of BYA art markets, quarterly showcases, external and internal special projects.

Community Art Collaborative

AmeriCorp Member Aug 2023 - Aug 2025

- Attend and participate in bi-weekly professional development seminars and workshops to develop as a socially and culturally aware community artist in Baltimore City.
- Develop social-emotional learning-focused art curriculum for a year-long residency at nonprofit organization.

Moving History

Visual Arts Instructor Jun 2022 - Aug 2023

- Create dynamic lesson plans to address and support the students' understanding of African American history and visual art techniques.
- Collaborate with fellow instructors to ensure a cohesive and well-rounded summer programming curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school aged Baltimore city students.
- Foster and maintain a positive, high engagement environment amongst students in and out of the classroom.

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COMMUNITY ARTS EXPERIENCE

Jubilee Arts

Youth-in-Business Mentor Jun 2018 - Aug 2018

- Instruct students on Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator basics in interactive workshops to equip students with technical skills to sustain their creative business as an independent contractor and vendor.
- Support facilitation of collaborative brainstorming and production of commissioned works and upcoming exhibitions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conceptual Genuises

Project Consultant June 2023 - Jan 2025

- Create and establish project management system for internal projects to maintain efficiency amongst growth in project scopes within a small team.
- Coordinate project development and progression between internal and external stakeholders.

King David Productions

Production Manager Mar 2023 - Jan 2024

- Oversee and coordinate the production process to ensure workflow meets required deadlines from pre to post production.
- Organize and schedule cast rehearsals, crew training, and team meetings for efficient internal and external communications.

Freelance Illustrator + Graphic Designer

Designer Mar 2021 - Jun 2023

- Create a variety of illustration and design assets for various small and large businesses and publications.
- Collaborate with authors, external team members, and other illustrators to produce illustrations and graphic materials in accordance with client brand guidelines and/or desires, project timelines, and scheduled updates.

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EXHIBITIONS - SOLO + GROUP

Honoring the Legacy of Eddie Conway The Peale Museum	Oct 2025
Lift Every Voice Cahill Recreation Center	Apr - May 2025
Artist-Educator-Activist Hurwitz Gallery	Mar 2025
MICA Scholarship Exhibition MICA BBOX	Dec 2024
We Been Here Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center	Oct 2024
Born in Baltimore Film Festival Creative Alliance	June 2022
MICA Scholarship Exhibition MICA BBOX	Mar 2022

CURATED EXHIBITIONS - SOLO + GROUP

Connecting Threads Rosenburg Gallery	April 2025
Beyond the Brush Pinkard Gallery	Jun - Jul 2025
Power Play: Uncovering Agency through Imagination Pinkard Gallery	May - Jun 2025
'This Girl' Art Show 405 Art Studios and Gallery	Dec 2021

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COMMISSIONS

Behind The Demands

2020

The Diamondback

Commissioned to illustrate for the Diamondback's special spotlight on the 25 demands of University of Maryland students' in response to the university's lack of action toward racial tensions on campus.

Great First Eight Wonderbooks

2021 - 2023

Stand For Children

Commissioned to illustrate seven educational children's books to improve literacy and learning outcomes for children from birth to eight through diverse representations in reading books.

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

Mindfulness + Watermarbling

2025

Designed and facilitated an accessible printmaking workshop to create journals with water marbling technique and self reflect with reparative journaling prompts at BMA Lexington Market booth.

"I am Vulnerable" Bus Shelter Campaign

2021

Directed bus shelter campaign photoshoot and designed campaign poster commenting on the vulnerability of the Black woman's juxtaposition in society funded by Baltimore Film Arts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In the Community

2024

by Trish Shea

Finding artistic freedom: Senior artists share how their craft has developed at UMD

2021

by Amanda Hernandez

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