

Najja Akinwole

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Work Experience

Midtown Academy Mural Day of Service— *Site Captain*

October 2024

I oversaw twelve other volunteers as their Site Captain to paint a Mural at Midtown Academy. I ensure the physical well being of all the volunteers, by offering water, first aid, and organizing materials. I oversaw the entire project and communicated with the school's staff.

Wide Angle Youth Media— Community Arts Collaborative (CAC)

Member Teaching Artist

October 2024–

Through the Americorps CAC Program my artist residency at Wide Angle Youth Media consists of curating their new Open Labs program and teaching pilot courses. I also teach and create a curriculum based on animation and storytelling at KIPP Ujima Middle school through their Baltimore Scholars program.

Americorps CAC Program— Community Arts Collaborative (CAC)

Member Artist

August 2024–

The work of CAC member artists provides children, youth, and adults with the benefits of after-school, arts-based learning experiences, and strengthens neighborhoods through community art initiatives. CAC works with impactful nonprofit organizations, schools, museums, and community centers across Baltimore City, to host CAC member artists for year-long residence

Character Animator, Filmmaker Aaron Gwyn — *Painting into the Darkness*

August 2024–

I am creating the keyframe and in between character animation for various characters in the feature left indie animated film *Painting into the Darkness*, about the American painter, Albert Pinkham Ryder.

Social Enterprise Management Intern, Art With a Heart — *Internship*

June 2024- August 2024

I oversaw the HeARTworks Youthworks program and the "Shop and Bop" event logistics including media campaigns and content creation. I also aided in teaching the Youthworks program classes by creating samples and assisting classroom management.

How Was Your Day?, MICA — *Senior Thesis*

September 2023- April 2024

I completed a mixed media animation that included 3D backgrounds, 2D animation, live action film, and puppet fabrication for my senior year thesis.

EDUCATION

Maryland Institute of College Art, Baltimore MD— 2024 BFA

Major: Animation

Minor: Illustration

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe After Effects
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Google Suite
- Microsoft Suite
- Tv Paint

AWARDS

Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival- *Best in Baltimore Award*

Fall 2024

Dirty Popcorn Black Film Festival- *Best in Show Experimental Film Award*

Summer 2024

MICA Animation Festival, Golden Cockroach Award-*Best in Show*

Spring 2024