

Sabina Matos
Council President

June 26, 2020

Mr. Sawn Selleck
City Clerk
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Clerk:

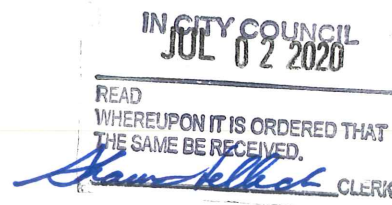
Please be advised that I am hereby appointing April H. Brown as a member of the Special Committee for Commemorative Works.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Sabina Matos
Council President

SS/tlm



April H. Brown

276 Niagara Street ✎ Providence, RI 02907 ✎ Phone: (401) 439-6841 ✎ aprilhbrown@gmail.com

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

My passion for arts and culture education has manifested itself with experience in museum work with folklife and cultural heritage; education systems from youth engagement to the college level; as well as in the community itself in leadership positions for arts organizations, as a seasoned professional and as a performer and creative place maker. My relationships with local and national performing artists is long-standing and highly valued.

Over the course of my career I have been able to use my Master's degree in Education with a professional development concentration in a variety of applications including pre-K, post-secondary and college levels, working effectively with administrations serving low income students. My specialties include curriculum development, parent and volunteer engagement and supervision, and team oversight and coaching.

Recognizing that the most creative and important arts education programs only work when well administered, I have extensive experience in managing staff, funds development including program design to secure grant funding. In addition, building good working relationships and partnerships is vital to "win-win" success for students, administrators, and artists.

EDUCATION

BA, Communication Arts/History concentration, American University
MA, Education, Professional Development concentration, University of Rhode Island

SUMMARY OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Client-centered professional
- Gifted educational leader specializing in community development
- Experienced as a service manager for a variety of populations
- Persuasive, articulate communication style
- Evokes passion and commitment from key stakeholders
- Able to communicate effectively with diverse groups and different audiences
- Adept at advancing and realizing an organization's vision

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Engagement Director
St. Martin de Porres Senior Center
Providence, RI Present

Program Director
Turnaround Arts: Providence
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
Department of Art, Culture & Tourism, Providence, RI 2017-2018

Counselor/Project Coordinator
Rhode Island Educational Talent Search/Educational Opportunities Center
Community College of Rhode Island, Providence, RI 2007-2017

Family Services/Parent and Volunteer Manager
Community Development Institute Head Start
Providence/Blackstone Valley, Providence, RI 2008-2009

Head Start Teacher
Community Development Institute Head Start
Providence/Blackstone Valley, Providence, RI 2007-2008

Assistant to the Director
Oakland School of the Arts, Oakland, CA 2004-2006

Curatorial Assistant/Program Assistant
Smithsonian Institution, Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage,
Washington, DC 2003-2004

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Community Building: America Too: 2018, Trinity Rep, Short Play Festival, Playwright
Culture Park: 2018, Short Play Marathon, Playwright
Black Lavender Experience: 2018, Rites and Reason, *Pink Dress*, Actor
Rhode Island Black Historical Society, Committee Member
Rhode Island Black Storytellers, Committee Member

Youth Engagement: Miss Rhode Island Scholarship Pageant, Judge and Interview Committee
Providence Head Start Parent Committee, Leadership Facilitator
Speak for Yourself, Founder and Conference Leader

Leadership: RPM Voices of Rhode Island, Board Member
Racial Environment Justice Committee, Committee Member

Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, Assistant Pastor
New England Educational Opportunity Association, Board Member/State
Vice President

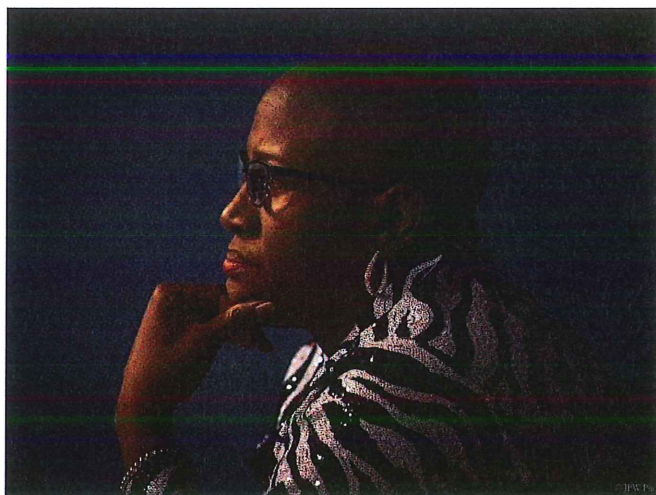


Image by Jonathan Pitts Wiley

April Brown is an educator, ordained minister, poet, singer and actor living in Providence, RI. She has performed in the United States, Japan, and Israel. Ms. Brown holds a B.A. from The American University in Washington, DC and an Ed.M. from the University of Rhode Island.

She is the program director of the Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading. Her passion for arts and culture education manifested itself with experience in museum work with the Smithsonian Folklife and Cultural Heritage and the National Museum of American History she worked on the as an artist programmer for the 2004 and 2008 *Folklife Festival*, the *National World War II Reunion on the Mall* and the *Celebration of Baseball*. Locally she has worked with Rhode Island Black Storytellers and the National Association of Black Storytellers as the African marketplace director. Recently, she served as the Local Program Director for Turnaround Arts: Providence. She has worked in educational systems with a focus on cultural engagement; professional development; and local community activism. She has held several community at large leadership positions for arts organizations, as a seasoned professional and as a volunteer.

Over the course of her career, she has used her arts expertise in a variety of applications including pre-K, secondary, post-secondary arts training, working effectively with administrations serving low income students. Her specialties include curriculum and professional development, community engagement, staff management, and team oversight/coaching.

For April, arts practice is the way we speak life into humanity and we need to teach this to our youth.