

Sheila "Strawberry" Gaskins
Cultural Worker / Teaching Artist / DEI Facilitator
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Professional Development

Community Building Circles Training - RJT - New York Peace Institute
Restorative Justice Circle Training - Coming To The Table (CTTT)/RJOY
Intro to Restorative Justice Circle Training - DCPeace Team
A Space for BIPOC Theatre of the Oppressed Practitioners - Interplay
Living Objects: African Americans Puppetry Festival and Symposium. 2019 UConn
Social Thinking Pt 1 & Pt 2- The Center for Social Thinking
How White Allies Can Build Their Persuasive Skills-Dr.David Camp
Building Transformative Capacity with NVC-NVC Academy
An Art Approach to Healing Trauma-Sarah Peyton & Olga Nguyen
Trauma, Resilience and Healing in Times of a Pandemic-
Summer Peacebuilding Institute - Eastern Mennonite University
Welcome to Transforming Enemy Images - NVC Baltimore,Md.
Awake to Race - Maryland Sangha - Takoma Park, MD
Sarah Peyton- Make My Brain A Sweet Place To Live
NVC & Theatre of the Oppressed - Jihan MCD. NVC Academy
Reflect on Yourself to Stop Implicit Bias and Hold Space for Transformation -
with Dr. Amanda Kemp - Frederick Friends Meeting House - Frederick, Md
Understanding Implicit Bias thru PBIS Baltimore, Maryland.
Liz Lerman - Critical Response Process, CRT - Center Stage Baltimore,MD
MANSEF Conference Baltimore, Maryland
Race Demystified and The Healing Process - Milagros Phillips
Jubilee Anti-Racism Training: Systemic Racism-1st Unitarian Church
Training for Social Action for POC- Training for Change, Phil, PA.
People Centered Thinking Training -The Learning Community. USA
Motivational Interviewing/ Life Skills Trainings - Goodwill Industries
Racial Justice Leadership Institute-Race Forward-Wash. DC
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, Undoing Racism-Roots
Building Racial Justice In Baltimore Workshop for POC- BRJA
Talking about Race in the Classroom- Border Crossings, NYC
Virtues Training - Womb Works Baltimore, MD
Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities- (HROC) Friends Society
Community Advocacy Training – Community Law Center
Theatre of the Oppressed with Julian Boal / Michael Rohd
Entering and Existing Community – Urban Bush Women
Theatre for Community- Michael Rohd- University of NC, CH
Racial Justice Circle - Call to Action

Education

BA Degree - Speech Communication & Theatre Arts.

Hampton University - Hampton, Virginia 23668

Professional Affiliation / Membership

Baltimore Improv Group, (BIG)

Liz Lerman Critical Response Process, (CRP)

Screen Actors Guild (SAG)

American Federation of Television Radio Actors (AFTRA)

Theatre Action Group (TAG)

Alternative to Violence Program (AVP)

Alternate Roots Organization (Roots)

Actors Equity Membership Candidate - John Drew Theatre East Hampton, NY

Artist University (AU)

Urban Bush Women (UBW)

Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA)

Baltimore Black Arts Collective, Inc. (BBAC)

Theatre of the Oppressed.(TO)

Grants Awarded

The Grit Fund - Puppets, Mask and Crankies: Shifting the Stories

Alternate Roots - Professional Development Grant- P,M,C: STS

Maryland Humanities Council - ARTpartheid

Epic Immersive & This Immersive Globe - Micro-Grant Awardee

Artistic Assistant : Professional Development Grant – Alternate Roots

CAPP Grant - Alternate Roots - Lasthouse Standing

Free Fall Baltimore - BOPA - Theatre Action Group, TAG

Alternate Roots Redevelopment Grant - From Nowhere to NowHere

Research Associates Foundation - Theatre Action Group, TAG

Television / Movie / Radio / Podcast Credits

HBO - The Wire – Lex's Mother

HBO - The Corner - Aunt Jackie

Codeblack Films - The Salon - Angry Wife

BET Comicview - Stand-up Comic

NBC - Last Comic Standing - Contestant

NBC - Homicide - Single Mother

My Mother the Clown - Mother- Youtube N.Hampton Production

Marc Steiner Show and the Anthony McCarthy Show - WEAA

What's Hot with your Girl Cheryl - Old School New Crew - WPBR Satellite Radio

Sisters Gathering to Heal - Podcast#11 - Stop Calling Me Strong - Deborah Ricks

The Confederate Controversy Isn't Over:- Future City - Wes Moore - WYPR/NPR

Productions

MC/Host/Director/Playwright/ Writer/Performance Artist

April 2023. Director / Co-Playwright. - Sanford and Son: A Tribute Play BWT Productions presents the stage play, Sanford and Son A Tribute. Sanford is in a coma for over 25 years and he, like Rip Van Winkle, finally awakens to current world events. American Legion Hall Towson, Md. The play was performed in March 2020 one week before the Pandemic.

March 2023. Puppeteer / MC. Black Cherry Puppet Theatre Puppet Slam- In person at the puppet theatre I made my puppet debut and I created and performed my very first crankie - The Goose Story. In addition, Dr. Paulette Richards gave a special puppet making class, Limberjacks. Limberjacks are blackface puppets used for Minstrel Puppetry Shows.

February 2023. MC/Host. ARTpartheid presents Puppets, Masks and Crankies: Shifting the Story. Grantees Gaskins, Dwyer and Cariso discuss their teaching arts experience with Puppetry, Masks and Crankies. They also have special guest artists that will share their craft and experiences. The goal is to expose, inform and make art in underserved communities.

November 2022. Co-Writer. U Thought I was Him: A Choreopoem Mixtape - Stage Play directed by Troy Burton is a series of monologues / poems / songs and dance that deal with the Black Male Stereotypes and Police brutality through the Black Male gaze in Baltimore City. Performed at the Arena Playhouse. Baltimore, Md.

May 2022. Performance Artist. East Towson Cultural Confabulation - created an original character based on the word to confabulate. She is an enslaved woman who is able to give her opinion of the story as it pertains to the Slave Narratives. Towson University. Ada Pinkston and Dr. Kalima Young-curated.

August 2020. MC / Host - ARTpartheid presents-Healing Our Brands - BIPOC Social Justice Symposium. Stripped of the power to control our own image African-American Puppeteers are the driving force determined to change this narrative; thereby, focusing on healing psychological wounds and social stigmas through the use of Puppetry and Crankies to tell their own stories.

June 2017. Performance Art. - The Contemporary. Performed Surprise Birthday Party, a piece about Police brutality with no Police accountability, resulting in the Baltimore Uprising.

November 2016. Playwright / Director / Narrator. - Lasthouse Standing- A Play about The Highway to Nowhere. Full Production. The Play, Lasthouse was performed in its entirety at The Arena Playhouse In Baltimore, Maryland. The Arena Playhouse is the Nation's longest continuously running Community Theatre on the East Coast. The recipient of an Alternate Roots CAPP Grant, the play was produced with inkind collaborators from MICA, Cultural Works, Sister Neighborhood Arts Programming and other community stakeholders.

September 2014. Performance Art. - Hired - Knot! Tongue Tied, TransModern Festival - EMP Collective Baltimore, Maryland. Tongue Tied is an original performance arts piece that addresses the very real concern that Black Women face daily - being denied employment based on their natural hair styles.

February 2014. Performance Art. Trevon Moments. In conjunction with Baltimore Safe Streets and Center Stage - Area Performance Artist staged an original performance that addressed the plague of violence and senseless murders in our community. The shows included post-show dialogues and was performed at several different venues in Baltimore City.

My piece, Surprise! Tells the story of a mother waiting for her child to return home from the corner store loosely based on the Trevon Martin murder.

October 2013. Performance Art. Performed at the Creative Alliance, a fundraiser for the organization, Justkids, an organization that advocates for youth that have been sentenced and incarcerated as Adults. I performed an original monologue, A letter to the Judge, about a mother pleading for the judge to not sentence her 15 year old son as an Adult.

February 2013. Performance Art. Rooms Fall Apart- Multi-disciplined Art Experience that audiences walked through. Each room had a different theme. My room-The Travon Martin Surprise Birthday Party Room averaged 10 visits per hour with 2-12 people per performance. My piece gave a mother's perspective on the murder. In partnership with Maryland Art Place and the Trans Modern Art Festival.

Stand-Up Comedy

April 2023. Audience Warm-Up / Stand-Up Comedy. Sanford and Son: A Tribute. Audience Warm-up for the play that has been videotaped for mass distribution. American Legion Hall.

July 2021. Stand-up Comedy. The Creative Alliance Organization. The Big Show Exhibition.

May 2021. Stand-up Comedy. Salute to Senator Mary Washington Birthday Fundraiser. Online.

November 2016. Audience Warm-up. Lasthouse Standing; A Play about the Highway to Nowhere. Arena Playhouse. Baltimore Md.

March 2014. Be Heart Smart - Comedy for A Cause. In partnership with Comedienne, Mable hosted a health seminar to bring awareness to African- Americans and their relationship to stress and heart disease. In conjunction with the American Federation of Heart Disease.

December 2013. A Salute to Baltimore based Iconic Jazz Singer - Ruby Glover. Joyce Scott and Lea Gilmore performed. My role was to entertain and to encourage participants to give monetary donations to help take Baltimore City School students, Baltimore Voices to Scotland to perform in 2014.

February 2013. Sheraton Hotel - Towson, Md. The Baglady - an original character, Annie Mae, the bag lady who only wants to eat at McDonald's. I perform Annie Mae at churches, senior citizens centers, reunions and birthday celebrations.

Theatre Action Group (TAG) Workshops and Art-based Civic Community Dialogues

June 8, 2023 - John Hopkins University Civic Leadership Center for Social Concern (CIIP)-TAG creates customized racialized workshops for JHU students that will be working in leadership positions in Baltimore Communities, for Tag and JHU this is an ongoing partnership.

May 28, 2022 - Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) Annual Gathering 2022 - Transformation Through Bold Engagement. Tag facilitated a 2.5 hour hybrid workshop for AVP participants.

August 2018. Anacostia Community Museum. Washington DC. The museum examines the impact of historical and contemporary social issues on urban communities. Tag devised an original workshop for over two hundred Washington, DC Social Workers.

April 2017. Artpartheid. Facilitated citywide civic community dialogues - Monumental Moments about what to do about the Confederate Monuments in Baltimore City. MD Humanities provided meals and water. 4 hour sessions, 10-20 participants one or two conversations a month.

April 2017- Access Arts After School Program Baltimore, MD

Tag created a customized arts based dialogue on Race for children ages 10 - 13 years old.

May 2017- Envision, Create. Transform: Baltimore Youth through the Arts. Arts Everyday Symposium - Baltimore School of Design. Tag created an Art's based workshop on Cultural Competency and Inclusion for teachers and administrators of Baltimore City Schools.

May 2017- Head Start Program - Catholic Charities Cherryhill, MD

Tag implemented an original workshop for over 110 employees of the Head Start Program.

The topic was Cultural Competency, White Supremacy, and Inclusion.

September 2014 - The 11th Annual Diversity Conference. Diversity Leadership Council. John Hopkins University. TAG was asked to present a 90 minute workshop on race, privilege, diversity and inclusion to staff and conference participants Hopkins - Homewood Campus

May 2013-2014. John Hopkins University. In 3 hours TAG was commissioned to create an original performance/workshop for JHU students that will be interning with various non- profits organizations within the Baltimore City area. Tag covered topics that touched on white privilege, race relations, immigrants, power and entering / existing communities. How do you self-identify and what role will you play within this community that may or may not be your own? An average of 50 - 200 students in attendance; they create original scenes.

October 2013. The Dream: 50 Years Later. An up close and candid dialogue on the changes in Civil Rights since the Martin Luther King March on Washington. Commissioned by the Truth and Reconciliation Project of the Archdiocese in Maryland.

February 2012. Steven University. On behalf of MLK Day at Stevenson, TAG was invited to perform and dialogue on Peace, Inclusivity and Diversity to the students, staff and general public about Dr. King's Dream and Vision. The day ended with an interactive performance.

Teaching Artist:

June 2022. Puppeteer / Crankie Maker - The Grit Fund and Alternate Roots granted us the funding for our community grant idea to develop - Puppets, Masks and Crankies: Shifting the Stories. A Baltimore community grant to expose, make art and dialogue on the significant rich history of Puppetry, Masks and Crankies to underserved populations.

August 2016 - January 2020. Drama Resource. Sheppard Pratt Schools - Glyndon, Md. Produced original material, poems and several plays including two Black History Month Presentations by the students in the Autism Program. Developed News You Can Use - Daily information program with helpful hints heard all over the school by the students on the intercom.

August 2012 - June 2013. Drama Resource Teacher - Monarch Academy Public Charter School -Expeditionary Learning. Teaching Drama, Culture, Character and Theatrical Excellence to students K- 8th grade. The Children's Guild. Baltimore, MD.

Special Project - The Genesis of Small. Teaching puppetry to kindergarteners thru 8th grade.

We created an original world with the power of finger puppets, paper bag puppets, sock puppets, marionettes, shadow puppets, etc. ending in a puppet show for the entire student body to see. Also created original plays for the student body to perform at the end of year showcase.

My America / My Baltimore Monologue Writing Expedition. Center Stage asked the question, What is your America / Baltimore? I taught monologue writing to my first graders and one of my students won. His monologue is featured on the Center Stage website and was acted out by a professional actor on video.

June – August 2012. Drama Instructor – Teaching theatre and community building skills to 2 to 6 year-olds at Park Hill Daycare Center. Weekly performances every Friday for family and staff.

June 2006 - to present. Creator, Facilitator and member of Theatre Action Group (TAG). A multi-talented group of artists that intentionally promote racial dialogue and celebrate lines of difference in organizations, churches and communities. TAG workshops promote arts based dialogues on Race and Privilege for institutions, schools, organizations, campuses and communities. Free Fall Baltimore Grant Recipient for 3 years.

October 2013. TAG. The Dream: 50 Years Later. An up close and candid dialogue on the changes in Civil Rights since the Martin Luther King March on Washington.

Commissioned by the Truth and Reconciliation project of the Archdiocese in Maryland.

October 2012. TAG's Great Day of Play- A Free Fall Event at the Eubie Blake Cultural Arts Center. Participants played theatre games, created original characters for an ACTO.

August 2010. Dancer. Participant in the Internationally known Dance Organization - Urban Bush Women Summer Leadership Institute, where dance is for everyone and learned how to effectively "Enter and Exit" in Community. Housed in Tulane University in New Orleans for two weeks. Instructors, Vincent Thomas, Liz Lerman and Ja Wolla, founder of Urban Bush Women.

2002. Practitioner of Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) techniques by Augusto Boal and Paulo Freire. Worked with Michael Rohd, Julianne Boal, Marc Weinstein, Brian Francoise, Luisa Bibiere, Liz Lerman, Ada Pinkston, and other arts based civic dialogue practitioners.

September 2008. Devised original workshops and community building / circle process programs that include: working with Returning Citizens / Ex-Offenders, special needs / gifted and talented / older adults, welfare to work, day care center children 2-7 years of age, children incarcerated as adults, outdoor participants, summer campers, tourists and learning disabled.

February 2015. CEO Founder of ARTpartheid - Bridging the Gap of Disparities in the Baltimore Arts Scene. Artpartheid is a non-profit organization founded by eight women who challenged the inequity of resources, grants, supplies, leadership, institutions and funding in the arts in underserved communities. The goal of Artpartheid is to spread the knowledge, funds, resources and information so that everyone can receive a quality artistic experience. ARTpartheid wants to empower artists of color to challenge, facilitate, teach, explore, research, make, create, embody artists and their artistic expressions. Artpartheid will decolonize the western canon and make room for future artists that are creating their own narrative in the Art world.

▶ Puppets, Masks & Crankies: Shifting the Story

[Baltimore group helps reimagine city's Confederate monuments, address inequity in arts scene - Baltimore Sun](#)

<https://www.wypr.org/show/future-city/2019-09-19/the-confederate-controversy-isnt-over-how-will-cities-of-the-future-remember-the-past>

A mother, sister, friend and lover of humanity, who is always willing to serve God, mankind / community and is willing to help make the world a better place for all its inhabitants, right now.