



Kiing Curry

Elyria, OH 44035

them@bespokecurry.com

Website, Portfolio, IG, Publications

- <https://shorturl.at/iTPbZ>
- <https://shorturl.at/ViA94>
- <https://shorturl.at/Jycha>
- <https://shorturl.at/wLng2>

Practice + Capabilities

- Artistic + Creative Direction
- Visual + Concept Design
- Event Curation, Production Design + Management
- Teaching + Curriculum Development
- Facilitation + Public Speaking
- Lifestyle, Cultural Strategy + Cultural Storytelling
- Writing + Research
- Content + Editorial Strategy
- Editorial + Copywriting
- Brand Voice + Language Systems
- Digital + Web Content
- Photography + Movement Direction
- Afro Hair + Cosmetology
- Adornment + Styling
- Product Development + Material Sourcing

An interdisciplinary artist, writer, researcher, educator, creative director, and producer whose practice moves across material, medium, system, body, and environment. BespokeCurry develops interconnected work spanning writing and research, visual and material culture, Afro hair, adornment, foodways, embodiment, education, performance, and community practice.

Methodologies are relational and developmental: encountering a material, medium, system, or set of ingredients, studying its behavior, understanding its constraints and possibilities, experimenting, making connections, and moving ideas into execution. Grounded in Black life and embodied knowledge, Curry's work brings conceptual development and production together—building the structures, environments, objects, images, writing, and experiences through which ideas can live.

Work history

Artistic + Creative Direction / Production

BespokeCurry, Independent Practice

Current

Interdisciplinary approaches to creative leadership, weaving together cinematography, design, and live production to honor the body and Black diasporas.

- **Artistic Director** for music videos (*Vote*, *Southern Curls*, and *Phase*) and the *Black Beauty School* national tour; overseeing set design, casting, visual narrative, HMUA, logistics, and education.
- **Creative Director** for 100+ brand campaigns and editorial shoots, including *Her Personal Style*, *Threads & Dreads*, and *Afro Futures Maternity Photoshoot*.
- **Design Lead** for major cultural identity projects, including *Nashville Design Week*, *Sudan Action Week*, and the visual branding for *HibiscUS: Soul Food Sudani Sounds of Blackness*.
- **Director** for 200+ productions, including 4 full-length plays and 50+ short-form scenes; Director of Photography & Movement for *Huddled Masses*, utilizing embodiment and interdisciplinary visual strategy to drive storytelling.
- **Executive Producer & Director** for high-stakes media events and award shows, including *The Kennedy Center Honors*, the *Mark Twain Prize*, and *One Music Fest (Ten One Zero)*.
- **Founder + Project Lead** for *The BespokeCurry Cosmos*, *HibiscUS*, managing the intersection of cultural heritage, culinary arts, and sonic storytelling.
- **Lead Producer** for large-scale community events including *Kwanzaa Ball Nashville*, *Melanin Pool Poppin*, and *Bead & Cowrie Studio* pop-up experiences.
- **Embodied Image + Modeling Practice**: 15+ years of professional modeling and 300+ projects, using movement, body, clothing, image, and narrative as interconnected materials. Selected works include *Eloquii Black Creators Project*, *Good Dye Young/Sally Beauty*, *Uye Surana*, *Village Hat Shop*, and *TomboyX*.
- **Interdisciplinary Strategist** specializing in translating complex cultural missions into cohesive digital, print, and environmental design assets.

Editorial, Copywriting, + Content Strategy

BespokeCurry, Independent Practice

Current

Develop editorial and audience-facing language across *The BespokeCurry Cosmos* and related creative projects, translating research, cultural inquiry, visual concepts, products, services, and material practices into distinct written experiences across digital platforms.

- Write and develop long- and short-form editorial copy, website copy, social copy, campaign language, promotional copy, product and service descriptions, calls to action, and SEO-informed digital content.
- Develop and maintain editorial voice, tone, language systems, naming conventions, and recurring content frameworks across an interdisciplinary publishing ecosystem.
- Build editorial strategy across interconnected essays, visual projects, educational resources, products, services, and ongoing content series, determining how individual

Education

Aveda Institute at Nashville, TN
Cosmetology in Afro Hair + Color Key
 2013

University of California, Irvine at Irvine,
 CA

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre 2010

Middle Tennessee State University at
 Murfreesboro, TN

Bachelor of Science in Theatre 2006

works relate to and extend the larger creative world.

- Translate complex research and cultural inquiry into accessible audience-facing language while retaining conceptual rigor, specificity, and a distinct editorial point of view.
- Adapt core ideas across formats and audiences, moving between long-form essays, short-form digital copy, social media, promotional language, web experiences, product and service language, and educational content.
- Develop integrated relationships between copy, image, graphic design, photography, objects, food, material culture, and digital environments so that written and visual language function as a cohesive editorial system.
- Conceptualize, write, edit, design, and publish recurring editorial series exploring Black life, foodways, material culture, adornment, Afro hair, embodiment, ecology, creative practice, memory, and cultural systems.
- Develop copy and editorial framing for original products, creative services, workshops, consultations, events, subscription/support offerings, and material practices within *BespokeCurry* and *Bead + Cowrie Studio*.
- Create research-led food editorial through *I Eat Things*, integrating food writing, ingredient and cultural research, photography, graphic design, recipes and preparation, serving practices, and visual storytelling.
- Manage content from initial concept and research through writing, editing, visual development, digital production, publication, and cross-platform adaptation.
- Apply more than a decade of creative direction, brand campaign, editorial, visual storytelling, and production experience to the development of cohesive audience-facing narratives across disciplines.

Education, Facilitation + Embodied Practice

BespokeCurry, Independent Practice

Current

A study and praxis of how bodies hold story, shape emotion, and translate spirit into stillness and motion. Embodiment practices bridge professional modeling, visual storytelling, somatic practice, cultural education, and community-based learning.

- [Current Courses Available](#)
- [Embodiment as Practice: The Art of Movement, Image + Presence](#)
- **Professional Model:** Completed 300+ modeling projects across fashion, beauty, lifestyle, and cultural campaigns.
- **Story Design:** Created *The Fatlaxy*, an AI-generated character universe developed from Curry's extensive modeling archive, exploring body, identity, imagination, and visual narrative.
- **Black + African Embodiment:** Lead workshops exploring the intersections of physical movement, somatic awareness, cultural identity, and embodied knowledge.
- **Body Sovereignty:** Develop curriculum centered on body neutrality, body positivity, and bodily autonomy, challenging systemic bias in body sizing, representation, and visibility.
- **Afro + Textured Hair / Hair + Visual Culture:** Provide instruction on Afro and textured hair, examining its historical, political, cultural, and technical dimensions within media and society.
- **Cultural + Social Equity:** Facilitate critical dialogue and learning around restorative justice, colorism, gender diversity, equity, representation, and community-building to cultivate environments of genuine belonging.
- **Ancestral + Plant Knowledge:** Integrate ancestral knowledge, plant practices, and wellness traditions into communal and individual learning experiences.
- **Community-Specific Curriculum:** Design and facilitate workshops tailored to the needs of specific communities and organizations. Taught at **10+ hair salons and 3 universities** and collaborated with **50+ organizations**.

Writing + Research

BespokeCurry, Independent Practice

Current

Essays, cultural criticism, archival inquiry, field notes, and research-led storytelling investigating Black life, embodiment, neurodivergence, material culture, Afro hair, foodways, adornment, creative practice, ecology, memory, lineage, and systems of care.

Ongoing publications through *The BespokeCurry Cosmos* build connections across disciplines rather than treating them as separate fields of inquiry.

[Writing: Archive, Research + World-Building portfolio](#)

Material + Adornment Practice

BespokeCurry, Independent Practice

Current

A material practice exploring how adornment, objects, and materials meet, move with, and hold memory in the body. Work spans jewelry, hair adornment, wearable objects, styling, repair, and material development.

- [Bead + Cowrie Studio](#)
- **Design Lead:** *Huddled Masses x Hayfa* collaboration.
- **Product Development:** *Field Guides* and *The Fatlaxy*, an archive-based design project.
- **Jewelry Products:** Earrings, hair tings, bolo ties, necklaces, eyeglass charms, chains, custom designs, and more.
- **Retail Experience:** Curated pop-up shopping experiences at various events around the country.

Selected Press, Speaking + Cultural Work

An interdisciplinary educator and speaker dedicated to alchemizing public discourse through truth-telling, navigating politics of embodiment to voice unspoken truths to create a pathway for collective restoration and the authentic evolution of community.

- **Institutional Authority + Production:** Served as an Edward Neil Full Potential Student Finalist, Kennedy Center Graduate Fellow, and contributed to multiple national award broadcasts, bridging high-level industry standards with cultural integrity
- **Broadcast Subject Matter Expert:** Featured on NPR (National & Local) and News Channel 4 Nashville, discussing *Black Beauty School* and providing critical commentary on the intersections of culture, business, and identity
- **Editorial Contributor + Industry Critic:** Collaborated with Sage Howard for HuffPost on *The Dangers of Curl Typing*, providing the technical and cultural insights necessary to challenge systemic beauty standards
- **Keynote Speaker + Facilitator:** Facilitated high-level discourse for *Mirror Mirror* (Lemon Laine x The Congress Club) and *Women of Color Unite* (Los Angeles), centering the radical honesty required for Black women to navigate and transform professional landscapes
- **Cultural Commentator + Podcast Guest:** Explored creative embodiment, social narrative, and identity for platforms including *Bad Queers*, *Black Style Anecdotes*, *The Liberation Podcast*, and *You're My Favorite Book*
- **Archival + Narrative Projects:** Facilitated cultural discussions including *HibiscUS*, *Untold Love Stories*, *Nobody Asked for This*, and *Talkin' Trans*.
- **Exhibits:** Posed for Elisheba Israel's art exhibit, *In Her Place: Nashville Artists and the Twenty-First Century* on display at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, TN; Julie Williams *Southern Curls*; Jessy Wilson *Phase the Film*; and *Huddled Masses* by BespokeCurry