



Kiing Curry

Portland OR

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Websites, Portfolios, Socials

- <https://www.bespokecurry.com/>
- <https://www.bespokecurry.com/portfolio>
- <https://www.instagram.com/bespokecurry?igsh=bGcyeXBsN2tzMXRp>

Skills

- AI Integration
- Concept & Graphic Design
- Consultation
- Cosmetology
- Cultural Strategy
- Event Curation & Management
- Facilitation, Teaching & Curriculum Development
- Material Sourcing
- Model Coaching & Body Sovereignty
- Photography Direction
- Production Design & Management
- Product Development

A self-employed multidisciplinary artist and teacher, my work is rooted in the art, culture, and embodied wisdom of Black life. I create and teach from a place of grounding — honoring the body as a vessel of memory, resistance, and renewal. Through movement, visual storytelling, and community-centered practice, I explore how creative expression becomes a pathway toward healing and collective liberation.

My teaching invites participants to return to themselves — to move, make, and imagine from within. Whether in the studio, classroom, or public space, I cultivate environments where Black embodiment is celebrated as sacred, and where art becomes a practice of restoration, joy, and radical possibility.

Work history

Courses & Workshops

Self-employed, United States

Current

Current Courses Available

Cultivating spaces of belonging and transformative insight for academic institutions, creative productions, and community organizations. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Body Sovereignty:** Develop curriculum around body neutrality and positivity, challenging systemic biases in body sizing and representation.
- **Hair & Visual Culture:** Expert instruction on Afro & Textured Hair, addressing the historical, political, and technical aspects of hair in media and society
- **Holistic Wellness:** Integrate ancestral health practices and plant wellness for communal and individual wellness
- **Identity & Embodiment:** Lead workshops on Black and African Embodiment, focusing on the intersection of physical movement, somatic healing, and cultural identity
- **Social Equity & Intersectionality:** Facilitate critical dialogues on restorative justice, colorism, gender diversity, equity, and community-building to foster environments of genuine belonging.
- **Topics by Request:** commune with groups and communities to learn and address specific topics

Taught at 10+ hair salons, 3 universities, and collaborated with 50+ organizations

Creative Direction, Event Design, & Productions

Self-employed, United States

Current

A multidisciplinary approach 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," "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,

- Public Speaking
- Somatic Healing
- Social Media Strategy

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
- **Director** for 200+ productions, including 4 full-length plays and 50+ short-form scenes; served as Director of Photography & Movement for *"Huddled Masses,"* utilizing physical embodiment and multi-disciplinary visual strategy to drive narrative 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 *HibiscUS: Soul Food Sudani Sounds of Blackness*, 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 pop-up retail experiences
- **Multi-Disciplinary Strategist** specializing in translating complex cultural missions into cohesive digital, print, and environmental design assets

Embodiment

Self-employed, United States

Current

A study and praxis on how bodies hold story, shape emotion, and translate spirit into stillness and motion.

- Embodiment as Practice: The Art of Movement, Image, and Presence
- **Key Modeling Projects:** Eloquii Black Creators Project, Good Dye Young Model (Sally's + Online Web Launch Editorial Feature), Uye Sarana, Village Hat Shop, Tomboy X
- **Professional Model:** Completed over 300 modeling projects
- **Story Design:** Creator of The Fatlaxy – AI-generated characters based on modeling archive

Jewelry Design

Self-employed, United States

Current

Designing a lineage of handcrafted talismans that serve as healing energy —honoring the Afro as a sacred landscape and every cowrie as an invitation to return to the body's radical joy.

- Bead & Cowrie Online Shop: increased international sales by 3%
- **Design Lead:** Huddled Masses x Hayfa collaboration
- **Product Development:** Fatlaxy character prints and stickers, and jewelry pieces
- **Jewelry Products:** Includes 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

Interviews, Articles & Exhibits

An intentional educator and speaker dedicated to alchemizing public discourse through truth-telling; I navigate politics of embodiment to voice unspoken truths, creating 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 the execution of the Kennedy Center Honors, the Mark Twain Prize, and 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: Soul Food Sudani Sounds of Blackness*, *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

Education

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

University of California, Irvine at Irvine, CA
Master of Arts in Theatre 2010

Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro, TN
Bachelor of Science in Theatre 2006