

# Deen Rawlins-Harris

Curricula Vitae (abridged)

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## **Education**

2025	MFA Theatre (Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities) The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)
2013	BA Education and Political Science, Bucknell University
2009	HS Diploma, The Boston Arts Academy

## **Current Research Interests**

Youth Leadership and Representation in and through the Performing Arts; Youth Participatory Action Research with Applied Theatre Projects; Devising and Producing Theatre with Youth; Critical, Feminist Approaches to Drama-based Pedagogy, Performance, and Practice; Racial and Gender Justice through Theatre and Performance; Strategies and Tools for Inclusive Theatre Education; Organizational Systems to Engage Marginalized Communities in Theatre.

## **University Appointments**

2024	Teaching Assistant, Arts and the Epidemic 2024
2024	Graduate Resident Assistant, Texas Performing Arts' Education and Community Engagement Department
2023	Teaching Assistant, Theatre and Dance: School and Classroom Management
2023	Teaching Assistant, Theatre and Dance: Design for Instruction
2022	Graduate Resident Assistant, Department of Theatre and Dance

## **Long-Term and Seasonal Theatre Instructional Positions**

2022	Theatre for Social Justice Instructor, Boston University Summer Theatre Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designed and taught a 5-week curriculum for pre-collegiate high school students about socially just devising methods.</li></ul>
2020—2021	Collective Liberation for Folx of Color Guest Artist in Residence, Bucknell University (virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Re-designed and taught a yearlong virtual practice-based course on utilizing facilitation strategies to generate original work and collective power.</li></ul>
2019—2022	<a href="#">Professional Development for Actors Co-Instructor, Company One</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-facilitated and designed lesson for a virtual actors training program.</li></ul>
2019—2020	Greater Egleston High School Theatre Teaching Artist, Company One <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented and modified Company One's "Stage One" curriculum for alternative-education high school students enrolled in theatre elective course.</li></ul>
2019—2020	Margarita Muniz Academy Teaching Artist, Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-designed and implemented HSTF's T��atro en Acci��n curriculum for bilingual theatre class in person and virtually.</li></ul>

- 2016 Creative Action Crew Troupe Director, The Theater Offensive (TTO)
- Directed TTO’s young adult theatre ensemble and coordinated their tour details.
- 2015 The Great War Theatre Project Theatre Teacher, The Davinci School of Creative Enterprise
- Co-taught a one-month theatre devising residency in Letchworth, UK to create performance recognizing the centennial year of the Great War.
- 2014—2015 True Colors Out Youth Theater Troupe Teaching Artist, The Theater Offensive
- Co-taught TTO’s premier youth ensemble and supported them through the devising process of an original touring production.

### **Short-Term Theatre Instructional Positions**

- 2023 Giffit Hill School Guest Artist, New England Youth Theatre
- Co-facilitated and led a one-week devised theatre residency in St. John, USVI for middle school students.
- 2022 Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble Guest Artist, Creative Action
- Facilitated *Tools for Liberation* workshop for teen artist devising script about healthy relationships to perform at schools.
- 2019 Collective Liberation for Folx of Color Guest Artist in Residence, University of the Arts
- Co-facilitated and designed a one-week residency for college student. During this residency, students participated in the initial iteration of the *Tools for Liberation* workshop.

### **Non-Theatre Specific Instructional Positions**

- 2014—2015 Excel High School Special Education Lab Cluster Teacher, Boston Public Schools
- Provided graded level instruction as a special education English Language Arts and Autism Lab teacher.
  - Coordinated with support of youth committees, the Senior Prom, Talent Show, 2015 Senior Yearbook, and Pep Rallies.
- 2013—2014 Up Academy Dorchester 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher, Boston Public Schools
- Provided graded level instruction to special education student in substantially separate classrooms for students with moderate/severe cognitive delays.

### **Theatre Specific Administrative Positions**

- 2020—2022 Associate Producer, HowlRound Theatre Commons
- Produced national convenings and supported the editorial operations of the HowlRound Theatre Journal.
- 2018—2019 Education Department Fellow, Shakespeare Theatre Company
- Developed and implemented educational programming on behalf of Shakespeare Theatre Company for DMV public schools.

- 2015—2016 Street Team Director, Company One
- Developed, implemented, and oversaw youth community engagement programming on behalf of Company One like the BosTEEN Artist Program.

### **Non-Theatre Specific Administrative Positions**

- 2017—2018 Ally Safe Schools Program Coordinator, Mazzoni Center
- Led and created 32 regional LGBTQIA+ trainings for school administrators, students, teachers, and community members. Training descriptions follow.
  - Managed the Ally Safe Schools Council, and student

#### Creating Safer Spaces: LGBTQIA+ Affirmative School

- Training provides administrators and teachers with recommendations on how to create supportive school-wide policies inclusive of queer and trans-identifying students for educators.

#### Ally Safe Schools Youth Workshop

- Facilitative workshop series to support students as they organize and create Queer Student Alliances in their high schools

#### Creating Safer Spaces: LGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training

- Informational training on using appropriate terminology when working with LGBTQIA+ people as co-workers or clients.

### **Professional Societies**

American Alliance for Theatre and Education

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

### **Grants, Scholarships, and Research Funding**

- 2024 National Performance Network; \$5,000 for production costs.  
*Fusebox Festival Revive Youth Festival (MFA Thesis Project)*
- 2022—2024 BIPOC Point Foundation Scholarship; \$1,500 scholarship.  
*Award for Leadership and Scholarship \*3 time recipient of this award*
- 2023 Travis County Summer Youth Employment Program; \$7,500 for youth salaries.  
*Fusebox Festival Revive Youth Festival (Thesis Research Project)*
- 2023 UT Austin Intern Scholarship through Fine Arts Career Services; \$2,000 grant.  
*Awarded for participation in Fusebox Festival Internship*
- 2022 Texas Educational Theatre Association Founder’s Scholarship; \$4,000 scholarship.  
*Upper Division/Graduate Student Award*
- 2019 New England Foundation for the Arts Artist Development Grant; \$2,000 grant.  
*Traces/Remain (Community Storytelling Project)*
- 2009—2013 Posse Foundation Bucknell University 2019; \$160,000 scholarship.  
*Four Year Full-Tuition Leadership Scholarship (\$40,000 per year)*

## **Fellowships**

- 2022—2023 Planet Texas 2050 Artists Fellowship. (UT Austin): fellowship awarded to local artists to conduct research relating to sustainability. \$5,000 research fund.
- 2022—2023 College of Fine Arts / Graduate School Recruitment Fellowship. (UT Austin): fellowship awarded to incoming graduate student. \$18,000 fellowship award.
- 2018—2019 Education Department Fellowship. (Shakespeare Theatre Company) fellowship awarded to emerging theatre professionals to work with Shakespeare Theatre Company. \$3,600 fellowship award.
- 2016 Headlong Performance Institute Fellowship. (Headlong Dance Theatre) five month fellowship awarded to collaborative performance artists to study at Headlong Dance Theatre.

## **Honors and Awards**

- 2020 CREATEWELL Award for Community Artist, *Traces/Remain (Community Storytelling Project)*, CREATEWELL, 2020. \$12,000 award.

## **Editorials**

- Rawlins-Harris, Deen “Building Trust in New Waters as a Teaching-Artist” *HowlRound Theatre Journal* Accepted February 29, 2024. Anticipated publication April 2024
- Rawlins-Harris, (Elyas) Deen “Witnessing Life Through Art” *Bucknellian* 2011. Print and Online Media Link: <https://bucknellian.net/13177/arts-campus-life/griot-institute-3/>

## **Editorial Leadership**

- Reviewer *Youth Theatre Journal*: (Publication of American Alliance for Theatre and Education) Winter 2024
- Associate Producer *HowlRound Theatre Journal* (Publication of HowlRound Theatre Commons). 2020-2022.

## **Additional Press, Profiles, and Significant Mentions**

- Cerci, Max. “What Do You Know? A Discovery of Prejudgment, Vocabulary, and Identity” *HowlRound Theatre Journal*. HowlRound Theatre Commons January 24, 2017  
<https://howlround.com/what-do-you-know-discovery-prejudgment-vocabulary-and-identity>
- Child, Andrew. “Review: SMOKED OYSTERS at TC Squared Theatre Company” *Broadway World Boston* January 22, 2022  
<https://www.broadwayworld.com/boston/article/BWW-Review-SMOKED-OYSTERS-at-TC-Squared-Theatre-Company-20200122>
- Dietrich, Alicia. “Imagining a Changed World” *News & Events*. The University of Texas at Austin, October 4, 2023 <https://finearts.utexas.edu/news/imagining-changed-world>
- Pattillo, Sydney. “Addressing the Climate Crisis Through the Arts: PT2050’S Artist Fellowship” *Off Book: A Theatre and Dance Blog*. The University of Texas at Austin, December 22, 2023

<https://sites.utexas.edu/theatredance-blog/2023/12/22/addressing-the-climate-crisis-through-the-arts-pt2050s-artist-fellowship/>

Rabinowitz, Chloe. "ArtsEmerson Announces Seed to Harvest: The Wooden Book" Broadway World Boston April 21, 2021

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/boston/article/ArtsEmerson-Announces-Seed-to-Harvest-The-Wooden-Book-20210421>

## **Significant Research Projects**

- 2022—Present      *Reviving Meaningful Intergenerational Leadership in The Arts: Fusebox Festival Revive Youth Festival (MFA Thesis Project)*  
\*Under Institutional Review Board Review  
The University of Texas at Austin; Department of Theatre and Dance  
Research Supervisor: Megan Alrutz, PhD  
Principal Investigator: Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2023                 *Frontline Community Partnerships for Climate Justice*  
\*Approved by Institutional Review Board  
The University of Texas at Austin; Dell Medical School  
Research Supervisor: Miriam Solis, PhD  
Research Assistant: Deen Rawlins-Harris

## **Creative & Arts Related Facilitation**

- 2023                 *Black and Indigenous Futures Convening*  
ArtsEmerson; Boston MA
- This convening hosted by ArtsEmerson, brought together Black and Indigenous thought leaders and activists from across the nation to consider pathways for collective mobilization and coalition building.  
Co-facilitators: Deen Rawlins-Harris, Malia'Kekia Nicolini
- 2022                 *National Playwrights Residency Program*  
HowlRound Theatre Commons; Boston, MA
- This biannual national retreat brings recipients of HowlRound and Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Awards together to discuss their work, the impact of their funding, and identify additional support they require.  
Co-facilitators: Deen Rawlins-Harris, Jamie Gahlon, Abigail Vega
- 2022                 *International Presenters Commons*  
HowlRound Theatre Commons; Boston, MA
- This monthly virtual meeting brought together festival producers and theatre presenters from across the nation together to create systems to support international performance and cultural exchange.  
Co-facilitators: Deen Rawlins-Harris, Jamie Gahlon, Abigail Vega
- 2022—2023        *Collective Liberation for Artists of Color Workshop*  
MASS MoCA; Boston, MA
- This two-month weekly session encouraged artists of colors to contemplate and define their artistic practice in radically liberated ways.  
Co-facilitators: Deen Rawlins-Harris, Daniel Park

- 2021 *Nuts and Bolts of Being a Performing Artist Workshops*  
 MASS MoCA; Boston, MA
- This one month weekly virtual session provided freelance artists with tools and strategies to self-produce and monetize their artistic practices.
- Co-facilitators: Deen Rawlins-Harris, Amy Smith, Seth Lepore

## **Directing and Devising**

- 2024 *Cruising for Emotional Connection*  
 by Allen Porterie  
 UT Austin Department of Theatre and Dance  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2023 *Frames*  
 by Mary McCullough  
 TC Squared Theatre Company  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2023 *When I Grow Up (Reading)*  
 by Fabiola R. Decius  
 Wheelock Family Theatre  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2021 [South Shore Playwrights Showcase](#)  
 by Thato Mwosa, Jackie Martin, Eve Lyons, Ethan Warren,  
 Fabiola R. Decius, Dylan Charles & Greg Lam  
 Collective of South Shore Playwrights  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2020 *Smoked Oysters*  
 by Mary McCullough  
 TC Squared Theatre Company  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2016 *Through the Glory Hole and What We Found There*  
 Devised by Creative Action Crew  
 Written by Gemma Cooper-Novak  
 The Theater Offensive  
 Directed by Deen Rawlins-Harris
- 2015 *Louder Than Words*  
 by True Colors Youth Ensemble  
 The Theater Offensive  
 Choreography and Movement Direction by Deen Rawlins-Harris

## **Long-Term Creative Projects**

- 2016— Present ***Traces/Remain Projects***
- "Traces/Remain" is an adaptive performance art project by Deen Rawlins-Harris aimed at engaging communities through creative interventions. Each performance is customized to fit the unique social context of the community it serves, with a strong emphasis on audience participation and community

involvement. Additionally, "Traces/Remain" fosters intergenerational healing by bringing communities together to share their stories and medicine.

Supported by esteemed organizations such as CREATEWELL, NEFA, ArtsEmerson, Headlong Dance Theatre, and the Egleston Square Merchant Association, the project aims to create meaningful connections and foster healing within communities through the power of artistic expression.

Traces/Remain Co-facilitators: Letta Neely, Dev Blair, Ciera Gardner

Iterations: [\*Traces/Remain: Seed to Harvest\*](#); *Traces/Remain: Contagious Healing*; *Traces/Remain: People Who Fly*; *Traces/Remain: Anansi's Story*

2020

[\*Volume UP Virtual Play Readings\*](#)

In response to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic, I produced a program called Volume UP: Virtual Readings. Moreover, it enabled our organization to support theatremakers who were facing unemployment due to the widespread impact of this public health crisis. From March 2020 through August 2020, we curated and produced 10 readings, collaborating with a diverse team of writers, actors, and directors. These readings were recorded and remain available online, providing ongoing accessibility to the public.

**Invited Talks, Lectures & Presentations**

2024 (expected) *Youth Participatory Action Research at AATE's Amplify and Ignite Symposium*  
Panelist invited by Prof. Katie Dawson and Prof. Dana Edell to discuss practices to conduct Youth Participatory Action Research within the applied theatre field.  
New York University; New York City, NY

2023 *Fundraising in the Arts Presentation*  
Guest lecturer in Prof. Bob Bursey undergraduate Fundraising in the Arts Course.  
The University of Texas at Austin; Austin, TX

2023 *Special Education Teachers-in-Training*  
2023 Guest lecturer in Dr. Lisa Lynne Sigafos School and Classroom Management for K-12 Special Educators course to discuss creating accommodations in arts-integration courses.  
The University of Texas at Austin; Austin, TX

2021 [\*Brighter Futures Series: Centering Queer Belonging\*](#)  
Guest panelist in conversation hosted by Jasmine Brooks Company One to speak about presenting creating space for BIPOC queer performance artist and queer youth in our communities. Company One; Boston, MA

2021 *In The Green Room: Anti Racist Theatre*  
Guest panelist in conversation hosted by Michael J Bobbitt to discuss how emerging artists can build anti-racist theatre practices. Boston Conservatory; Boston, MA

2020 *Radicalizing the Artist Workshop*  
Guest lecturer invited by Prof. James Iljames to discuss with theatre undergraduate students how to radicalize their creative practice and advocate for their needs within the creative sector. Villanova University; Villanova, PA

2020 *Paving Pathways to Careers in Arts 2020*

Guest panelist in conversation hosted by Prof. Dustyn Martincich to discuss how college students can forge viable careers in the arts. Bucknell University; Lewisburg, PA

- 2019 *If I Knew Then Series*  
Moderated a panel conversation of artists to discuss Black Artistry in Boston and pathways to accessing community resources to enrich your artistry. StageSource; Boston, MA
- 2019 *DC Arts and Culture Career Development Fair's Fellowship Panel*  
Moderated a panel conversation for college students entering the theatrical workforce. Arena Stage; Washington, DC

### **Refereed Conference Presentations**

- 2023 “Policies for Transformation, Repair, Healing, and Restoration: Moving Beyond DEI.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education. In-person presentation, national conference hosted in Austin, TX, August 4, 2023. *Panelist on a plenary hosted by Monica White Ndounou PhD.*
- 2023 “Tools for Liberation: Activating collaboration and creation through prop design.” American Alliance for Theatre and Education. In-person presentation, national conference hosted in Seattle, WA, July 27, 2023. *Lead presenter on a Research-based workshop presented with Mateo Hernandez and Lily Odekirk.*

### **Select Service Activities**

#### Department of Theatre and Dance, UT Austin

2022—2023 Graduate Student Assembly Department Representative

#### Professional Service (Massachusetts)

- 2019—Present Board Member of the TC Squared Theatre Company
- 2022 Massachusetts Cultural Council STARS Residency Grant Panelist
- 2021 New England Foundation for the Arts Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice Grant Panelist 2021
- 2021 New England Foundation for the Arts Public Art for Spatial Justice Grant Panelist 2021

#### Professional Service (National/International)

- 2024—Present The CRAFT Institute and International Black Theatre Summit New England Regional Leader and Youth Engagement Chair
- 2022—Present American Alliance for Theatre and Education Research/Scholarship Committee Co-Chair
- 2022—Present American Alliance for Theatre and Education Distinguished Dissertation and Thesis Award Co-Chair