

Donovan Rogers

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Education

The University of Michigan

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance: Acting
Minors in Arts Management & Entrepreneurship, Playwriting

Ann Arbor, MI
Jul. 2020 - April 2024

Experience

Founder & Producing Artistic Director

The DR's Laboratory

March 2020 - Present
Metro-Detroit, Michigan

- Fundraised \$37,900 in nearly 2 years of independent grant writing; managed budget and expenses.
- Developed & administered 3 arts equity models of staffing and programming that addressed the needs of marginalized target communities based on 2 years of spearheading stakeholder research.
- Managed over 120 roles, 71 castmates, and 29 partnerships from nonprofits & colleges.
- Designed, strategized & managed websites, communications, and social media platforms.

Playwright Associate

Signature Theatre x Manhattan Theatre Club

September 2024 - Present
New York City, New York

- Observed and received mentorship from Broadway playwright, Dominique Morriseau, during her Off-Broadway premier of *Bad Kreyol*, produced by The Signature Theatre x The Manhattan Theatre Club.

Young Artist Company Manager & Teaching Artist

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit

2018-2019, June 2021 - July 2024
Detroit, Michigan

- Managed high school students through social emotional learning within advanced arts education.
- Instructed elementary, middle and high school students in theatre and dance education.

Self-Hosted Internship

Zell Lurie Institute

May 2023 - August 2023
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Directed the development of entrepreneurial projects geared toward building equity within the arts under consultations of professionals within The Ross School of Business.
- Earned \$10,000 in grant writing and business pitching for start-up, managing budget and expense reporting.
- Organized business strategies and services within professional communication packages & materials.

Social Innovation Peer Mentor

optiMize Social Innovation Challenge

August 2022 - April 2023
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Mentored UM undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students on developing business projects geared toward accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Coached project owners on grant writing and persuasive speaking to earn up to \$10,000 in project funding.
- Taught business owners strategies to center their target communities in program and UX design.

Production Assistant

Beyond 8 x Gucci Changemakers

September 2022
Detroit, Michigan

- Supported interior design set-up, take-down, and event management for high-profile, philanthropic event.

Director of Partnerships

Blank Space Playwriting Workshop

September 2021 - April 2022
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Established & managed partnership with The Dramatist Guild to offer memberships to student playwrights.
- Mobilized outreach tools to connect BIPOC playwrights with BIPOC actors.

Program Coordinator

University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)

September 2021 - April 2022
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Coordinated all aspects of programming including scheduling activities and organizing multimedia.
- Collaborated with museum staff and university instructors and students to develop innovative art practices.

Board of Delegate, College Volunteer Facilitators Corps

August 2018 - April 2021

*Michigan Association of Student Councils and Honors Societies**Lansing, Michigan+*

- Conceptualized, developed, and facilitated leadership workshops & awards for high school students & staff.
- Publicly spoke at convocations with Gov. Whitmer and Sen. Peters in advocacy for access to education.

Marketing Specialist & Creative Directing Assistant

June 2015 - April 2017

*Warner Rogers Academy of Performing Arts (WRAP Inc. Studios)**Southfield, Michigan*

- Developed & Directed advertising campaigns using Google Business/MarketPlace & Facebook Ads
- Created & Directed digital accounts including Weebly Websites, Facebook, Instagram, driving testimonials to boost customer buy-in on Google and Facebook.
- Developed market research on dance studios across Metro-Detroit.
- Supported Creative Director in live community performances and dance competitions.

Projects

Black Fiction Script Cycle of Theatre & Film

October 2021 - Present

- Developed arts equity methodology that engages the community one's script reflects in an effort to gauge their needs, limit misrepresentation, and promote ownership within theatre and film narratives.
- Drafted & tracked surveys and interviews of participant feedback to inform the creation of 3 scripts that addressed the community's need for Black fictional narratives that balance joy & pain.
- Cultivated relations with nonprofits and cultural & educational institutions to expand the reach of the initiative from The University of Michigan to a national level; including The Kennedy Center

The God Bless the Child Initiative

March 2022 - Present

- Prototyped & directed arts methodology and programs centering feedback from diverse communities.
- Developed stakeholder relations The Duderstadt Studio, UM Alumni & staff and nearly 10 UM student organizations building equity for marginalized communities to support programming.
- Directed, wrote and performed afrofuturist screenplay and musical album about the college experience.

The Princess Project

September 2022 - Present

- Fundraised & managed \$21k in grants & awards in 5 months for all expenses paid, one month ethnographic creative study for 4 students to research the culture behind Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*.
- Coordinated student travel, contracts and payment to museums, nonprofits and community participants.
- Developed stakeholder relations with cultural justice institutions such as Essence Magazine, Xavier University, André Cailloux Center, & Congo Square Preservation Society, and UM DAAS.

The Into the Light Initiative

October 2021 - Present

- Fundraised & managed \$16.9k to support arts & healing initiatives for Black male-identifiers.
- Developed & directed an arts wellness curriculum informed by cultural research for diverse communities.
- Developed stakeholder relations with UM CAPS and optiMize to support programming.
- Directed & wrote stage play about the healing experience of marginalized men that earned awards from UM Hopwood (3) and The Kennedy Center (2).

The Freedom Community Engagement Music Tour

January 2023 - April 2023

- Directed all creative, commercial, coordinating, & recruitment efforts for a live performance tour across UM that involved a multidisciplinary BIPOC undergraduate cast sharing songs of empowerment.
- Developed stakeholder relations with 8+ UM student organizations and Cultural Centers.

Curriculum Collection Iteration II.

September 2021 - April 2022

- Designed & coordinated an interdisciplinary curriculum for 3 University of Michigan art education classes, curating their artistic responses to UMMA's Curriculum Collection II. into an installation.

Additional Skills

- Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Canva, G Suites: Google Docs, Forms, Sheets, Drive, etc.
- Proficiency in Facebook Ads, Weebly Websites/Publications, & Digital Outreach
- Proficiency with Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP), UM's designated Travel Partner
- International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)