

Malkia J. Okech

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Work Experience

Scribe Video Center, Philadelphia, PA

March 2020 - Current

2020 - 2022 Precious Places Project Humanities Facilitator, 2022 - Present Outreach Coordinator.

African Digital Heritage, Nairobi, Kenya

February 2020 - Present (Remote)

Research: Cultural heritage and digitisation curriculum development, industry trends in cultural heritage and technology. Academic Engagement: conference, publication and review support.

Black Spatial Relics Artist Residency, Philadelphia PA

November 2019 - Current

Associate Producer, Social Media Manager, Administrative Assistant.

Monument Lab, Philadelphia, PA

November 2020 - August 2021

Research Associate for National Monument Audit.

Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Graduated May 2019, Dean's List

Major: Near Eastern Language & Civilization

Minor: Digital Humanities

Group Exhibitions

2020 Vox Populi Juried Exhibition [Make/Shift](#)

2020 SNAIL Gallery, [Ritual & Rhythm](#)

2022 - 2023 [Chronicling Resistance](#), Free Library of Philadelphia

Residencies & Fellowships

2023 Materia Abierta: *El múcaro a lo lejos*, Mexico City, Mexico

2020 - 2022 [Activist-Curator Research Fellowship](#), Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA USA

2022 [Leeway x IPMF Media Artist + Activist Residency](#), Leeway Foundation, Philadelphia, PA USA

Awards

2023 The Leeway Foundation, Window of Opportunity (WOO) Grant.

2021 [The Sachs Program for Innovation in the Arts \(2021\)](#) *The Masks We Wear*.

2019 Visual Resources Association Foundation (VRAF) [Professional Development Grant Recipient](#)

Published Work

"**An Abolitionist is a Chameleon Shedding its Skin**", *Black Body Amnesia: Poems and Other Speech Acts*. (March 2022).

"**A Story in Eight Objects: A Study of the Material Culture of the 2020 Uprisings**", *How We Stay Free*. (February 2022).

"**Black Women Are From The Future**" With Brenda Dixon-Gottschild & Lela Aisha Jones, Vashti Dubois And Blew Kind. Painted Bride Art Center blog (September 2020).

Facilitation

2021 - 2022 "Abolition, Archives & Art"

Educational collage workshop designer & facilitator. Iterations at Making Worlds Bookstore and Barnard College Archives.

2020 "American Chameleon: The Living Installments", Fringe Festival, Reading Group Facilitator

Conferences & Workshops

The International Conference On Audio-Visual Archiving And Preservation 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Panel (virtual): "Rethinking The Resources And Innovations Needed For AV Archives To Survive And Thrive In Africa."

26th Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists 2023, Houston, TX

Session: "Digital Tools and Community archaeology"

Paper Title: *Towards Building a Framework for Transnational African Digital Heritage*.

#CultureGrows Symposium: Between Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, 2020, British Council, Nairobi, Kenya

African Digital Heritage Workshop: "Cultural Heritage & Digitisation"

ASOR Annual Meeting 2018, Denver, CO

Poster Session. *Fantasy and Reality: Experiments with VR in Archaeological Reconstruction*.

Public Engagement & Talks

2022 *The Parlor Talks* series at the Paul Robeson House and Museum in Philadelphia presents *Decolonize Museums: Grounding the Movement in Philly* feat. Author Shimrit Lee in conversation with Abdul-Aliy A. Muhammad & Malkia Okech.

2022 "The Creative Processes of a Futurist Archaeologist", [Black Queer Talk Podcast](#).

2022 University of Pennsylvania Price Lab for Digital Humanities, [Price Lab Podcast](#).

2021 "The Art of Organizing/The Artist as Organizer" Ricardo Bracho, Sachs Artist in Residence, Hosts Conversation with Netza Moreno, Malkia Okech and Ubaldo Boido.

Press

2023 Thoma, TaRhonda. ["Program helps Philadelphia family highlight neighborhood history through documentaries."](#) *6abc Action News*, 29 March 2023.

2022 Russ, Valerie. ["A Newly Opened Reading Room at West Philly's Paul Robeson House Honors Paul's Wife, Eslanda Cardozo Goode Robeson."](#) *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 28 December 2022.

2022 Russ, Valerie. ["After George Floyd Protests, Philadelphians Discuss What It Takes to "Stay Free.""](#) *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 18 February 2022.

Archaeological Field Work

2018 - 2019 South Abydos Archaeological Project, Abydos, Egypt

2018 Vayots-Dzor Landscape Survey Project, Vayots-Dzor region, Armenia

2017 Columbia University, Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli, Italy

Organization Memberships (Current)

Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA)

Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA)

Broadcast Media Africa