

MIRIHA AUSTIN

NON-PROFIT AND CREATIVE DIVERSITY CONSULTANT

Dynamic and passionate philanthropic professional with expertise in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), cultural organizing, and community engagement. Leveraging lived-experience in BIPOC communities and an extensive network of Black and brown founders, nonprofit directors, artists, consultants, and professionals to drive equitable outcomes. Proven track record of fostering authentic connections and advancing social impact initiatives.

SKILLS

- DEI Strategy Development
- Cultural Organizing
- Community Engagement
- Grant Writing and Management
- Program Development
- Panel Moderation + Conversation Guidance
- Relationship Building
- Connection and Collaboration
- Strategic Planning
- Event Production & Management
- Public Speaking
- Community Programming

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



THE BROAD, [JANUARY 25 -MAY 2025]

- Developed and executed a fundraising strategy to support workforce equity in the arts.
- Identified and cultivated prospective funders aligned with DAP's mission.
- Drafted grant proposals, funder briefs, and case statements.
- Advised on DEI funding trends and positioning within national conversations.
- Created materials and talking points for donor meetings and presentations.
- Integrated storytelling and alumni outcomes into development efforts.
- Supported donor engagement strategy.
- Monitored philanthropic shifts related to federal DEI rollbacks.



FREELANCE CULTURAL ORGANIZER [CURRENT]

- Produce storytelling-centered content and brand visuals across photography, social media, and print.
- Facilitate and produce intimate and large-scale gatherings centered on wellness, food, and creative exchange, among other topics.
- Moderate and facilitate panel discussions and community conversations.
- Develop and lead community-based food and cultural programming, including pop-up dinners, tastings, and salon-style events.
- Designed and launched "Ready When You Are," a prepared meal service focused on accessibility, nourishment, and care.



FOUNDER - TOAN CO. [2010-CURRENT]

Founder of a Black-led organization co-creating a community committed to equitable, full-spectrum healing for historically excluded and overlooked communities - utilizing conversation, activation & radical community care.

CONTACT

me@mirihaaa.com
www.mirihaaa.com
[@mirihaaa](#)
Los Angeles-based (open to select travel)

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, REISSA FOUNDATION, [2019-2024]

- Assisted in developing & implementing DEI initiatives to foster inclusive organizational culture & programming.
- Assisted in guiding grant programs focused on supporting BIPOC-led organizations & initiatives, resulting in an increased grantee network & overall grantmaking.
- Established partnerships with community-based organizations & cultural institutions to amplify marginalized voices & perspectives.
- Facilitated learning opportunities on DEI topics for staff, board members, community stakeholders, & peers.



LEAD CULTURAL ORGANIZER [2019-CURRENT]

- Organized community events, forums, and panels to foster dialogue surrounding social issues and promote civic and community engagement.
- Collaborated with local artists, activists, and businesses to create art installations and cultural programming that highlighted BIPOC experiences and narratives.
- Mobilized community members to advocate for policy changes and systemic reforms to address inequities across various areas.

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CREATIVE AND CULTURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

CONTACT

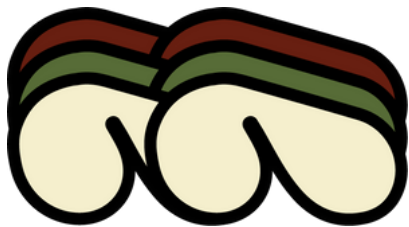
-  (626) 500-5443
-  me@mirihaaa.com
-  www.mirihaaa.com
-  Los Angeles

EXPERTISE + CERTIFICATIONS + PROFICIENCIES

- Certification in Nonprofit Management
- Certification: Fundamentals of an Effective Grant Maker
- Journey to EquityL Becoming a Better Ally (series completion)
- Funders w/ an Equity Lens Learning Group Co-Chair (Southern California Grantmakers)
- Airtable, Excel, Microsoft Suite, Adobe Photoshop, Spark, Lightroom, InDesign, Mac and Windows, Film and Digital SLR), Grant Management Software

REFERENCES

Upon Request



RELATED EXPERIENCE

Photographer

As a photographer, Miriha approaches her work casually, without much fuss. She celebrates and preserves the essence of everyday life. She approaches both portraiture and documentary image-making in a similar fashion, aiming to be as authentic to the moment as possible. This approach results in emotional stills and glimpses of beauty in the mundane. She often centers Black women, artists, and families. As a self-proclaimed anthropologist, it is foundational to her practice to record and archive the daily lives—at work, in creation, and at leisure—of those she is in community with.

Moderator & Conversationalist

- Active Listening: Demonstrating attentiveness and understanding by summarizing, paraphrasing, and reflecting on participants' points.
- Empathy: Showing genuine care and understanding of participants' feelings and perspectives.
- Cultural Awareness: Being knowledgeable about and respectful of different cultures, traditions, and social norms.
- Inclusivity: Ensuring all voices are heard and valued, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented groups.
- Effective Communication: Clearly and respectfully articulating thoughts, questions, and summaries while avoiding jargon or complex language.
- Neutrality and Impartiality: Maintaining an unbiased stance to facilitate fair and balanced discussions.
- Conflict Resolution: Managing and resolving conflicts constructively and diplomatically.
- Flexibility and Adaptability: Being open to adjusting the conversation flow based on participants' needs and dynamics.
- Facilitation Skills: Guiding discussions smoothly, keeping them on track, and ensuring they meet the intended objectives.
- Emotional Intelligence: Recognizing and managing one's own emotions and understanding and influencing the emotions of others.
- Sensitivity to Power Dynamics: Being aware of and addressing imbalances of power within the group to promote equitable participation.
- Critical Thinking: Analyzing and synthesizing information to guide the conversation thoughtfully and meaningfully.

Artist

Miriha Austin is a Los Angeles-based space-maker, cultural and community organizer, archivist, and multi-hyphenate creative. Miriha utilizes the practices of photography, conversation, and place-based activations to connect, impact, move, and educate historically ignored and excluded communities. At its core, these practices aim to challenge societal standards and lived conditions of the communities where she lives and works. Recurring themes across her work are identity development, community care, and personal and familial space.