

20340 E 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80249 • 720-470-6554 • makisha@sistah.biz

PROFILE

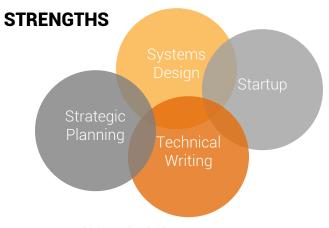
Innovative entrepreneur with 20 years' experience in the nonprofit, government, and business sectors as well as a passion for organizational development and education reform. Specializes in program, curriculum, and project design, launch, and support.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Designed and launched Sistahpreneurs, an incubator for Black women entrepreneurs
- Managed teacher diversity recruitment program for City of Denver
- Designed and founded imaginarium, an innovation lab for the Denver Public Schools (DPS)
- Established the first DPS School Design Program
- Designed and launched a Principal Entrepreneurship Residency Program for DPS
- Won US Small Business Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2007 for Ya Ya Spa, LLC
- Helped to draft and pass the Colorado Innovation Schools Act (SB-130)
- Helped to pass the Colorado Teacher Effectiveness Bill (SB-191)
- Worked with a national team to pass 3 charter laws across the southern U.S.
- Developed and managed community coalitions in 5 states for charter legislative advocacy

SKILLS

Recruitment & onboarding •••••• Operations management •••••• Project management •••••• Strategic planning ••••• Issue campaign management ••••• Policy and political strategy •••••• Taskforce design & facilitation •••••• Training curriculum design •••••• Training facilitation •••••• Community engagement 00000000 Coalition building •••••0000 Diversity & inclusion •••000••0



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER, SISTAHPRENEURS

DENVER, CO

2016-PRESENT

Designed, launched, and continue to run business incubator providing business coaching, tools, resources, and programming to support Black women entrepreneurs. Designed program and training curriculum for multiple business development programs: a 4-week startup bootcamp, a 10-month Loan Readiness Program, a Sales Mastermind, Leads Group and

In just 15 months, the following was accomplished:

- Online community of 1300 women in 1 year
- Over 150 black entrepreneur participants at business brunches and other workshops
- 5 of the 7 entrepreneurs in access to capital pilot boosted credit scores by 50+ points
- 7 of the 7 entrepreneurs secured business loans within 6 months
- 40 new Black-owned businesses launched in Ignite Your Biz Startup Bootcamp
- Raised \$50k in funding to support disadvantaged, struggling entrepreneurs
- Featured in Ebony Magazine's June edition for Cannabis Startup Brunch

MANAGING CONSULTANT, MAKE YOUR MARK DENVER, CO

2016-2017

Led the Make Your Mark program, a collective among the city, school district, and several charter management organizations designed to recruit and retain educators of color. Designed the program implementation and improvement plans, facilitated strategic planning and task force meetings, and managed marketing and brand. Developed relationships with stakeholders, created and monitored budget, and organized recruitment events. In just one year, the following was accomplished:

- Reorganized stakeholders in the collective with new vision and goals for collective impact
- Redesigned the campaign brand to increase website traffic and social media engagement by 200%
- Marketed to attract over 400 candidates of color, securing their emails and resumes through the newly designed site
- Hosted a retention summit for educators of color with over 200 attendees, selling out the first week of registration

SENIOR DIRECTOR, DPS INNOVATION LAB

DENVER, CO

2015-2016

Spearheaded development of the Denver Public Schools' Innovation Lab's business model, its operational systems and the school progress monitoring processes. Oversaw a summer lab that allowed teachers to test new instructional strategies in live summer school classrooms and work through design challenges. Prepared grant reports and managed funder relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL DESIGN, DPS

DENVER, CO

2013-2014

Developed and led the district's school design program, including designing program curriculum and facilitating training sessions. Managed school support, site visits, renewal processes, and progress monitoring for schools implementing blended learning, expanded learning opportunities, and other innovative school models. Prepared grant reports and managed funder relationships for over 1.2 million dollars in funding.

DIRECTOR OF AUTONOMOUS LEADERSHIP, DPS DENVER, CO

2012-2013

Designed and launched a DPS principal residency program, the Residency for Educational Development of DPS Intrapreneurs (REDDI). Developed curriculum placing 5 leaders per year in a high-performing charter school for 12 months while simultaneously studying entrepreneurship. Residents were subsequently placed in traditional schools to cross-pollinate best practice.

DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION, NAPCS

WASHINGTON, DC

2009-2011

Developed a diversity strategy for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, with components including strategic partnerships, communications, grassroots action, and legislative advocacy. Managed grassroots campaign, legislative advocacy, and lobbying efforts in 4 target states. Spoke publicly in organization's speakers' bureau. Centralized operations, training, and reporting systems of 5 states, streamlining previously independent systems and processes. Facilitated national roundtables on leadership development, strategic communications, civil rights, and legislative support. Assisted in grant-writing processes that secured over \$800K in funding.

SENIOR ADVISOR, STATE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

DENVER, CO

2007-2009

Led caucus's strategic planning regarding media, outreach, policy, and administration. Oversaw senate's internal operations. Managed senate board and commission appointments. Served on the drafting team for the Colorado Innovations School Act and worked on the staffing team for senate bill 10-191, the state's teacher effectiveness bill.

OWNER AND OPERATOR, YA YA SPA, LLC

DENVER, CO

2003-2008

Owned and operated a startup day spa in Cherry Creek North with six-figure revenues and full staff and clientele. Managed staff, brand, operations, finances, customer service, and the entire business and marketing strategy.

US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DENVER, CO

1997-1999

Supported the District Director and Deputy District Director in program operations and diversity outreach programming.

EDUCATION

- Harvard Public Education Leadership Program, 2013
- KIPP Leadership Development Fellowship, 2012
- Yale Women's Campaign School, 2008
- University of Colorado at Denver, B.A. Political Science, 2002

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

- Ebony Magazine, Being Mary Janes June 2018
- Innovation Leadership Award, Denver Public Schools, 2016
- Oakland Startup Weekend EDU, 3rd Place Winner, 2014
- Colorado Black Women for Political Action, Recognition Award, 2009
- US Small Business Administration Young Entrepreneur of the Year, 2007
- Black Enterprise, Featured Entrepreneur, The Great Escape, December 2006
- Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce Clara Brown Entrepreneur, 2005
- Fox Morning Show, guest appearance for SHADES Wellness Conference, 2005

REFERENCES

The Honorable Peter Groff, former supervisor pcgroff@mcg2consulting.com (303) 601-0510

Antonio Pares, former client apares@dkfoundation.org

Landri Taylor, current client Ltaylor@stapletonfoundation.org

Lindsay.r.neil@gmail.com

Kadija Sesay, former employee ksesay81@gmail.com (720) 621-9272