

Niara Taylor

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EDUCATION

University of Maryland – Baltimore County (UMBC)

B.F.A. in Acting and B.A. in Africana Studies, Music Minor
Honors: President's List 2019 - 2022

Baltimore, MD
May 2023
GPA: 3.8

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Black Ensemble Theater

Theater Intern; Choreographer

Chicago, IL
July 2022 – Aug. 2022

- Collaborated with interns to write and perform in an adaptation of Jackie Taylor's *The Other Cinderella*
- Scheduled meetings with the sound production team in order to create the proper cuts/time-stamps for the music
- Developed leadership and communication skills by working closely with theater professionals
- Choreographed and taught all the dances for the production to all of the performers

MacArthur Foundation

Journalism and Media Intern

Chicago, IL
June 2021 – Aug. 2021

- Wrote briefs for executive review to award grants in support of nonprofit reporting and participatory civic media
- Devised efficient ways to identify grantee content related to MacArthur's mission to post on MacArthur channels through social media tracking on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
- Contributed to over five research projects relating to challenges such as disinformation, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion issues, and the segregation of media within the journalism and media sector

TurnUp: Activism App

Intern

Cambridge, MA
June 2020 – Aug. 2020

- Published three articles on various social movements, conducted research about social justice organizations
- Collaborated to create 50 contact lists of social justice organizations, college clubs, and youth leaders
- Reached out to over thirty influencers to promote the app via social media platforms (Instagram, Twitter, TikTok)

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

UMBC Retriever Newspaper

Freelance Writer

Baltimore, MD
Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2022

- Reported biweekly on political and artistic topics related to the Black community, edited work pre-publication
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative research for articles, administered interviews of students and artists

UMBC Black Lives Matter Club

Treasurer; Social Media Coordinator

Baltimore, MD
Jan. 2019 – Aug. 2022

- Participated in weekly meetings, filled out budget and allocation forms to generate club funds, negotiated grants
- Promoted campus events via social media, generated presentations on Black immigration, food insecurity, etc.

University Church of Chicago Social Justice Committee

Youth Leader

Chicago, IL
Oct. 2015 – Jul. 2018

- Raised money for, planned, and hosted youth and young adult open mic events at church
- Participated in Black Lives Matter events to raise awareness of and advocate against police brutality

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

UMBC Theatre Department Honors for

Outstanding Achievement in Performance, March 2023 recipient

Baltimore, MD

Africana Studies Department Award for Academic Achievement, April 2022 Winner

Baltimore, MD

Africana Studies Department W.E.B. Du Bois Award, March 2021 Winner

Baltimore, MD

Pegasus Playwriting Competition, August 2017 Honorable Mention

Chicago, IL

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Languages: intermediate Spanish, beginner Swahili

Technical: experienced in WordPress, Python, Microsoft Office, social media platforms (Instagram, Twitter, TikTok)

Interests: traveling and cultural immersion, hip-hop dancing, playwriting, spoken word