



Kaisha S. Johnson is the Co-Founder and Founding Director of Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA), a national service organization dedicated to creating racial and cultural equity in the performing arts field. As a staunch advocate for racial and cultural equity on and off the stage, Kaisha S. Johnson co-founded WOCA to help amplify the voices of arts administrators of color with the intent of cultivating a diverse and inclusive field, as varied in voice and perspective

as the communities it serves. Most recent to her position at WOCA, Ms. Johnson served for over a decade as a program director at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, a non-profit dedicated to building cross-cultural awareness by nurturing and presenting the performing arts traditions of New York's immigrant communities. In this capacity, she curated and produced culturally-specific work for the stage, worked to help organize immigrant artist communities, advocated for the preservation and presentation of diverse cultural traditions and, generally, worked to affirm the value of cultural diversity as an essential component of the United States' national identity.

Having traveled extensively throughout Latin America and The African Diaspora working with arts organizations and artists, Ms. Johnson has created a niche in the performing arts world. With a commitment to facilitating multi-cultural programming through an equitable lens, Kaisha also serves as an arts consultant providing assistance in curation, program development, community engagement, and organizational systems analysis. Kaisha has also served as an adjunct instructor at the City University of New York in the non-profit management program and currently at the Center for Bronx

Nonprofits. Kaisha is also a proud fellow with the Intercultural Leadership Institute and the APAP Leadership Fellows Program.

With 20 years experience as an arts manager, Kaisha has formerly held positions at JazzReach and Herbert Barrett Management. A 20-year resident of Harlem, New York, initially Kaisha S. Johnson got her start in the performing arts in her hometown of Houston, Texas as a classically-trained violinist. Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Hampton University, a Master's in music business administration from New York University and has done post-graduate work in ethnomusicology at Hunter College at the City University of New York.

Kaisha Johnson, Co-Founder and Founding Director of [Women of Color in the Arts - WOCA](#), will receive the Sidney R. Yates Award for Outstanding Advocacy on Behalf of the Performing Arts

The Sidney R. Yates Advocacy Award honors an individual, or an organization, for a particular advocacy effort or for a sustained advocacy campaign at the national, state or local level that has had a significant impact on the performing arts. The award honors the late Congressman Sidney R. Yates, whose commitment to the arts was legendary and who continues to serve as an inspiration to all of us.

<https://www.dance.nyc/news/2017/08/Women-of-Color-in-the-Arts-Notes-from-the-Underground-Tear-them-Down>