

## **jada-amina**

Curator | Cultural Worker | Artist

[jadaamina.com](http://jadaamina.com) | [jadaaminah@gmail.com](mailto:jadaaminah@gmail.com)

## **EDUCATION**

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) – Chicago, IL  
*BFA | Sculpture New Genres and Art History*

Otis College of Art and Design – Los Angeles, CA  
*BFA | Sculpture New Genres, Minor in Arts Education*

## **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

### **2024**

ACSF Scholarship for *Sonic Architectures of Chicago House Music: Black Atlantic Memory and Monument in the Urban Landscape*

### **2022**

WPA Wherewithal Research Grant for *The Gospel Truth*  
Refractions Creative Grant for *The Gospel Truth*  
3Arts Ignite Fund for *The Gospel Truth*

### **2021**

Emerging Filmmaker's Grant, Pentimenti Productions  
Arts + Public Life Program Grant, University of Chicago  
SPARK Grant, Chicago Artists Coalition

### **2018**

Juried Show Winner – *No Shade in the Shadow of the Boss*, Los Angeles, CA  
Merit Scholarship Recipient – School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## **RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **2019-2020**

Flood's Hall Artist Residency, Chicago, IL – Artist in Residence

### **2018**

LAUNCH Invitational Residency, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL

### **2021**

Museum Professional Seminar Fellowship (Virtual), Studio Museum Harlem

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **2023 - Present**

**Black Harvest Film Festival – Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL**  
*Curator*

- Oversees the curatorial vision and programming of the Black Harvest Film Festival, representing 18 countries and over 100 special guests in 2024.
- Organizes screenings, panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and community-centered workshops.
- Develop programs emphasizing storytelling from across the African diaspora.

2022

*Coordinator*

- Developed educational and public programs for Black Harvest Film Festival in collaboration with Chicago Public Libraries.
- Designed supplementary materials, curated book lists, and facilitated programs bridging diasporic film and literature.

**South Side Community Art Center – Chicago, IL**

*Public Programs and Engagement Manager*

2024 - Ongoing

- Curates public workshops, artist talks, and symposia on the intersection of Black history and contemporary cultural narratives.
- Collaborates with local and international artists to produce community-driven programming.

**Old Town School of Folk Music – Chicago, IL**

*Community Ventures Coordinator*

2021 - 2024

Supported coordinating international artist residencies, concerts, and school visits, facilitated workshops, and public programs, bridging global folk musical traditions with local communities.

Co-founded the inaugural *Black Histories Folk Futures Symposium*, featuring renowned musicians and scholars.

**University of Chicago – Department of Linguistic Anthropology**

*Research Assistant*

2022

Conducted research and contributed to academic projects in linguistic anthropology, focusing on diasporic language and cultural studies.

**SELECTED CURATORIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

**Forthcoming, 2025**

**Chicago Salon: *Altars, Architecture, and Collective Memory***

*Co-Organizer*

Co-organized and programmed interdisciplinary symposium for an international group of architects, cultural workers, spirit leaders and other practitioners focused on architecture's role in cultural memory, spirituality, and identity, with activities spanning multiple Chicago locations, including Bronzeville, Chicago Lawn, Oak Park, West Loop and Downtown.

## **2024**

### **Black Histories Folk Futures Symposium**

*Co-Organizer*

Partnered with Old Town School of Folk Music to produce a symposium exploring Black histories and folk traditions. Integrated artist residencies with school programming and public performances.

### **Bronzeville is Beautiful: A Living Archive – Bronzeville Art District Trolley Tour**

South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, IL

*Curator*

Guided trolley tour celebrating Bronzeville's artistic history, with cultural stops, ice cream, and a photo booth as part of the "Bronzeville is Beautiful: A Living Archive" project.

### **The Art of Giving Flowers: Celebrating 84 Years of The South Side Community Art Center**

South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, IL

*Curator*

Curated an immersive experience celebrating 84 years of the South Side Community Art Center's legacy. This interdisciplinary program brought together Black artists from Chicago and across the globe to explore themes of community, cultural memory, and creative integration. The evening featured an all-Black team, including a sommelier, private chef, and portrait artist, alongside custom bouquets, signature cocktails, mocktails, live DJ sets, and portraiture sessions.

### **Smithsonian's Our Shared Future: Reckoning with Our Racial Past Kick Off**

National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL

*Co-Organizer*

Kickoff program exploring race, identity, and Chicago's role in racial reckoning. Included performances by Harold Green, Frank Waln, and DJ Rae Chardonnay, with live printmaking by William Estrada.

### **Holding Our Own: Stewarding Black Women's Creative Pursuits Across Generations**

*Co-Organizer*

Moderated a conversation between Bridgette M. Davis and Maya Cadeon preserving Black women's artistic legacies, presented with the Smithsonian, Black Film Archive, and Jupiter Magazine.

## **2023-Present**

Black Harvest Film Festival – Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL

*Curator*

Curated the annual Black Harvest Film Festival showcasing Black cinema across the diaspora and organized screenings, panels, and workshops in partnership with local and international filmmakers.

## **2019**

### **Loved Ones Presents Series**

Organized screenings and programs in Chicago, including:

- Killer of Sheep + Q&A with Charles Burnett, Doc Films
- La Haine x Paid in Full, Doc Films
- Tokyo Drifter, Harper Theatre

### **We Are The Future: Reimagining Black Girlhood**

Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL

## **2018 - 2019**

### **Passion to Profession Workshop Series**

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

Produced professional development workshops, including Liberation Landscapes, Best Dressed, and Happy-ish Hour.

## **PERFORMANCES**

### **2024**

ETCETERA Capsule Release – The Native, Chicago, IL

Hi Cotton: Bush Babe supporting Blu Bone & Ms, Boogie – Fine Line, Minneapolis, MN

SXSW Rolling Stone Showcase – Presented by ~Pourri x Rolling Stone – Speakeasy, Austin, TX

### **2023**

jada-amina and The Kingdom Bound – Music Under Glass Concert Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, IL

Keiyaa supported by jada-amina and Kara Jackson – Sleeping Village, Chicago, IL

### **2022**

AfroFuturist Weekend Kickoff –,,,so *the lilac never wilt alone*,,,, Elijah Jamal featuring jada-amina – Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL

### **2021**

The Power of the Word – Culture Coach by Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL

## **SCREENINGS**

### **2024**

*No One's Going To Mythologize My Life*, Blanc Gallery, Chicago, IL

**2023**

Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL

**2020**

*Shorts: Into The Wild*, Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL

A Loved Ones Showcase, The Music Box, Chicago, IL

**2018**

Experimental Film, Echo Park Film Center, Los Angeles, CA

**2017**

*Enter The Labyrinth*, Helen and Abraham Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*First Responders*, Echo Park Film Center, Los Angeles, CA

**SELECTED MEDIA AND PRESS**

**2024**

[“Filmmakers Making A Social Impact: Why & How Filmmaker Jada-Amina H of Black Harvest Film Festival Are Helping to Change Our World”](#) – Authority Magazine

[“The 30th Annual Black Harvest Film Festival”](#) – WGN-TV

**2023**

[“Black Harvest Film Festival 2023 Highlights: John Singleton, Tyler Perry, and A Vibrant Artistic Community”](#) – RogerEbert.com

[“Black Harvest: The Past, Future, and Present of Diaspora Film”](#) – Newcity Art

[“Black Harvest Film Festival Puts Revolutionary Visions On Screen”](#) – Block Club Chicago

[“Black Light Cinema Project’ Brings Film to the Forefront”](#) – Chicago Reader

[“Jada-Amina Harvey Talks Black Harvest Film Festival”](#) – FF2 Media

**2022**

[“A Celebration of Diasporic Filmmaking: Black Harvest Film Festival Returns to Chicago”](#) – WBEZ Chicago

[“The Cultural Impact of Black Harvest Film Festival”](#) – Chicago Tribune

[“Dream Scapes: Imaginings of a Black Pastoral at Roots & Culture”](#) – Newcity Art

**TALKS AND READINGS**

**2024**

ASCF 14: *Resonance of the Past, Spirit of the Future* – Istanbul, Turkey

*Feedback: A Long-Distance Call from Lagos to Chicago* – Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, IL

**2023**

In Conversation with Jacolby Satterwhite – Visiting Artists Program, Art Institute of Chicago

**2022**

Society of Linguistic Anthropology Conference – Presenter, Boulder, CO

Central Kentucky Linguistics Conference – Keynote Speaker

**PUBLICATIONS**

**2024**

*E-Merge: Artistic Intersections of the Black Midwest*

*Sonic Architectures of Chicago House Music: Black Atlantic Memory and Monument in the Urban Landscape* – ACSF Publication

*Feedback: A Long-Distance Call from Lagos to Chicago*

**2022**

*Grandmother's Home: The Black Radical Tradition of Back Collecting*

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2023**

Black Light Cinema Project – South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, IL

**2022**

Kickin' the Can – Drama Club, ACRE Projects, Chicago, IL

**2021**

Dreamscapes: Imaginings of a Black Pastoral – Roots & Culture Gallery, Chicago, IL

**2018**

*No Shade in the Shadow of the Boss* – Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA

Senior Subordinate Show – Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA