



For more information:
Elizabeth Cawein
elizabeth@signalflowpr.com
901.440.8085

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MEMPHIS MUSIC INITIATIVE HIRES BRITTNEY BOYD BULLOCK AS YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER FOR MMIWORKS

(MEMPHIS, TN) – Memphis Music Initiative is excited to announce the hire of **Brittney Boyd Bullock** as Youth Program Manager for its new MMIWorks initiative.

Bullock is a native of Memphis and holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Memphis. As a practicing visual artist, she is most interested in art that questions and analyzes the notion of identity and beauty, taking inspiration from Theaster Gates' quote that "art has the capacity to free us from the every day." She received a scholarship to the Americans for the Arts Conference in 2014 and an ArtsMemphis Fellowship in 2015. The same year, Bullock received grant funding from the Assisi Foundation to work in partnership with the Klondike Smokey City Community Development Corporation on the launch of a Youth Arts Apprenticeship in the Klondike Smokey City neighborhood. The program introduces young people to visual art as a professional and entrepreneurial opportunity.



Bullock has worked as a Project Manager for the Urban Art Commission and as the Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager for Crosstown Concourse & Crosstown Arts, working on many arts inspired initiatives and projects that use the arts as a tool for social change.

In her new role with Memphis Music Initiative, Bullock will lead the development and implementation of MMIWorks, a new youth engagement program focused on creating summer internship and professional development opportunities for young people around music and the arts.

"MMI can create and implement programs and platforms on various levels for young people and organizations that introduce and encourage creative youth development in a tangible and thoughtful way," Bullock says. "I'm excited for the potential of other agencies and initiatives to take shape due to the work we put forth, in doing so making this a collective impact for Memphis. It's without a doubt that I'm in the right place and with the right team doing this work

and I look forward to learning and growing from this experience as an arts administrator and visual artist.”

ABOUT MEMPHIS MUSIC INITIATIVE

The Memphis Music Initiative was started in 2014 with funding from a private Memphis foundation. The initiative was inspired by earlier work from various youth and music organizations throughout the city to use community engagement to develop arts-focused activities that build on existing resources and assets to drive youth and community outcomes. The initiative's strategic priorities and approach were defined through a five-month strategic development process which engaged low-income and communities of color throughout Memphis and local and national youth development and arts leaders to identify the assets, process, and activities important to carrying out this work successfully. The five-year, \$20 million strategy is expected to run through 2020. The initiative was designed to focus on three critical areas of work: in-school (sustain existing in-school music education and expand instruction through partnerships with local musicians); extended learning (expand high-quality out-of-school time programs to reach more youth and remove barriers to youth engagement and participation); and innovation spaces (develop places to spur innovation where youth can hear, learn and play music). Learn more at MemphisMusicInitiative.org.

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