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| **Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)** Transformative Education and Change  California Institute of Integral  Studies, San Francisco | **MFA (Master of Fine Arts)** Writing and Consciousness New College of California, San Francisco | **MA (Master of Arts)** Writing and Consciousness New College of California, San Francisco |

## **EDUCATION**

## **AWARDS & HONORS PUBLICATIONS**

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| --- | --- |
| [The Town](https://www.nomadicpress.org/thetown)  Nomadic Press, 2023  [*Black Bird Press & Review*](http://www.bambdfest.com/black-bird-press-archive.php)*, Guest Editor, August 2023*  [Colossus: Body](https://colossuspress.org/buy)  Colossus Press, 2023  [*Black Rootedness*](https://elyssarpress.com/product/black-rootedness/)  *Elyssar Press, 2022*  [*Black Bird Press & Review*](http://www.bambdfest.com/black-bird-press-archive.php)*, Guest Editor, August 2022*  [*SorrowLand Oracle, 2nd Edition*](https://www.audible.com/pd/SorrowLand-Oracle-Audiobook/B09HV843SS?source_code=GPAGBSH0508140001&ipRedirectOverride=true&ds_rl=1258208&ds_rl=1260658&ds_rl=1262685&gclid=CjwKCAiA9aKQBhBREiwAyGP5lRxQOlDfrfBIllZCXqQea_-S8GzBkcueL1GEwmGH7UYJkbv-EdbfwRoC-KsQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)*, Nomadic Press 2021*  *Black Street Magazine, Summer/Fall 2021*  [*Black Bird Press & Review*](http://www.bambdfest.com/black-bird-press-archive.php)*, Guest Editor, August 2021*  [*Denial Kills*](http://www.notapipepublishing.com/denial-kills-an-anthology-of-poetry-and-short-fiction)*, Not a Pipeline Publishing, 2021* | [*Patrice Lumumba Anthology*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zlh7aDFmU8)*, Nomadic Press, 2021*  [*Incandescent, Not a Pipeline Publishing*](http://www.notapipepublishing.com/incandescent-by-ayodele-nzinga)*, 2021*  [*SorrowLand Oracle*](https://oaklandside.org/2021/02/18/ayodele-nzinga-lifts-from-the-bottom-in-her-new-book-of-poetry/)*,* Nomadic Press, 2020  [*Horse Eaters*](https://www.nomadicpress.org/store/thehorseeaters)*,* Nomadic Press, 2017  *14 Hills Journal,* Spring of 2018.  [*The Journal of Pan African Studies*](https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA541103900&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=fulltext&issn=08886601&p=LitRC&sw=w&userGroupName=anon%7E2a705b95)*,* (Vol. 11, Issue 6)[Vol. 4, No. 2](https://www.questia.com/library/p62352/the-journal-of-pan-african-studies-online/i2497915/vol-4-no-2-december), Dec. 2010 and 2018  [*Performing Literacy: A Narrative Inquiry into Performance Pedagogy in a Marginalized Community,*](https://www.amazon.com/Performing-Literacy-Narrative-Performance-Marginalized/dp/3659673587) Lambert Academic Publishing, 2015 |

**2021** [Installed as theInaugural Poet Laureate of Oakland, CA](https://www.kqed.org/arts/13900077/ayodele-nzinga-oaklands-first-poet-laureate-is-here-for-the-people)

**2017** [Recognized by the August Wilson House](https://www.sfchronicle.com/performance/article/Lower-Bottom-Playaz-Black-lens-universal-10845121.php) as the only Director to produce August Wilson's *American Century Cycle* in chronological order.

**2017** Awarded the Community Leadership Award, from the San Francisco Foundation for Arts Leadership in Bay Area Arts and Culture.

**2017** Inducted the [Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame](https://www.acgov.org/whof/inductees/2017/nzinga.htm) for contributions to Art and Culture.

**2016** Recognized by Alameda County Arts Commission, 25th California Assembly District, District 5 in Oakland CA, for Excellence in Arts Leadership.

**2016** Recognized by Theatre Bay Area as one of the 40 faces contributing to changing the face of theater in the last 40 years of theater in the Bay Area.

## **RESIDENCIES**

***- list abbreviated -***

**RESIDENCIES**

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| **BAM House**  Oakland, CA | **Piano Flight**  Oakland, CA | **Flight Deck**  Oakland, CA | **Museum of the African Diaspora**  San Francisco, CA | **African American Museum & Library**  Oakland, CA | **Prescott Joseph Center for Community Enhancement**  Oakland, CA | **Cal Shakes Artist Investigator**  Berkeley, CA |

**FELLOWSHIPS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [YBCA 10 Fellow,](https://ybca.org/artist/ayodele-nzinga/)  Yerba Buena Cultural Arts, San Francisco, CA, 2020-2022 | [BIPOC Leadership Circle Fellow](https://www.artequity.org/bipoc-lc-alumni-2021?pgid=kthwl52i-4b99c05f-c263-4cf1-a6bf-b54d8825986f), Geffen School of Drama at Yale, 2021-2022 | [MAP FUND Fellow, 2020-2022](https://mapfundblog.org/2021-map-fund-grantees/) | OBI PAR Fellow, Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, CA, 2021-2022 |

## **MAJOR PROJECTS**

**AYODELE NZINGA 2/3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Urban Forestry Plan**  **2023-2024**  Spokesperson  City of Oakland, CA  **Deeply Rooted**  **2022-2025**  Community Partner  Oakland CA  **YBCA 10**  **2021-2022**  MegaVerses: The Offering  Installation, **The Offering: MegaVerses** is a triptych that uses orality, visual language, and text/technology to interrogate deconstruct and recast narratives of climate and social injustice framed by conquest, colonialism, and capitalism to inform the imagining of human survival on the blue ball.  *“Sometimes I remember the future --- and it terrifies me.”- A. Nzinga*  **BAMBDFEST International Biennial**  **2019-present**  Founded 2019 animating Oakland’s only officially designated cultural district, the Black Arts Movement Business District with a month-long arts and culture festival in multiple venues with live and online elements employing artists across disciplines and across the African diaspora. | **Incarceration: The Last Plantation**  **2010-2017**A research-based theatrical project examining the American carceral system and its harmful effect on communities of color. The project yielded the work below:  *Lifer — The Glen Bailey Story* Research-based stage play.  *Beyond Bars: Growing Home R*esearch-based stage play.  *For Brothers Only R*esearch-based short film documentary.  **The American Century Cycle Project**  **2009-2015**The chronological production of the August Wilson *Century Cycle* from *Gem of the Ocean to Radio Golf.* Internationally reviewed in *Critical*  *Stages* and featured cover story of *Scene 7.*  **Protection Shields**A multidisciplinary collaboration featuring 3-dimensional visual art, film, and theater.  **Literacy through the Arts**An arts-based literacy curriculum for K-12 youth Developed in collaboration with undergraduate teaching programs.  **Shakespeare in the Yard (aka Shakespeare in the Hood)**  **1999-2010** A series of traditional Shakespearean works with original Hip-Hop translations.  Noted in Scott Newstock's *Weyward Macbeth.* |

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**2023- Present:** **Founder**, BAM House Cultural Arts Center

**2019 – Present:** **Founder**, **Producing Artistic Director**. BAMBDFEST

**2016 – Present: Founding Director.** BAMBD CDC (Black Arts Movement Business District Community Development Corporation)

**2007 – Present: Founder, CEO.** Lower Bottom Playaz Summer Theater Day Camp

**1999 – Present: Founder, Producing Director.** Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc.

**2013 – 2000: Founding Artistic Director**. Sister Thea Bowman Memorial Theater —   
a theater built for Nzinga's use, 920 Peralta St., Oakland CA   
Troupe-in-Residence for 13 years.

## **PRODUCTION SUMMARY**

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| 8/2023: ***Radio Golf***by August Wilson  Director, BAM House, Oakland CA  8/2023: ***Journey of Names*** by William Crossman  Producer, Director, BAM House, Oakland CA  *8/2023:* ***Comb your hair or you’ll look like a slave****,* by LeeLee Jackson  Producer, BAM House, Oakland CA  2/2023: ***Tasha, the Natasha McKenna Story*** by Cat Brooks Director. 3 Girls Theater, Z Space, San Francisco, CA  2/25/23: ***A GXD that bleeds***.  God, Piano Fight  Oakland CA  8/1-31/2023:  ***BAMBDFEST INTERNATIONAL*** A 31-day hybrid arts and culture festival. Multiple venues & across various platforms.  Producer, Artistic Director  10/2022: ***In the Banlieues***  Exhibition & Public Conversations  Villa Albertine, France & San Francisco  6/2022: ***The Mojo & The Sayso***  Director. Oakland Theater Project, Oakland CA  2/2022: ***Bathroom Graffiti Queen****.* Producer. Queen. Piano Fight, Oakland CA  10/2021-Present  Host of ***SpeakEasy: Winter in America***  A Zoom poetry showcase.  8/2021: ***BAMBDFEST INTERNATIONAL*** A 31-day hybrid arts and culture festival. Multiple venues & across various platforms. Producer, Artistic Director  8/2021: *BAMBDFEST* ***Monday Night Theater Series.***Producer, Director. Zoom  8/2021: ***Riot*** *by David Tally.* Producer, Director. Zoom.  8/2021: ***Black House*** *by Cat Brooks*. Short Film. Yaa Aasantewaa, On the Stage Digital Theater  8/2021: ***Journey of Names*** *by Will Crossman* Producer, Director. Zoom  8/2020: **BAMBDFEST INTERNATIONAL**  A 31-day virtual arts and culture festival. Multiple events across multiple platforms. Producer, Artistic Director  8/2020: BAMBDFEST ***Monday Night Theater Se*ries** Producer, Director. Zoom  8/2020: ***Spell#7*** *by Ntozake Shange*. Producer, Director. Zoom  8/2020: ***Black House*** *by Cat Brooks* Producer. Zoom  8/2020: **Driving the Girls** *by Cat Brooks* Producer. Zoom  7/2020: ***The Big Show*.** Summer Theater Day Camp. Zoom  2/2020: ***Here!***Producer, Director, Curator, Performer. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  12/2019: ***Here!***Producer, Director, Curator, Performer. Blue Dream, Oakland, CA  10/2019: ***Iya Iya*** *Excerpts by Ayodele Nzinga, Cat Brooks, Khy Wigginton* Director. Performer. Life is Living Festival, Defremery Park, Oakland, CA  10/2019: ***Glory*** *by Ayodele Nzinga* One-woman show, Ohlone College, Fremont, CA  9/2019: ***Iya Iya's House of Burning Souls*** *solo shows by Ayodele Nzinga, Cat Brooks, Khy Wigginton* Producing Director, one of three solo show performers (Glory), The Flight Deck, Oakland CA  8/2019: ***The One Truthiness*** *— Oakland 3 {The Finale} by Charlie Levin* Producer, Director, Dramaturg. The Flight Deck Oakland, CA | 7–8/2019: ***The Big Show***, Summer Theater Day Camp Director, Flight Deck, Oakland CA  6/2019: ***The One Truthiness: Oakland 3*** *by Charlie Levin* Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland  2/2019: ***BAMBDFEST 2019***  28 days of live performances at multiple venues throughout the Black Arts District in Oakland  and San Francisco.  2/2019: *BAMBDFEST.* **Monday Night Theater Series** Curator, Producer. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2019: ***Lifer— The Glenn Bailey Story*** *by Ayodele Nzinga* Playwright, Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2019: ***The Toilet*** Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA BAMBDFEST (mainstage)  2/2019**: *Bathroom Graffiti Queen*** *by Opal Palmer Adisa* One-woman show. BAMBDFEST (mainstage), The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2019: ***Tasha, the Natasha McKenna Story*** by Cat Brooks Producer, Director. BAMBDFEST (mainstage), The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2019: ***Too Much Woman for This World*** *by Khy Wigginton* Producer, Director. BAMBDFEST (mainstage), The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2019: ***Gem of the Ocean*** *by August Wilson* Producer, Director. BAMBDFEST (mainstage), The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  12/2018: ***Iwa Pele, Path & Destination*** Facilitator. Determination Men's Group, Oakland, CA  12/2018: ***The One Truthiness*** *— Oakland 3 {Tactics & Allies} by Charlie Levin* Producer, Director, Dramaturg. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  9,10/2018: ***Protection Shields*** *by Ayodele Nzinga* Playwright, Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  8,9 /2016: ***Ubuntu, Collective Acts*** — Oakland's first Black Theater Festival  Founder. Producer. Artistic Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  8/2018***: Tasha, The Natasha McKenna Story*** by Cat Brooks  Dramaturg, 3GT, San Francisco, CA  6-7/2018: **MOAD Community Voices**  Poet-in-Residence, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  5/2018: ***The One Truthiness*** *— Oakland 2 {Education} by Charlie Levin* Producer. Director. Dramaturg. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  2/2018: ***Lifer, The Glenn Bailey Story****,* World Premiere by Ayodele Nzinga Playwright, Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  1/2018: ***The One Truthiness*** *—Oakland 1 by Charlie Levin* Producer. Director. Dramaturg. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  10/2017: ***Beyond the Bars: Growing*** *Home by Ayodele Nzinga* *Life is Living Festival,* Cal Shakes Stage, Oakland, CA  9/2017: ***Beyond the Bars: Growing Home*** *by Ayodele Nzinga* Playwright, Producer, Director. The Flight Deck, Oakland, CA  1/2017: ***Mama at Twilight: Death by Love*** *by Ayodele Nzinga* |

## **READINGS**

8/2024 **Black Lawrence/BAMBDFest**, Zoom, Oakland CA

6/16/2023 **Juneteenth**, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA

5/2023 **The Last Supper Party**, Guest Poet - Brava, San Francisco CA

4/16/2023 **Lee Herrick & Poets in the Basement**, Koret Library, San Francisco CA

4/2023 **Herstory Open Mic**, The Junk Yard, Oakland CA

3/12/2023 **the reckoning, Speakeasy,** Piano Fight, Oakland CA

3/11/2023 **Last Call**, Piano Fight, Oakland CA

2/25/2023 **Annual African American Poetry Celebration**, West Oakland Library, Oakland CA

2/11/2023 **Outside the Lines**, Piano Fight, Oakland CA

10/22/23 **Day of the Dead**, Featured Poet - Oakland Museum of California, Oakland CA

12/2022 **Faye Carroll**, MC & Guest Poet - Freight & Salvage, Berkeley, CA

10/2022 **Reading in the Redwoods**, California Writers Club, Oakland CA

10/2022 **Art & Culture Mayoral Forum**, West Oakland Library, Oakland CA

10/2022 **Jazz and Words**, Café Du Nord, San Francisco

10/2022 **Lit Quake Out Loud**, Yerba Buena Gardens

9/2022 **Laureate in the Library Series**, Dimond & 81st Ave Library, Oakland CA

5/2022 ***Beastcrawl****,* The Damel, Oakland CA

4/2022 **Painting The Streets,** Bandung Book Store, Oakland CA

4/2022 **Afro Solo *Standing Our Ground*,** Koret Library, San Francisco , CA

1/2022 **Oakland Museum of California**, Oakland CA