

Kendra Janelle Ross

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Education

- Expected 2019 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Community Engagement (ABD)
Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA
Research topic: The role of Black women cultural workers in the Hill District of Pittsburgh
Chair: Dr. Jamesena Talbott
- 2011 **Master of Arts**, Anthropology
The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2006 **Master of Arts**, Liberal Studies
Brooklyn College, The City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY
Thesis: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Black Woman: Redefining Race and Gender Roles in American Society Through the Arts: From Exploitation to Self-Determination"
- 1997 **Bachelor of Music**, Music Business and Technology
New York University, New York, NY

Areas of Expertise and Interest

The Business of Music and Entertainment
Community Engagement and the Arts
African American Expressive Culture
Critical Geography
Cultural Studies

Arts Administration
Cultural Anthropology
Event Management
Arts and Activism
Feminist Theories

Professional Experience

Point Park University
Assistant Professor
Sports, Arts, & Entertainment Management Department, Rowland School of Business

Pittsburgh, PA
August 2019 - present

University Teaching

Point Park University
Course Instructor
Courses taught:
Introduction to Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management
Event Management

Pittsburgh, PA
August 2018 – present

Invited Lecture

The New School for Social Research
Guest Lecturer, Black Feminist Standpoint Theory
Undergraduate Course: Introduction to Feminist Thought and Action, Professor Ann Snitow

New York, NY
2012

Conference Presentations

National Women's Studies Association

Participant, "When and Where We Gather:
The (Un)Certain Future of Womanism" (Roundtable)

Atlanta, GA
2018

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Presenter, "Freedom Dreams: A Black Feminist Exploration of
Cultural Work in the Hill District of Pittsburgh"

Indianapolis, IN
2018

Point Park University Graduate Student Conference

Presenter, "Freedom Dreams: Cultural Work as Resistance in the Hill District"

Pittsburgh, PA
2018

Sixth Annual Community Development Summit: The Power of Place

Panelist, "Organize to Preserve and Promote Hill District Art"

Pittsburgh, PA
2016

James Baldwin International Conference at American University of Paris

Panelist, "What Would Baldwin Do? – Exploring the Responsibility of
The Artist in Contemporary Society"

Paris, France
2016

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Presenter, "In Search of Fannie's Song: Towards an Affective Politics
of Love in Black Women's Musical Expressions"

Atlanta, GA
2015

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Presenter, "How I Got Over (Untaming the Muse): 20th Century Black Women Artists
and Activists"

Memphis, TN
2014

Tulane University

Co-Presenter, "Slim, trim, also light skin: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Gender,
Sexuality, and Color-coding in Hip Hop"

New Orleans, LA
2013

Anna Julia Cooper Project Conference: "Gender, Sexuality, and Hip Hop"; Melissa Harris-Perry, *Conference Host*

Columbia University

Co-Presenter, "My Name is Sweet Thing: Exploring the Intersections of
Gender, Race, and Skin Color in the Music Industry"

New York, NY
2013

Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality Conference: "Skin / Matters: Gendered and Racial Economies of Skin
Color"

Luther College

Presenter, "The Body Politic: Michelle Obama, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter
and the (Re)Making of a Nation"

Decorah, IA
2013

Diversity Center – Black History Conference: "Body Politic: Cultural Identities and Representations of Black Women's Sexuality"

Speaking Engagements

International Symposium on Electronic Art

Presenter/Performer, "Intersection*ology – Feminist Art, Technology,
and Community Engagement"

Durban, South Africa
2018

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

Guest Presenter, "The Mozart and the Mogul: An Independent Artist's Guide to
The Music Business"

Pittsburgh, PA
2015

Relevant Professional Experience

ACT3 Consulting Partners, LLC

Partner/Co-Owner

Pittsburgh, PA

2016 - present

Drives strategy, development and management of several ongoing arts and community-based projects focusing on community development and engagement, event management, communication technology, entertainment production, and diversity and inclusion for local clients such as: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center, UniSound, and McAuley Ministries

Lola's Child Music

Artist/Owner

NYC/Pittsburgh

2002 – present

Spent the past 15+ years writing, recording, producing, releasing, and performing music alongside several internationally renowned artists and musicians through this boutique music company. Highlights: Annual headlining performer at Blue Note Jazz Club, NYC; Critically acclaimed debut album, *New Voice*, released in 2007 and licensed in Japan; frequent collaboration with legendary hip hop artist/activist, Talib Kweli on projects with Quincy Jones, Kanye West, Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child, and Faith Evans

Universal Music Group

Director, Label Process Operations

New York, NY

2002 - 2019

Over the course of seventeen years, I ascended through the ranks of my department from the Administrative Assistant position to the Director/Department Head role which I held until my departure from the company. I garnered many accomplishments during my tenure, including: playing a key role in the successful development and implementation of the company's Global digital supply chain, co-creating a system platform that improved the accuracy and efficiency of data collection and exchange for UMG record labels in North America, and nurturing the talents of several entertainment professionals who are now enjoying successful careers in the recorded music business. In my final role, I served the company in the following capacities:

- Lead a dynamic team of five in the oversight of release management systems, business processes, and operations for North American record labels and central business units under the UMG umbrella
- Business Transformation Lead for East Coast Labels on key enterprise-wide initiative
- North American business lead and subject matter expert on the globalization of the digital supply chain
- Lead subject matter expert and business owner overseeing the development, testing, roll-out, and enhancement of an internal workflow system which connects data between supply chain systems and the general ledger for all North American record labels
- Key advisor to central business units such as accounting, finance, royalties, production, and legal and business affairs on corporate-level business process and internal workflow guidelines

Point Park University

Graduate Assistant, Community Engagement Ph.D. program

Pittsburgh, PA

2015 - 2017

The New School for Social Research

Teaching Assistant, Anthropology department

New York, NY

2011

Deston Songs

Executive Assistant to the Co-President

New York, NY

2001

London Sire Records

Executive Assistant/Pop Promotion Coordinator

New York, NY

1999 - 2000

Universal Motown Records Group

Administrative Assistant, Pop Promotion

New York, NY

1999

Levine Communications Office

Junior Publicist

Beverly Hills, CA

1998

Daddy's House Recording Studio
General Assistant/Assistant to Technical Director

New York, NY
 1996-1997

Virgin Records America
College Marketing Representative: Urban

New York, NY
 1995-1996

New York Center for Visual History
Administrative Assistant

New York, NY
 1994-1995

Honors and Awards

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| Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, <i>Paul Ross Award for Excellence in Education and Community Engagement</i> | 2018 |
| Point Park University, Department of Community Engagement, <i>Travel Grant</i> | 2018 |
| Carnegie International, <i>Keyword International Fellowship (w/ Lori Hepner)</i> | 2018 |
| Nefertiti Alliance, <i>Mini-Grant</i> | 2017 |
| Hill CDC 30th Anniversary Awards, <i>Emerging Leader in Civic Leadership</i> | 2017 |
| The Opportunity Fund, <i>Artist Grant (w/ Lori Hepner)</i> | 2017 |
| Heinz Endowments, <i>Small Arts Initiative Grant (w/ Lori Hepner)</i> | 2017 |
| Point Park University, Department of Community Engagement, <i>Travel Grant</i> | 2016 |
| Kelly Strayhorn Theater, <i>FreshWorks Artist-In-Residence (w/ Lori Hepner)</i> | 2016 |
| Point Park University, <i>Graduate Student Assistantship</i> | 2015-2017 |
| Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Program, <i>Honorable Mention</i> | 2011 |
| The New School for Social Research, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistantship</i> | 2010-2011 |
| M.I.A. (Ministry in Action) <i>Community Service Scholarship</i> | 2009 |
| Soultracks.com Readers' Choice Awards, <i>New Artist of the Year</i> | 2007 |

Community Service and Leadership

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| Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Diversity & Inclusion Committee, <i>Member</i> | 2019-present |
| Apollo Theater (Harlem, NYC), <i>Young Patrons Committee</i> | 2018-present |
| #ArtsInHD - Hill District Neighborhood Arts Plan Committee, <i>Co-Chair</i> | 2016-present |
| Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Community Advisory Board, <i>Co-Chair</i> | 2016-2019 |
| Heinz Endowments, Transformative Arts Process, <i>Panelist</i> | 2016 & 2017 |
| The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank/Produce to People, <i>Volunteer</i> | 2015-2016 |
| Brown Memorial Church Women's Day Oral History Project, <i>Producer</i> | 2012-2014 |
| Just-Us Youth Social Justice/Community Organizing Program, <i>Youth Leader</i> | 2004-2012 |
| Habitat-for-Humanity, <i>Volunteer</i> | 2008 |
| New York University Music Business Alumni Mentoring Program, <i>Mentor</i> | 2003-2007 |
| P.A.S.S.A.G.E. Teen Mentoring Program, <i>Mentor</i> | 2002-2004 |

Professional and Academic Affiliations

American Association of Geographers, *Member*
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History, *Member*
 Broadcast Music Incorporated, *Writer and Publisher Affiliate*
 Music Business Association, *Member*
 National Women's Studies Association, *Member*
 National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, *Voting Member*
 Women in Music, *Member*