

WILLIAM E. BLAKE

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APS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rubber City Jazz & Blues Festival - Director of Programming; Akron, OH

March 2022 - Present

- Aided in fostering a geographical expansion of the festival's footprint
 - Successfully expanded the festival's geographical footprint by 20%, attracting a broader audience and enhancing the development of the festival's regional impact
- Improved the diversity of the steering committee
 - Achieved a 30% increase in diversity within the steering committee, contributing to a more inclusive decision-making process amongst the leadership and fostering better engagement by crafting a wider variety of perspectives through effective collaboration
- Expanded the diversity of festival programming
 - Achieved a 15% increase in attendance for panel talks and interviews, demonstrating increased interest and engagement in educational programming
 - Expanded the festival programming beyond jazz and blues, introducing new elements, leading to a 15% increase in the organization's programming diversity

Woodsy's Music, Inc. - Audio Visual Media Specialist; Kent, OH

July 2012 - December 2022

- Digital calendar development and implementation for staff
 - Implemented a company-wide digital calendar, resulting in a 20% improvement in cross-department project planning and organization systems
- Profit margin increase on projects in live production
 - Boosted project profitability by 15% in the production department through effective cost management and strategic pricing, resulting in higher compensation
- Improved customer satisfaction ratings
 - Achieved a personal 85% customer satisfaction rating through proactive follow-ups and personalized communication, leading to positive customer reviews

Blu Jazz+ - Production Manager; Akron, OH

November 2021 - Present

- Providing professional hands-on work experiences with compensation for interns
 - Provided resources and training leading to additional professional work experiences for interns, enhancing their leadership skills and business acumen
- Optimized efficiency in workload management systems
 - Effectively allocated workload evenly and fairly, resulting in reduced workload imbalances among the team
- Implemented effective equipment maintenance systems
 - Ensured 15% reduction in equipment downtime through a proactive gear maintenance and upkeep program

Faith Temple Church - Director of Broadcast Production; Akron, OH

March 2020 - Present

- Oversaw the increase and improvement in broadcast quality
 - Enhanced the online broadcasting experience, resulting in a 25% increase in video and audio quality, contributing to a more engaging viewer experience
- Increased workflow efficiency through hands-on training
 - Streamlined the broadcast production workflow, reducing setup time by 20% through the development of standardized operating procedures
 - Successfully trained staff and volunteers, leading to a 20% improvement in the execution of broadcast production tasks
- User experience and equipment optimization
 - Improved equipment utilization efficiency by 15% through systems of task delegation and resource allocation

The Cue Media - Creative Director; Akron, OH

October 2015 - Present

- Expanded growth in exhibitions and events

- Increased attendance at exhibitions and events by 15%, contributing to more vibrant and successful showcases
- Fostered an inclusive talent pool expansion
 - Expanded the diversity in talent mediums by 30%, showcasing a broader range of artistic expressions in the signature art exhibition

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Xi Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Executive Committee; Akron, OH

Nov 2022 - Nov 2023

- Spearheaded effort to increase touchpoints in communication
 - Doubled the number of communication touchpoints within the organization, resulting in more than 10% increase in member engagement and awareness of organizational affairs
- Improved the organization's committee reporting systems
 - Achieved a 30% improvement in submitted reports, leading to enhanced organizational management, transparency, and accountability

Akron Urban League Young Professionals - Programming Chair; Akron, OH

January 2024 - Present

- Planning events and programs intended to enhance the professional and personal development of the membership
 - Development of quarterly workshops and coordinate National Day of Empowerment and YP Fit yearly
 - Keeping track of and informing members about other community events that encompass personal and/or professional development available throughout the year
 - Working with AUL and outside professional resources to provide members with professional advancement opportunities

ArtsNow Arts & Culture Inclusion Council - Communications Chair; Akron, OH

April 2021 - Present

- Serving to encourage and support ongoing efforts to educate the Summit Country community about diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the arts and culture community; crafting systems to foster a more inclusive nature in the arts with effective community engagement

Akron NAACP - 3rd Vice President; Akron, OH

October 2023 - Present

- Volunteer in advocating for equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic development of Black people and all persons of color

Kent State University at Stark - Student Leadership and Allocations Board; North Canton, OH *April 2013 - April 2015*

- Allocated funds to student organizations upon request and to represent the student body to the Kent State University at Stark administration; Created opportunities for involvement in the campus and community; Acted as a voice between the administration and the student body

EDUCATION

Kent State University, Stark Campus | Bachelor of Science in Music Technology (BS) | North Canton, OH | *2015*

Concentrations: Audio Recording; Associate in Fine Arts

- Student Leadership and Allocations Board; handled budget approvals, allocation, and management of funds for student organizations campus-wide
- Music Tech Club; created and led the on-campus student organization while at University as well as created opportunities for career exploration, development, and impactful industry exposure via travel to conferences and on-campus workshops

Firestone High School | Akron, OH | *2011*

- Served on student council and played a role in organizing student-led school initiatives; served as class president and led initiative to organize the prom and after-prom locations within the budget

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Interests: Travel, Museums, Urbanism, Golf, Comedy, Conferences, Concerts, Dialogue and Discussion, Podcasts, Community Service

Creative: Live Events, Photography for SXSW, Videography, Marketing, Panel Talks, Art Exhibitions, Singing, Playing Piano

Technical: Communication Software (Slack), Project Management Software (SmartSuite), Graphic Design (Adobe Photoshop), Video Editing (DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere, CapCut), Visual Mixing (i.e. Blackmagic Design ATEM), Digital Audio Workstations (Pro Tools, Studio One, etc.), Lighting Design (Chamsys), Google Workspace, Microsoft Office