

# ROBIN B. McDOWELL

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## EDUCATION

- EXPECTED 2022** **Harvard University** – CAMBRIDGE, MA  
Ph.D. African & African American Studies (Primary Field: History), GPA 4.0
- 2018** **Harvard University** – CAMBRIDGE, MA  
A.M. History (in passing)
- 2015** **The University of Texas at Austin** – AUSTIN, TX  
M.F.A Design (Concentration: African & African Diaspora Studies), GPA 4.0  
Thesis: “The Impotent Toolkit: Challenges and Limitations of Co-design for Societal Value in Southeast Louisiana’s Landscapes of African American Dispossession”
- 2008** **The University of Pennsylvania** – PHILADELPHIA, PA  
B.A. Fine Arts (Concentration: Communication Design), GPA 3.58  
Thesis: “Type-High: Experiments in Ornament on Letterpress”

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – PRESENT** **Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University** – CAMBRIDGE, MA  
History Design Studio Fellow
- 2017 – 2018** **Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University** – CAMBRIDGE, MA  
Research Assistant for DACA Seminar, presented by Harvard Graduate School of Education, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, and the Harvard Inequality in America Initiative
- 2015 – 2016** **Royal Tours and Dark Crescent Tours** – NEW ORLEANS, LA  
City of New Orleans Licensed Walking Tour Guide: French Quarter, St. Louis Cemetery #1
- 2012 – PRESENT** **Freelance Graphic Design** – NEW ORLEANS, LA / AUSTIN, TX / NEW YORK, NY / PHILADELPHIA, PA / BOSTON, MA
- 2015** **Kern Studios at Mardi Gras World** – NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Development Manager
- The University of Texas at Austin** – AUSTIN, TX  
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Carma Gorman, Design History Laboratory
- 2014 – 2015** **Doing Innovation (The Digital Edge Project)** – AUSTIN, TX  
Lead Designer for MacArthur Foundation Connected Learning Project led by Dr. S. Craig Watkins
- 2011 – 2013** **Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth** – HANOVER, NH  
Web Producer and Communications Specialist, Tuck Communications
- 2008 – 2011** **Quaker City Mercantile (Gyro Worldwide Advertising)** – TAMWORTH, NH / PHILADELPHIA, PA  
Creative Director, Tamworth Distilling & Mercantile  
Art Director, Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction & Art in the Age of Spirits
- 2007** **The University of Pennsylvania** – PHILADELPHIA, PA  
Teaching assistant to Senior Lecturer David Comberg, Digital Design Foundations

## AWARDS / FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 – 2018** Community Service Award from the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History  
(In recognition of work on the DACA Seminar; November 2017–March 2018)
- Gerald Gill Fellow, Tufts University Center for the Study of Race and Democracy
- Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Science, Gochman Deans Fund for Innovation and Development

- 2016 – 2017** Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Science, Gochman Deans Fund for Innovation and Development
- 2014 – 2015** University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts Continuing Fellowship  
University of Texas at Austin Graduate School Bruton Fellowship  
University of Texas at Austin Graduate School Professional Development Award  
University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts Travel Grant
- 2013 – 2014** Marshall F. Wells Scholarship and Fellowship  
College of Fine Arts Student Excellence Scholarship  
Emily Maverick Miller and Emily Miller Wells Presidential Scholarship
- 2008** Senior Fine Arts Achievement Award  
Kelly Family Thesis Grant

## PUBLICATIONS

- “F&F Botanica: In Memoriam.” *Antigravity Magazine*. September 2018.
- “Robin & A Scribe Called Quess?” *Verse of April*. April 2017. [www.verseofapril.com](http://www.verseofapril.com)
- “LIGHTS OUT: The Flambeau Strike of 1946.” *Antigravity Magazine*. February 2017.
- “Practice Radical Hospitality,” *Antigravity Magazine*. January 2017.
- “CREATIVE DIFFERENCES: Navigating the Turf Wars of Jackson Square Artists,” *Antigravity Magazine*. September 2016.
- “Parlour Games,” *The Iron Lattice Magazine*, Volume 2, Summer 2016.
- “WAX AND WHINE: Mixing science and superstition in a New Orleans Botanica,” *Antigravity Magazine*. May 2016.
- “The Revolution Will Not Be Guided: New Tales for an Old City, One Tourist at a Time,” *Antigravity Magazine*. February 2016.
- “Redoubling The Violence: Stories that Do Not Belong to You.” *NOLA Defender*. July 5, 2015.
- “Keeping History Alive: Notes on Memorialization, Identity, and The Bonnet Carré Spillway.” Interviewed by Heath Schultz for COMPASS/Midwest Radical Culture Corridor, Austin, TX, February 2, 2015.
- “The Austin Disaster:” Project and Video. *The End of Austin* Issue 5, May 2014.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2018** **“White Gold to Black Gold: African American Labor and Louisiana’s Early Petrochemical Industry”**  
Southern Labor Studies Association Annual Meeting – ATHENS, GA  
Reconstructing Labor in the Deep South Panel
- 2017** **“Biography of A Levee: The Life and Times of the Bonnet Carré Crevasse”**  
American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting – BOSTON, MA  
Destabilizing Race and Nature Panel
- 2015** **““The Right to Exist:’ The Struggle for Commemoration of the African and African American Cemeteries of The Bonnet Carré Spillway”**  
Out of The Loop: Vernacular Architecture Forum 35th Annual Conference – CHICAGO, IL  
(Re)building Public Memory Panel, Roosevelt University
- “Tiptoe: On Intersectionality”**  
Feminist Geographies: Mapping Spaces, Nations, and States of Being – AUSTIN, TX  
Performance/Performativity Panel, The University of Texas at Austin
- “Tiptoe: On Becoming a Woman of Color”**  
TRANS-AM :: Losing/Becoming Self – BATON ROUGE, LA  
Mediated Selves Screening Panel, Louisiana State University
- 2014** **Screening: “The Austin Disaster”**

Dimensions of Political Ecologies (DOPE) Conference – LEXINGTON, KY  
Political Ecologies: Speculative Texts Screening Panel, The University of Kentucky

**2011 “a workshop”**

Southern Graphics Conference – ST. LOUIS, MO  
Pop-up printshop and delivery service, Washington University in St. Louis

**2011 “Tahrir Documents”**

Creative Time Summit – NEW YORK, NY  
Tahrir Documents Project presented by Emily Drumsta and Levi Thompson, New York University

## INVITED LECTURES

**2017 Responding to Charlottesville: Historical Perspectives – WINDHAM, ME**

Bates College Panel Discussion, Department of History and Office of Equity and Diversity

**2015 The Fourteenth Annual New Orleans Bookfair – NEW ORLEANS, LA**

New Orleans Psychogeography Panel, The Tigermen Den

**2015 Take ‘Em Down NOLA Community Forum Series – NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Panel on Intersectionality and The Struggle to Remove White Supremacist Monuments  
Craig Cultural Center, CORE USA, and Christian Unity Baptist Church

**Brown Bag Series: The Bonnet Carré Spillway African American Cemeteries – AUSTIN, TX**

Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin

## EXHIBITIONS

**2013 The Art of Letterpress – OAKLAND, CA**

Curators: Matt and Lena Reynoso, The Compound Gallery

**2015 Vista Sans Wood Type Project – TRAVELING EXHIBITION AND BOOK**

Curators: Tricia Treacy and Ashley John Pigford, Yale Library (New Haven, CT), Antenna Gallery (New Orleans, LA), and San Francisco Center for the Book

**2012 Wood Type, Evolved – CHICAGO, IL**

Curators: Nick Sherman and April Sheridan, Columbia College of Chicago

**2011 Wharton Esherick and The Birth of the American Modern – PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Curator: Lynn Farrington, Letterpress Workshop for Van Pelt Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, The University of Pennsylvania

**2010 The Farm – PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Curator: Julianne Ahn, Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

**COPY JAM! – PHILADELPHIA, PA & CHICAGO, IL**

Curator: Jason Urban, Art in the Age (Philadelphia), The Luddington Building (Chicago)

## SELECTED PRESS

“After The March” Twitter Chat with Imara Jones of *The Last Sip*, April 11, 2018.

Childs, Ed and Steve Gillis, “Strikers win at Harvard,” *Workers World*, October 31, 2016.

Guest on *Sunday Journal with Hal Clark*. “January 17th Edition (NOA-TV).” 98.5FM WYLD, Aired January 17, 2016.

Guest on *All Citizens Together with Guest Host CC Campbell-Rock*. New Orleans Access Television, Aired January 15, 2016.

Guest on @BeingNOLA Project. January 3-10, 2016. <https://twitter.com/beingnola>.

Lisa Bulawsky, “2011 Conference Wrap-Up,” *SGC International Graphic Impressions*, July 2011.

Ursula Lindsey, “Scenes from a Revolution,” *PRINT Magazine*, August 2011.

## **COMMUNITY / ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- 2018** Martinique Delegation 2018, Louisiana Museum of African American History
- 2017** Organizer and Research Committee Chair, New Orleans Peoples' Assembly
- 2016** Fundraising and Graphic Design Consultant, North Rampart Community Center  
Research Consultant, Louisiana Museum of African American History and Hidden History, LLC  
Leadership Committee, New Orleans Workers Group
- 2015** Guest Critic, Design Theory & Methods, The University of Texas at Austin  
Visual Notetaker, Texas Research Education Epicenter (TREE) IdeaLab, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2013** Review Committee for The Dean of the College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin  
Workshop Leader for Hackidemia Austin, a pop-up arts education space for K–12 students
- 2012** Board Member, Tamworth Economic Development Committee

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Southern Labor Studies Association  
Southern Historical Association  
American Association of Geographers  
American Institute for Graphic Arts (AIGA)

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

City of New Orleans Licensed Tour Guide (2015–Present)  
State of Louisiana Marriage Officiant (2016–Present)  
RYT-200 Yoga Teacher Certification (May 2018)