

Kofi Bazzell-Smith

Artist | Educator | Professional Boxer | U.S.- Japan Bridging Scholar
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Education

University of Illinois Master of Fine Arts in New Media; *currently enrolled*
HRI Mellon Foundation Interseminars Initiative Fellow 2022-23
FLAS Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow (Japanese) 2021-22
Graduate Coursework: *Japanese Cinema, Japanese 440-441, Word and Image in Chinese Art, Graduate seminars 593/595*

Eastern Illinois University 2021; BA in Studio Art, Asian Studies Minor
Magna Cum Laude; Founder/President Japanese Culture Club; Independent Studies in Japanese, Mandarin, Drawing, Painting and Digital art; Completed Chinese language program; Study Abroad Student of the Year; Two Studies Abroad in Japan

Osaka Gakuin University; Virtual Study Abroad; Advanced Japanese 2021

Kansai Gaidai University; Japanese Language Courses, Manga Course; Hirakata, Japan 2019

Parkland Community College Associate's in General Studies, August 2018

Published work

4 Pages | 16 Bars: A Visual Mixtape; Black Comics Anthology 2021
Azuki Self-published Children's Book Series 2018-2020
Jiyu manga anthology; Kansai Gaidai University 2019
Activator Magazine illustrations and short works 2018-2020

Teaching

Manga Production Undergraduate course (first in US history) UIUC; 2022
Guest Lecture/Workshop; Manga; Illinois Wesleyan University; 2022
Guest Lecture; Japanese Manga: Conveying movement; *UCLA Japanese film class* 2022
Instructor of Record; Art for non-majors; *Art and Design UIUC* 2022
Graduate Teaching Assistant; Visualization Drawing; *Industrial Design UIUC* 2021
Guest Lecture: Art and Studying Abroad; *Art and Design Dept; UIUC* 2021
Guest Lecture: Manga production; *Japan House; UIUC* 2021
English as a Second Language; Teaching Internship *TLC (The Language Company)* 2019

Service to University

Public Artist Talk/Critique; *Azuki Manga Series; UIUC* 2022
Artist Talk; *Manga, Boxing and Japan*; Asian American Cultural Center; *UIUC* 2021
Small Press Fest! Manga Storytelling Workshop; *University of Illinois* 2020-21

Founder/President Japanese Culture Club (JCC); EIU 2018-2021
International Education Committee; EIU 2020-21
Japanese language instruction (club activity); JCC *Eastern Illinois University* 2018-2020
Artist Talk; *Power Talks: Visual Storytelling*; EIU 2020
Asian Studies Conference Talk; EIU 2019
East Asian Languages Workshop *EIU* 2018
Manga Storytelling Workshop *EIU* 2018
Global Cultural Night Emcee; EIU 2018
President Japanese Culture Club; *Parkland* 2018
Manga Storytelling Workshop; *Parkland* 2018
Student Senator; *Parkland* 2015

Service to Community

BIPOC POP Conference; *University of Texas at Austin* 2022
Artist Talk; *Parkland College*; 2022
Open to public Free Manga Workshop; *University YMCA*; UIUC 2021
Manga Workshop for ELL students; *Urbana High School* 2021
Panel Discussion: BIPOC Liberation fest; *University of Illinois* 2021
TEDx Talk; *UIC Chicago* 2021
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois Graphic Design department* 2021
Artist Talk; Manga; *Edison Middle School* 2021
Artist Talk; Black History Month, Black Joy; *Metcalf Middle School* 2021
Boxing Trainer; *Luyando Boxing* 2014-2021
Anime and Manga: Afro-American Intersections with Japanese Culture
co-presenter with Eric Calderon; US Japan Bridging Foundation 2020
Panel on James Baldwin with *Princeton Scholar Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. UIUC* 2020
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois East Asian Languages and Cultures department* 2020
Poetry reading and discussion *UNESCO Center for Global Citizenship* 2020
Sounds Like Community; Artist Talk; *Urbana Independent Media Center* 2020
James Baldwin Commemoration Artist Talk; Champaign-Urbana 2020
TOMODACHI Generation Summit Conference; *Showa Women's University; Tokyo* 2019
Panelist; International Engagement; *UIUC International and Area Studies Library* 2019
Free Manga Storytelling Workshop *Urbana Free Library* 2019
Free Manga Storytelling Workshop *Parkland College* 2019
Public reading in Mandarin for Christmas at *Tarble center; EIU* 2018
English Conversation Partner Volunteer, *Intensive English Institute; 2010-2015*

Public Interviews

Subsume Media Black Futures Month 2022
Comics Talk podcast 2022
Professor LatinX Comics Scholars Channel 2020
Japan Station Podcast 2020
Harukana Show 2019/2020
Young, Gifted and Abroad 2020

Smile Politely Artist Interview 2020

Unity in Action Magazine 2020

Exhibitions

Future Spaces in Community Places group exhibition; *Illinois Wesleyan University* 2022

Public Critique; MFA Program; University of Illinois Art + Design 2021

8 to Create Live Drawing Exhibition; *University of Illinois Art + Design* 2021

Research and Creative Works Conference EIU 2020;2021

Black Lives Matter Outdoor Installation; *Common Ground Food Co-op*; 2020

Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual Gallery 2019

Solo Manga Art Exhibition for Asian Heritage Month – *EIU Booth Library* 2019

Solo Exhibition; *EIU Art Department Passage Gallery* 2019

Urbana Independent Media Center Exhibition 2018;2019

Boneyard Arts Festival 2017

Pizza M Solo Art Exhibition 2016

Awards

First Inaugural HRI Interseminars Initiative Fellowship *UIUC* 2022-23

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship *UIUC* 2021-22

Graduate Image of Research Award Honorable Mention *UIUC* 2022

Fulbright Semi-Finalist *Japan* 2022

Fulbright Semi-Finalist *Japan* 2021

AIGA Worldstudio scholarship 2021

Magna Cum Laude *EIU* 2021

EIU All Student Show Digital Art 1st Place 2021/2020

EIU Undergraduate Research Grant 2021/2020

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar 2020

EIU Study Abroad Student of the Year 2020

EIU Talented Student Award Art Department 2019/2020

U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation Scholarship 2019

Freeman Asia Scholarship 2019

EIU Talented Student Award Study Abroad 2019

EIU Asian Studies Leadership Award 2019

EIU Asian Studies Research/Creative Work Award 2019

Midwest Animation Promotion Society Manga Award 2019