



maya@mayasmart.com

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AUSTIN, TX 78705
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EDUCATION

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
Master of Science in Journalism
DECEMBER 2005

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies
CUM LAUDE
JUNE 2002

AWARDS

PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD
TRIBEZA MAGAZINE

WOMAN OF POWER AWARD
AUSTIN WAY MAGAZINE

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD
MID-ATLANTIC REGION
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

40 UNDER 40 AWARD
STYLE WEEKLY

WOMEN IN THE ARTS AWARD
BELLE MAGAZINE

**OHIO EXCELLENCE IN
JOURNALISM AWARD**
THE PRESS CLUB OF CLEVELAND

NEWS & FEATURE WRITING

CURRENT

- » Interviews notable authors about their latest releases for Kirkus, a leading American book review.
- » Muses about life, literature and literacy at MayaSmart.com.

PREVIOUS

- » Wrote news stories and features about careers, education and entrepreneurship for diverse clients, including Black Enterprise, Black MBA, CNNMoney.com, Edutopia, Heart & Soul, Savoy and Virginia Business.
- » Published WritingCoach.com, a website that provided articles, newsletters, courses and coaching to help freelance writers hone their business skills.
- » Taught entrepreneurial journalism courses for organizations, including the Society of Professional Journalists and the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at Arizona State University.

RECENT BOARD SERVICE

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FRIENDS FOUNDATION

BOARD MEMBER (2015-2019), TREASURER (2016-2018)

- » Advocates and fundraises to promote community literacy and enhance library collections, programs and facilities.

ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION

BOARD MEMBER (2017-PRESENT), COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER (2017-PRESENT), TOAST OF THE TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBER (2015-2018)

- » Guides the grantmaking process, reviews proposals and makes funding recommendations.
- » Plans and hosts unique spring events to raise money and awareness for the St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship Fund.

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

BOARD MEMBER (2016-PRESENT), OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR (2018-PRESENT)

- » Provides strategic support to explore, identify, and plan long-term improvements and innovations for the festival, library grants and author visit programs.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER (2015-PRESENT), CHAIR (2016-2018)

- » Promotes and advances library facilities, collections, and initiatives.

FELLOWSHIPS

PUBLIC VOICES THOUGHT LEADERSHIP FELLOW, THE OP-ED PROJECT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN (2016-2017)

MEMBERSHIPS

GO ON GIRL! BOOK CLUB

MEMBER (2016-PRESENT)

- » Fosters awareness of and appreciation for diverse literary works by authors of the Black Diaspora.

JACK & JILL OF AMERICA, INC., AUSTIN CHAPTER

MEMBER (2017-PRESENT), COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR (2018-PRESENT)

- » Plans monthly volunteer service, leadership development and philanthropic giving activities for African American youth.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

MEMBER (2016-PRESENT)

- » Volunteers as a library assistant at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

MEMBER (2005-PRESENT), TOWN LAKE (TX) CHAPTER PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT (2018-PRESENT)

- » Volunteers with local STEM and scholarship programs for Austin youth.
- » Founding Editor of Linked, the organization's national magazine

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE

LIFETIME MEMBER (2017-PRESENT)

- » Honors outstanding writing and fosters a national conversation about reading, criticism, and literature.