**ANJA (KAGWANJA) KARIUKI**

**(they/them)**

**Visual Story-Teller/Multimedia Artist**

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BIO:

Anja Kariuki, a Kenyan-American artist residing in Chicago, is recognized for innovative integration of traditional artistic mediums with contemporary visual techniques and technology. Their work encompasses a diverse range of fields, including animation, illustration, tattooing, fine arts painting, filmmaking, and writing. Anja excels in transforming distinctive personal narratives and underrepresented stories into compelling and thought-provoking visual installations.

As a skilled visual storyteller and multidisciplinary artist, Anja's creations enthrall audiences, evoking a sense of wonder and joy. Each project reflects their vibrant and humorous style, enriched by a multicultural and empathetic perspective that resonates deeply with viewers and inspires social change. Through their artistic pursuits, Anja breathes life into narratives, crafting distinctive pieces that make a lasting impression.

In professional environments, Anja stands out as a dynamic leader who champions collaboration and creative problem-solving. With an unwavering commitment to innovation, they demonstrate exceptional attention to detail and prioritize efficiency and client satisfaction. Anja's dedication is evident in their superb customer service skills and remarkable problem-solving abilities. Their active engagement in community service and advocacy for international human rights underscores a strong drive to foster positive change. Anja recognizes the critical importance of robust communication skills and actively cultivates a positive work atmosphere, excels in time management, wholeheartedly embracing ongoing personal and professional development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

* Anja took on the pivotal role of team leader and master of ceremonies for the inaugural Peer Exchange, a unique event crafted by students at the School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Columbia College Chicago. They successfully guided a dedicated team tasked with transforming the venue into an inviting and engaging space. On the day of the event, Anja not only oversaw the smooth operation of logistics but also hosted the proceedings, ensuring a warm atmosphere that encouraged collaboration and connection among attendees.

EDUCATION

**Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois**

Major: Traditional Animation; Minor: Illustration

Class of 2027

GPA: 4.0, Dean’s Honor List

Student Org: CCC Animate, Illustration Club, D&D Club

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Foss Swim School Lakeview – Chicago, IL (August 2024-Present)**

Swim Instructor:

* Taught water safety and swimming to children ages 4-12, boosting skills and confidence.
* Supervised large groups in a high-pressure setting, demonstrating leadership and crisis management.
* Engaged with parents to discuss curriculum and progress, fostering collaboration for student success.
* Maintained a clean and safe facility, ensuring a hygienic environment for students and parents.

**Hidden Ideas – Chicago, IL (April 2024- Present)**

Senior Event Access Manager/FOH Representative at Event Space:

* Developed strong organizational skills through efficient event ticket processing.
* Managed crowd flow and safety protocols to enhance venue security and guest satisfaction.
* Fostered teamwork in high-pressure situations for successful project execution.
* Delivered training on ticketing systems and cash handling to improve team performance.

**Toro Para Todos – Chicago, IL (July 2023- September 2023)**

Volunteer at Unhoused Shelter:

* Coordinated safe transportation of food and supplies to D12 police station, enhancing local support.
* Managed schedules for supply shipments, optimizing logistics and operational efficiency.
* Assigned tasks to volunteers, promoting teamwork and productivity.
* Negotiated with suppliers for timely delivery of resources.

**Beacon Hill Associates – Chicago, IL (May 2022 - August 2022)**

Administrative Assistant:

* Demonstrated strong organizational and time management skills by efficiently restructuring and reshelving years of legal documents, finishing the task in half the expected time.

Front-Desk Concierge:

* + Managed NBC Tower's entrance lobby, showcasing strong organizational and communication skills.
	+ Handled arrivals of high-profile individuals with discretion and professionalism.
	+ Coordinated guest arrangements for Indian, Korean, and Turkish consulates, emphasizing cultural sensitivity and attention to detail.

Administrative Assistant (Transwestern Chicago):

* + Directed clients and partner companies to the right realtor or office team member, improving interoffice communication and client satisfaction.
	+ Managed mailroom operations with strong organizational skills, overseeing printers, postage meter usage, and mail distribution.
	+ Oversaw company supplies management, ensuring a well-stocked and organized office to enhance productivity.

**Merlin Entertainments Legoland - Schaumburg, IL (February 2022 - May 2022)**

Barista/ Cafe Staff:

* + Delivered high-quality coffee and food, enhancing guest experiences.
	+ Supervised café operations and improved customer satisfaction by 25%.
	+ Managed the indoor theater with strong organizational skills.
	+ Operated the restaurant during opening and closing shifts, demonstrating time management.
	+ Provided exceptional customer service, addressing guest needs and fostering a welcoming atmosphere.

**Starbucks - Morrisville, NC & Chicago, IL (April 2021 - November 2021)**

Barista/Barista Trainer:

* Excelled in multitasking by preparing a variety of drinks and food items in a fast-paced setting.
* Maintained organization by managing customer station replenishment and waste disposal for a clean environment.
* Handled transactions accurately for both drive-thru and indoor customers, improving register efficiency.
* Mentored junior team members on equipment and company policies, promoting teamwork and performance.
* Contributed to smooth daily operations by assisting with store opening procedures and early preparations.

**Goodnights Comedy Club - Raleigh, NC (February 2020 - September 2020)**

Usher/Security:

* + Managed customer flow and maintained order during high-pressure events for seamless attendee experience.
	+ Ensured a clean, welcoming environment by sanitizing restaurant areas efficiently.
	+ Handled disruptive situations with conflict resolution skills, promoting a respectful atmosphere.
	+ Collaborated with celebrity performers to enhance show experiences, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills.
	+ Assisted AV team and waitstaff, showcasing teamwork and adaptability in fast-paced settings.

SKILLS

* Writing Skills: Proficient in diverse writing forms, including compelling narratives and academic writing, with strong grammar and vocabulary; skilled in professional correspondence and persuasive copywriting.
* Computer Skills:\*\* Advanced in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Apps; experienced in social media marketing; knowledgeable in C++ programming for software development.
* Organizational Skills:\*\* Effective in setting goals, multitasking, prioritizing tasks, and managing time and resources for productivity.
* Presentation Skills:\*\* Experienced in delivering engaging presentations, cross-cultural communication, negotiation, and public speaking with clarity.
* Graphic Design/Animation Skills:\*\* Proficient in graphic design and animation tools (ToonBoom, Photoshop/ Adobe Suite, Procreate,, data visualization, and traditional illustration techniques.