

DIANE AKPOVWA

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EDUCATION & AWARDS

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Bachelor of Science in Human Centered Design and Development

Minor: Art History

Certificate: Museum Studies

Graduation Date: May 2026

Honors Notation: **Cum Laude**

Awards: Penn State 2026 Paul Robeson Cultural Center Art and Activism Award

SKILLS AND PROGRAMS

Communications & Operations: Digital curation, VR/AR integration for artistic storytelling; multimedia production, Exhibition development, immersive experience design, interpretive planning, and project coordination

Technology & Design: Adobe Creative Suite, Figma, WordPress, Mailchimp, UX research, JavaScript, HTML/CSS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Center Film Festival | [Virtual Reality Specialist & Web Coordinator](#) | State College, PA Sept 2024 – Nov 2025

- Founded the first-ever Immersive Showcase and curated immersive films and museum collections, collaborating with filmmakers and museum partners, expanding the festival's interdisciplinary cultural narrative.
- Designed an experiential gallery using lighting, spatial sequencing, and film curation to encourage introspection, reflective dialogue, and community-building among visitors.
- Built a sustainable archival system in **Airtable** for 3,000+ festival photographs and improved web usability and accessibility through UX-focused WordPress redesigns.

VALLEY Magazine | [Creative Director](#) | University Park, PA Jan 2023 – May 2026

- Oversaw the **end-to-end design lifecycle** for a university-wide publication across print, digital, video, and social platforms, producing cohesive story-driven layouts and content aligned with an established brand identity.
- Managed **cross-functional business and creative teams** composed of over 150+ graphic designers, photographers, videographers, stylists, and social media collaborators, delegating tasks and ensuring adherence to production timelines; utilized **project management tools** and agile workflows to streamline operations and create sustainable business practices, delivering high-quality **editorial content** with strong visual coherence and design integrity.
- Supported external-facing storytelling initiatives, including a collaboration with **Warner Bros.** to promote a major film release to a large, student-based audience by developing compelling video and photo **social media content**.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Penn State Center for the Performing Arts | [Marketing & Engagement Assistant](#) | University Park, PA Jun 2025 – May 2026

- Support marketing and engagement initiatives tied to a wide range of performances, from large-scale productions to children's workshops, coordinating logistics and messaging across audiences.
- Produce audience-facing **digital assets** aligned with brand guidelines to support event launches and increase social media engagement; copyrighting for events and liaising with external Agents and internal teams for accurate communications.

NAACP Penn State Chapter | Black Love Art Gallery | [Exhibition Designer](#) | University Park, PA Jan – April 2025

- Designed and installed a successful multimedia exhibition with a \$2000 project budget and a 3-month planning window
- Collaborated with diverse artists to animate artwork presentations and create immersive and interactive installations to cater to multigenerational accessibility needs.

Palmer Museum of Art | VR Experience in Curated Exhibition | [Director & Editor](#) | University Park, PA Jan – April 2025

- Filmed and edited 360° anthropological footage in Nigeria to create a VR component for the exhibition *Profiles of Vulnerability and Protection*, contributing digital interpretive content to the curatorial narrative.
- Delivered an artist talk explaining the research, creative development, and visitor-centered design process behind the XR experience

Penn State University | Community Wall | [UX Designer & Developer](#) | University Park, PA Aug – Oct 2025

- Designed and developed an interactive digital tool that increased visitor engagement by prompting reflective responses and archiving public contributions as part of a participatory museum experience.