

umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu

Creating Collective Spaces in the Spirit of Ubuntu

Anika Kwinana
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Words To Live By

audre lorde

when i dare to be powerful, to use my strength in
the service of my vision, then it becomes less and
less important whether i am afraid.



Who Am I?

Dreamer
Planner
Artist
Mother
Black Woman
Activist



How I Show Up

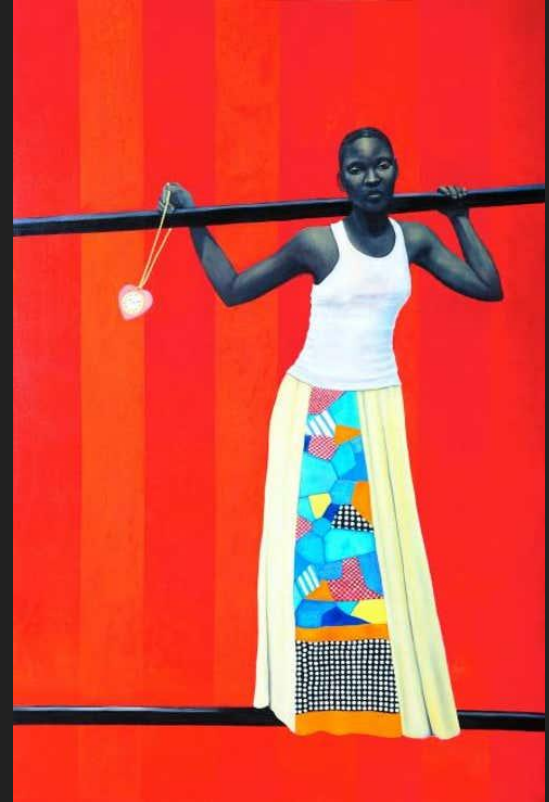
Personal Mission: Curate spaces where community and creativity thrive.

Visionary
Process-oriented
People-centered **Passion**
Democratic **Equity**
Justice **Authenticity**
Intelligence **Collaboration**
Truth
Connection



Framing

How can we utilize our essential values to center the most vulnerable and to promote an equitable environment?



The Concept of Ubuntu

- African concept
- “*umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu*”
 - A person is a person through other persons
 - I am because we are
- *A traveller through a country would stop at a village and he didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stops, the people give him food, entertain him. That is one aspect of Ubuntu but it will have various aspects. Ubuntu does not mean that people should not address themselves. The question therefore is: Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve? ([Nelson Mandela](#))*



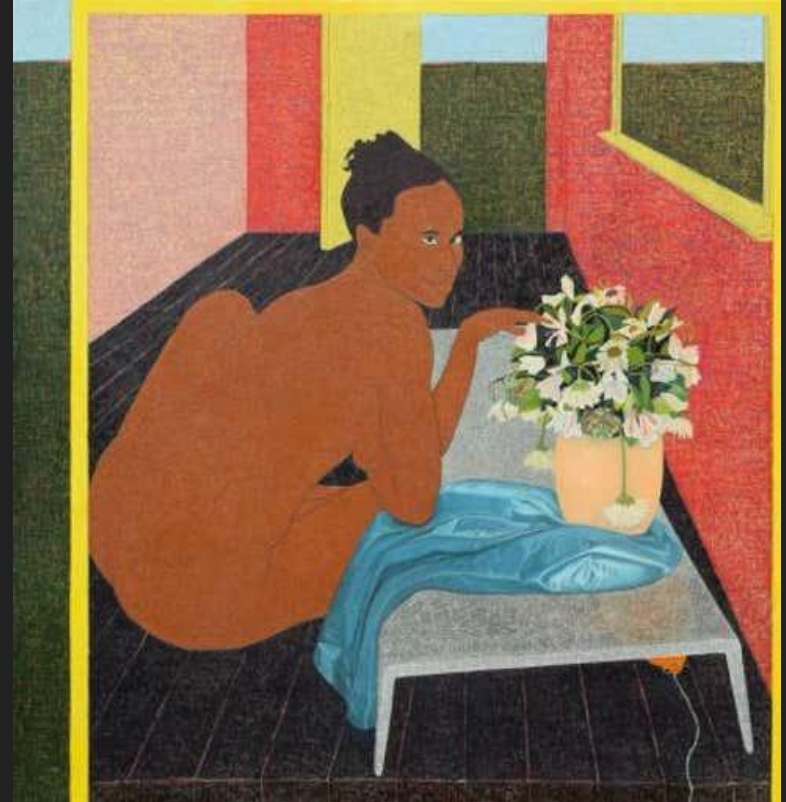
The Spirit of Ubuntu

- “Ubuntu is the idea that no one can be healthy when the community is sick. Ubuntu says I am human only because you are human. If I undermine your humanity, I dehumanise myself.” (Yamamoto: 1997)
- “[Ubuntu is] the profound sense that we are human only through the humanity of others; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world, it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievements of others” (Mandela: 2009)



Thinking About Community

- What does “community” currently mean in your context?
- What are your current work flows as they pertain to working with community?
- What are your intentions in working with community?
- What do you do that is in service to community?
- Who ultimately benefits from the work that you do with community? And how do you know?



Creating Ubuntu Spaces in Museums

- What could ubuntu look like in your museum space?
- Who are all of your community members?
- Do you work *with* community or do you work *in* community?



Creating Collective Spaces in the Spirit of Ubuntu

“Ubuntu does not mean that people should not address themselves. The question therefore is: Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve?”



Ubuntu does not mean that the museum should not think about what is needed to address its own needs and goals. The question is: Is the museum willing to exist so that the community around it is able to improve?



Thank you!

Anika Kwinana | she/her(s)

Director, Social Responsibility
and Inclusion

WESTAF | Western States Arts
Federation

anika.kwinana@westaf.org

Artwork

- [10 Female Artists of Color on the Rise](#)
- [The Spirit of Ubuntu](#)

