

ARTIST STATEMENT

Civic Theatre Artistry

I've been writing; creating stories, worlds, and characters; and being concerned about what's right + best in the world around us since I was a little girl.

"Girls with dreams become women with vision."

~Unknown

When our teachers asked the proverbial question in 4th grade, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I answered:

- 👉 a nun
- 👉 an attorney
- 👉 the 1st Black woman POTUS



My answer conveyed a desire to be in positions that reflected my faith/beliefs + an ability/capacity to DO something tangibly beautiful + meaningful about my convictions.

While I've not followed those exact childhood-inspired paths, I have been living the essences of that little girl's dreams. I AM an ordained pastor, and I'm always the one advocating for what's right in the midst of what's wrong. *(Often I get to serve in positions of power that allow me to make transformative decisions.)* And when I can do that on behalf of actual people where they need it the most rather than for a general principle, I AM beyond happy — and honored.

Across 15+ years of award-winning writing, dramaturgy, civic theatre production, and nonprofit + arts leadership — including as the Founding VP of Operations at The



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rev dr candi dugas
CREATING.HEALING.BUILDING

Center for Working Families (seeded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation), as leading arts education programs, and as the founder + lead of candi dugas collective — I've curated storytelling rooms that have transformed lives, built organizational infrastructure, generated significant earned + contributed revenue, and led teams thru growth + transition. Today, all of that success is showing up thru my being a part of:

- **Rooms on the edge of transformation.** Not stable rooms, not finished rooms – rooms still becoming something. I'm drawn to the precipice itself, the moment before the sea change lands – whatever my specific role on the team may be.
- **Stories that reveal the sacred (*golden*) thread connecting generations.** My concepts for trilogies, the Black epic canon, my obsession with biographies, and documentary as an emerging genre – all of it traces how *one* person's life-meaning ripples into the next. I hunt the thru-line rather than solitary moments.
- **Healing delivered through art, infused with Black/African thought + practices.** Art functions as medicine, informed by the best of what we know + do, carrying organic intellectual + spiritual weight.
- **Local specificity speaking to something universal.** My signature program, Broadway Brunch™, is a prime container to tour thru large towns (*instead of only major cities*), to witness how *one* play lands differently region by region. Here the sacred thread weaves a special connection of truth however differently it may be expressed.

My artistry is transformation made visible, traced across time, healed within community, and rooted in real places. It's a collective body of work that I intend + hope will continue to be deeply + lastingly meaningful for our moves into what's best + next.

In 4th grade I had not yet figured out that I was good enough at writing + creating to make that an actual professional ambition. And once I did, I realized that my passions for faith + justice always showed up on the page — no matter how much I endeavored to lighten it up a little. So, now I'm in the flow of it *all*!

May our collaborations build + increase the momentum
we need to carry us forward 🦊 ✨

Asé.

[Tap [here](#) to read candi's former Artist Statement.]