



Department of Housing, Economic Development & Commerce
Artist Certification Board

Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: May 7, 2025
TO: Christopher Langston, Chairman
FROM: Joey-Ann Morales, Division of City Planning
SUBJECT: Artist Certification Approval

The Following individual was recommended for approval by the Artist Certification Board (ACB) and await certification at the next Planning Board Meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
Iman Cooper-Williams-Abdul	Design, acting, writing	1,2,3,4,5

**The following shall serve as criteria to be used by the ACB in certifying an artist: 1) the artists' commitment to the fine arts as a career; 2) the need for large loft space in which to create his or her art; 3) education; 4) current body of work; 5) exhibition record; 6) references from other artists or art professionals. In no event shall the content of the art created be used as a criterion to determine eligibility to occupy work/live space in the WALDO.*

Artist Certification Application

(Each individual applicant should submit a separate application.)

Date

5/7/2025

Name

Iman Cooper-Williams-Abdul

Home Phone

(786) 403-7824

Mobile Phone

(786) 403-7824

Email Address

imancooperwilliams@gmail.com

Address

270 marin blvd, jersey city, New Jersey 07302

Fine Arts Discipline

Costume Design, Playwriting, Acting, Directing, Singing, writing

Do you currently reside in a work/live space?

No

What is your current amount of work space?

500

How much work/live space will you need?

1,000

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Describe your particular art form and explain why a large space is necessary for its creation.

In my home; I sew costumes, create wigs, host rehearsals, storyboard for my books, and film auditions and material. As I've grown as an artist it becomes increasingly difficult to do these things in my small space.

I'm also including here a link to the slideshow where the links and videos are viewable

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeGLpi-Uo/q7-](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeGLpi-Uo/q7-mP0n2Gq0sMQYQpgQMjg/view?utm_content=DAGeGLpi-Uo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hc932dd3053)

[mP0n2Gq0sMQYQpgQMjg/view?utm_content=DAGeGLpi-](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeGLpi-Uo/q7-mP0n2Gq0sMQYQpgQMjg/view?utm_content=DAGeGLpi-Uo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hc932dd3053)

[Uo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hc932dd3053](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeGLpi-Uo/q7-mP0n2Gq0sMQYQpgQMjg/view?utm_content=DAGeGLpi-Uo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hc932dd3053)

2. Submit a fine arts (non-commercial) resume pertinent to your work. Include educational background, professional training, public exhibitions and/or performances, critical reviews, awards and fellowships. Be sure to include dates.**Fine Arts Resume**

_Brown Cream Aesthetic Minimalist Graphic Designer Resume.png

3. Submit dated documentation appropriate to your particular art form. Your documentation should

reflect a body of work over the last 5 years, up to and including recent work. Student work, in and of itself, will not meet the criteria for certification. Below are examples of the kinds of support materials that should accompany your application: *(Applicants must upload or mail in examples. Staff does not have access to certain websites)*

- 15-20 examples; CD, website or slide sheet, scores, tapes or photographs of work completed in the last 5 years; dated announcements, catalogs, reviews, articles, etc.

15 - 20 Examples

Iman's Little Portfolio.pptx

All documentation should include, where appropriate, the date of creation, medium, size and title of the work.

In some cases, the Artists' Certification Board may request more support materials such as recommendations, transcripts, and or an interview with the applicant.

ALL SUPPORT MATERIALS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE JERSEY CITY PLANNING DIVISION AND WILL BE KEPT IN A PUBLIC RESOURCE REGISTRY. THEY WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINAL WORK.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he or she is currently engaged in the fine arts as a career, and that the statements and information set forth above and/or annexed to this application are true to the best of his or her knowledge, and that the materials submitted in support of this application represent the applicant's own work.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alma', written in a cursive style.

Date

5/7/2025

ARTICLE II

LAND USE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND ADVISORY BOARDS

345-11 ARTIST CERTIFICATION BOARD

A. Establishment of an Artist Certification Board

1. There is hereby created an Artists' Certification Board (ACB), which shall serve as a citizens advisory board to the Planning Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A.40:55D-27.a. The ACB shall be in, but not of, the Division of City Planning. The ACB is essentially an artists peer review committee. In order to reside in a work/live studio in the WALDO, an artist must be so certified by the Planning Board. The Planning Board shall be guided in this certification by the recommendation made by the ACB. The Planning Board may reject the recommendation of the ACB, but the reasons for such rejection must be clearly stated in the resolution approved by the Board.
2. The ACB shall be comprised of persons knowledgeable in the arts. It shall consist of five (5) full members, with no more than two (2) additional alternate members who may vote in the absence of full members. A minimum of three (3) full members of the ACB shall be professional artists. All members shall be appointed by the Mayor. After the initial appointments are made, all terms shall run for four (4) years.
3. The ACB shall review applications filed by persons who are interested in occupying work/live space in the WALDO as either owners, tenants or sub-tenants, to determine if the applicant can be certified to occupy such space.
4. The following shall serve as criteria to be used by the ACB in certifying an artist: 1) The artists' commitment to the fine arts as a career; 2) The need for large loft space in which to create his or her art; 3) Education; 4) Current body of work; 5) Exhibition record; 6) References from other artists or art professionals. In no event shall the content of the art created be used as a criterion to determine eligibility to occupy work/live space in the WALDO.
5. The recommendation of the ACB to the Planning Board shall be submitted to the Planning Board within thirty (30) days of the ACB's decision, and shall state the reasons for the decision with specific reference to one or more of the criteria set forth in paragraph four 4 (above).
6. Once an artist is certified by the Planning Board, the Planning Board shall forward a copy of its certification decision to the Zoning Officer, who shall retain the certification in the Zoning Officer's files. The certification shall expire ten (10) years after the date of the decision by the Planning Board. Renewal applications may be filed. In the event a certified artist is divorced or dies, the family of the artist occupying the work/live space shall be given a two (2) year grace period.

HEDC/Artist Certification Board

1 Jackson Square

Jersey City, NJ 07305

(201) 547-5010

IMAN CWA

**Costumer, Actor, Playwright,
Director, Novelist**



786-403-7824



270 Marin Blvd, NJ 07302



Imancooperwilliams@gmail.com

My Education

- The Green Room Acting Studio- 2018-2020 Acting for Stage and Screen
- UCF- 2018-2020 Psychology and Writing Bachelors
- Once Upon a Wig Masterclass in Wig Design- March-May 2021
- TBG Scene Study- Spring 2024
- NYC Writer's Studio Master Class- Summer 2024

Long Term Projects

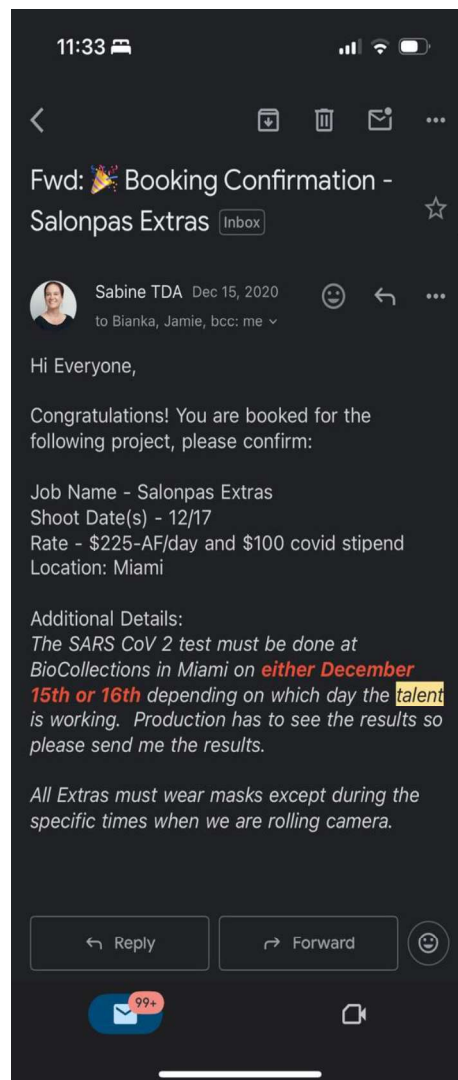
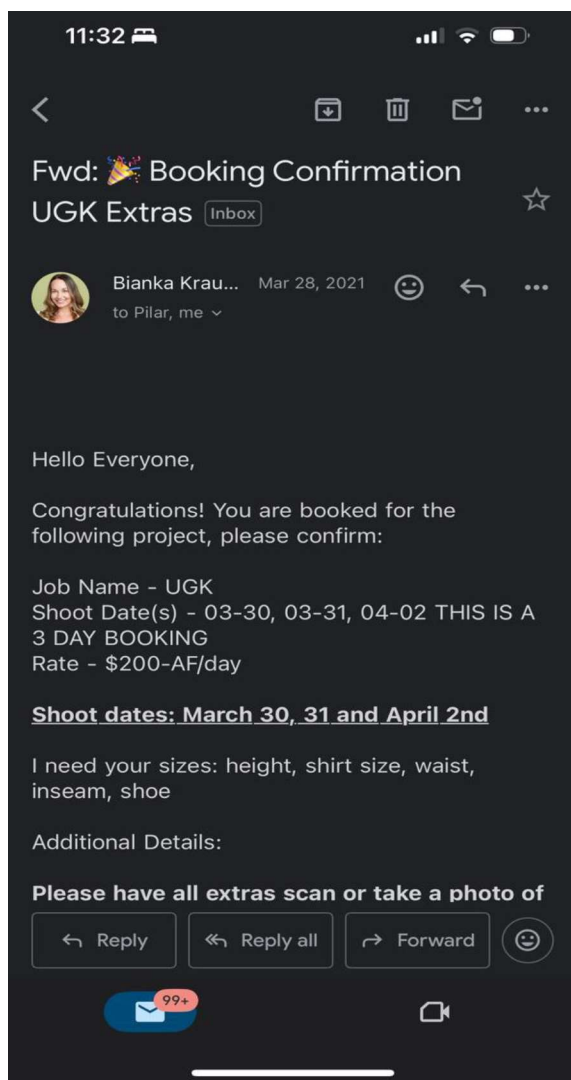
- **Jersey City Party Characters, Owner Creative Director, Costumer:** 2021- present, child and family focused entertainment project that puts on live shows for families as well as small party performances.
- **Strange Girls Theater, Co-Owner Creative Director:** 2023- present, child and family focused entertainment project that puts on live shows for families as well as small party performances.



My Recent and Upcoming Projects

- **Sabrina Cabaret, Producer-Writer- Set Designer:** A cabaret about short women's infantilization by men. Opens Sept 13th 2025 at Green Room 42
- **Iman's Little Blog Novels, Writer :** A series of novels recounting of my experiences dating as an Autistic woman. Part 1, **published 2/3/2024** Part 2, published **3/1/2025**
- **A Jew and a Muslim Walk Into a Church, A 40 minute play written, directed, set designed, and starring me:** Last produced **11/30/2024**
- **The Ball, Lead Actor:** Absurdist play discussing the female experience. Written by Brittyn Dion and performed at Dreams Eclectica in **Feb of 2024**
- **A Raisin in a Cup of Milk. Audra: March 2022**
- **Iman's Little Blog, Author: June 2021- August 2022** Weekly magazine of short stories.
- **Alkief Commercial, SAG Extra: Jan 2021**
- **Salonpas Comercial, Extra: Dec 15 2020**
- **Spring Awakening, Marta: Area Stage Company June-July 2019**
- **Characters IO, Wig Designer/ Actor:** Designed and upkeep wigs fr the actors. Also on staff as an actor. **2018-2021**

BoOking confirmations for 2020 and 2021 commercials referenced in resume



Mermaid Tail Costume design March 2021



Ariel Gown March 2020

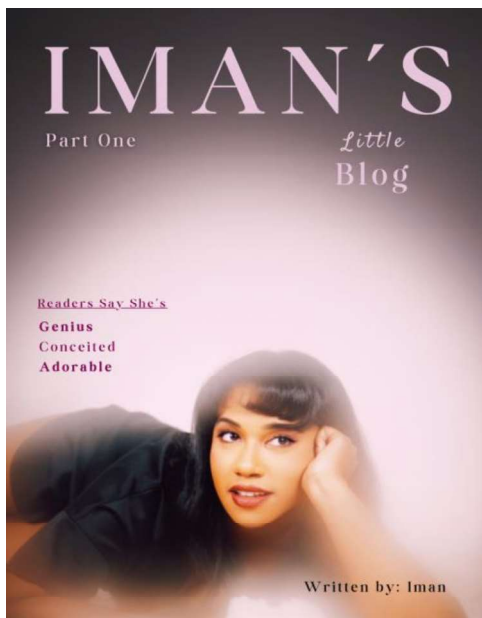
Galinda Gown Costume Jan 2025



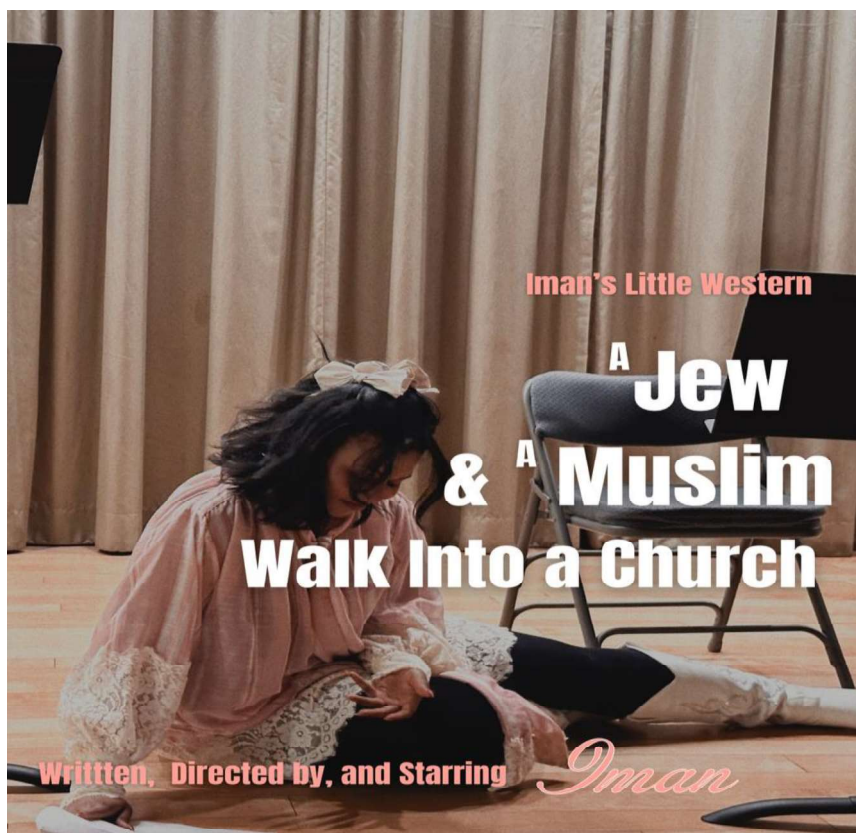


Rapunzel wigs for characters io for the 2019 costuming year

i was on staff June 2019- august 2021 for wig design here! and managed creation and restyling of Rapunzel wigs



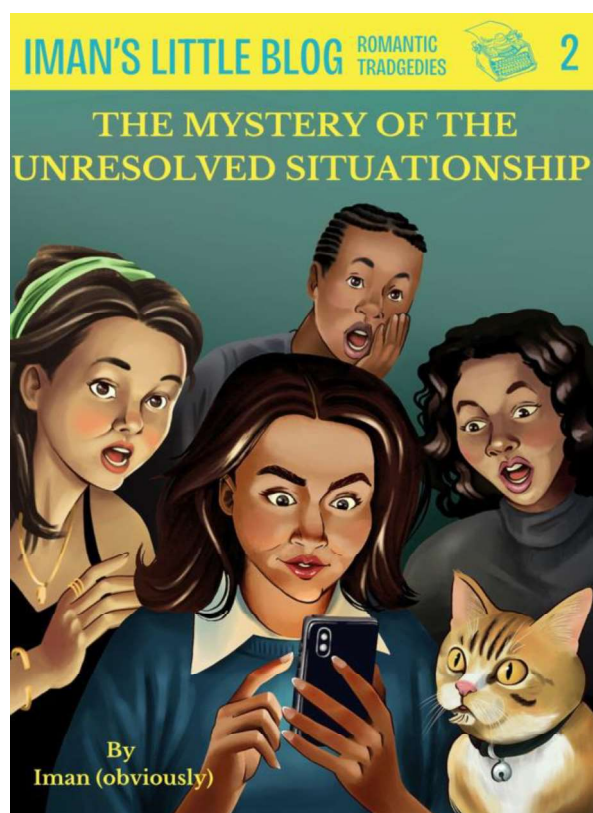
Published in February 2024



A Jew and A Muslim walk into a church

Play attached to submission produced

November 2024 February 2025



Iman's Little Blog part 2 Published 3/1/2025