

ARTIST JOURNEY ALLEN

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VISUAL ARTIST

Local artist Journey Allen is native to New Orleans which is the inspiration for her vibrant works that intertwine her signature abstract pattern with images that capture the city's celebratory culture.



With a gallery-studio space operating after her namesake in the heart of the Historic 7th Ward Neighborhood where she grew up, Artist Journey Allen embraces a life of community and creativity that defies the odds of a college professor who once told her that she was "unteachable" and "could never learn to paint well enough to become a professional artist."

With these words at the foundation of her path, Journey sources light from this narrative and uses it as a means of empowerment through her work with the youth that she encounters as an arts educator throughout her creative practice.



ENTREPRENEUR/COMMUNITY LEADER

Journey has operated her business through her studio space located at 1474 North Broad Street since 2016 but rather than simply leading paint parties, creating artwork and exhibiting her art there, she uses the platform as a vehicle to build community and to provide creative and entrepreneurship opportunities to individuals who otherwise would not have access to such experiences. Starting in 2018 Journey began hosting [Small Business Saturday](#) Artist Markets where she invited other artists and entrepreneurs who don't have a storefront of their own to present and sell their items at her space. Her vision was that each [Small Business Saturday](#) allowed entrepreneurs to feel the success of obtaining holiday income that is usually afforded to larger scale businesses with little or no effort.



ADVOCATE FOR COMMUNITY BASED ARTS PROGRAMMING

One of the greatest focuses of her community outreach is art programming for vibrant youth of color who are in need of a creative outlet. In 2016, months before opening her studio space, Journey developed a program name "Keepers of the Culture," and from this program one of her greatest youth programming endeavors was born in 2017... [Camp Oya](#). After navigating two years of covid-19 programming which occurred online and beyond the four walls of Artist Journey Allen Gallery Studio, the studio returned to in person programming for youth ages 14-18 in the summer of 2022 through a collaboration with the Young Artists Movement (YAM). Through this partnership and Journey's role as the Lead Arts Educator for YAM, she organized programming that allowed youth to work alongside another local professional artist who led students to complete a 10 panel mural installation that will be exhibited at Tulane University in the winter of 2023.



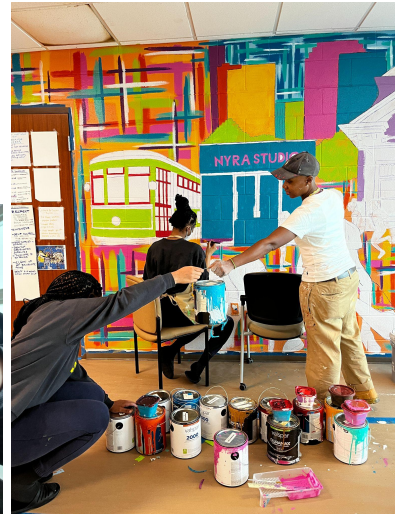
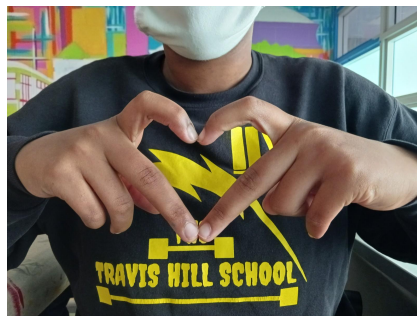
MASTERFUL ARTS EDUCATOR

For over a decade Journey has been inspiring students to think bigger thoughts and dream bigger dreams and it is within her classroom setting that she masterfully brings her skills as a visual artist, teacher and entrepreneur together to inspire her students to reach for the Highest and Truest version of themselves. Her most recent teaching experience was with The Living School (2019-2022), a New Orleans East charter school where she was recognized by [New Schools for New Orleans](#) for her innovative teaching methods. Beyond her ability to engage students at any level of creativity, Journey took the term “art club” to the next level for her young aspiring artists when she became the teaching mentor for the LSNO Open Studio Krewe. With the funds from her first [Krewe of House Floats](#) commission for the Babydolls organization, Journey started Open Studios with her students where she encouraged them in their personal creative practice but also trained students to professionally create house floats as they developed entrepreneurial skills that could support them in becoming successful professional artists in the future. With co-teacher and carpenter Ross Harmon at her side this venture continued throughout the summer of 2021 which led to students working with her on other commissions for organizations such as the [Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition](#) (OPPRC).

Through this project Journey taught students about cash bail, how it negatively impacted black and brown communities, and discovered the mission of organizations like [OPPRC](#). From this experience students then were paid a living hourly wage of \$17 per hour to support Artist Journey Allen in bringing the narrative that she designed to life. For this work and the 4 house floats Journey and her team completed around the city, each participant in LSNO Open Studios received a Declaration Plaque from the City of New Orleans.

MURALIST:USING ART AS A CATALYST TO INSPIRE COMMUNITIES

Journey believes in the power of art and its ability to heal and transform even the perfect stranger who encounters it. In addition to working with students in the traditional classroom and local community settings, Journey has used mural painting as a tool to inspire both her students who sometimes join her in the creative process and the passersby who are filled with joy as they witness her vibrant signature design on an enormous public canvas.



Current mural in progress with students who are currently held at the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center in New Orleans (August 2022). Over a period of 8 weeks Journey taught art lessons to students and guided them in developing ideas for the design title that they selected, "My Beautiful Dream for New Orleans."



This [Crown Act Mural](#) in its entirety features four African American females proudly wearing their natural and protective styles. This project was sponsored by The Crown Act Organization, DOVE Soap, and The Joy Collective. It was unveiled July 4th weekend of 2022 during the Essence Fest and featured by both [WGNO](#) local news outlet and the [Louisiana Weekly](#)



“Colors of Our Culture” (2022) [Mural completed at New Orleans East Read Library](#) in conjunction with Arts New Orleans and New Orleans Business Alliance as a part of their [New Orleans East Revitalization Project](#). For this project Journey mentored a group of students whose design input and painting support was essential in the overall goal of the project.

Interview with Artist Journey Allen and her student Aliyah [HERE](#) (begin at 00:44)



["The Black Imagination Project."](#) was developed by world renown artist BMike and features the work of a collective of New Orleans artists and Journey Allen was amongst these selected individuals. Her signature design serves as the backdrop to BMike's Trombone Shorty portrait that spans the entire side of the Treme Center. Journey's contributions also include a painting of a second line procession in her original silhouette painting style (pictured below).



WRITER & ILLUSTRATOR OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



(Image of author and illustrator of *The Beignet Babies* at her book signing at Community Book Center 2020..."It was during the pandemic when life slowed down for the world that I was able to complete my illustrations and self publish my book." -Journey Allen)

Book Description: Set in the charming city of New Orleans, this fairy tale captures the journey of Mama Lorraine Davereaux who owns a bakery in the heart of the French Quarters. When Mama Lo's bakery business takes a turn for the worst, she contemplates the decision of closing her bakery doors for good. The wonder of the story begins to unfold as Mama Lo confides in her dear friend, Grandpa Elliot, who provides her with a tiny satchel of magical sugar. When used exactly as he suggests, the sweet potion brings forth the *Beignet Babies*™, a crew of little baby bakers that arrive to save the day.

To learn more about Journey's amazing behind the scene experience with writing the story of the *Beignet Babies*™ scroll to the bottom of the artist's home page at

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