

Kofi Bazzell-Smith

Artist | Educator | Professional Boxer | U.S.- Japan Bridging Scholar

bazzell1@illinois.edu

www.kofimanga.com

Education

University of Illinois Master of Fine Arts in New Media; 2024

FLAS Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow (Japanese)

Eastern Illinois University May 2021; BA in Studio Art, Asian Studies Minor

Magna Cum Laude; Founder/President Japanese Culture Club; Independent Studies in Japanese, Mandarin, Drawing, Painting and Digital art; Completed Chinese language program; Study Abroad Student of the Year

Kansai Gaidai University; Japanese Language Courses, Manga Course; Hirakata, Japan 2019

Parkland Community College Associate's in General Studies, August 2018

Wahaha Private Language School; Fukuoka, Japan; independently funded; 2017

Publications

4 Pages | 16 Bars: A Visual Mixtape; Black Comics Anthology 2021

Azuki Children's Book Series (English and Japanese) 2018-2020

Jiyu manga anthology; published in Japan; Kansai Gaidai University 2019

Activator Magazine published illustrations and short works 2018-2020

Teaching

Small Press Fest! Manga Storytelling Workshop; *University of Illinois* 2020

Introductory Japanese language as Club activity *Eastern Illinois University* 2018-2020

Manga Storytelling Workshop *Urbana Free Library* 2019

Manga Storytelling Workshop *Parkland College* 2019

English as a Second Language; Teaching Internship *TLC (The Language Company)* 2019

East Asian Languages Workshop *EIU* 2018

Manga Storytelling Workshop *EIU* 2018

Service to University

Founder/President *EIU Japanese Culture Club* 2018-2021

EIU International Education Committee 2020-21

EIU Research and Creative Works Conference 2020-2021

Artist Talk; *Power Talks: Visual Storytelling*; 2020

Asian Studies Conference Talk *EIU* 2019

EIU Global Cultural Night Emcee 2018

President *Parkland College Japanese Culture Club* 2018

Parkland College Student Senator 2015

Service to Community

Panel Discussion: BIPOC Liberation fest; *University of Illinois Department of Psychology*
TEDx Talk; *University of Illinois at Chicago* 2021
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois Art department* 2021
Artist Talk; Manga; *Edison Middle School* 2021
Artist Talk; Black History Month, Black Joy; *Metcalf Middle School* 2021
Boxing Trainer; *Luyando Boxing* 2014-2021
Artist Talk: Anime and Manga: Afro-American Intersections with Japanese Culture
co-presenter with Eric Calderon; US Japan Bridging Foundation 2020
Panel on James Baldwin with *Princeton Scholar Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. UIUC* 2020
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois Asian Studies department* 2020
Poetry reading and discussion *UNESCO Center for Global Citizenship* 2020
Sounds Like Community; Artist Talk; *Independent Media Center* 2020
James Baldwin Commemoration; Artist Talk 2020
TOMODACHI Generation Summit Conference; *Showa Women's University; Tokyo* 2019
Panelist; International Engagement *UIUC International and Area Studies Library* 2019
Public reading in Chinese for Christmas at *Tarble center* 2018
English Conversation Partner Volunteer, *Intensive English Institute; 2010-2015*

Public Interviews

Professor LatinX Comics Scholars Channel 2020
Japan Station Podcast 2020
Radio Interview in Japanese on Harukana Show 2019/2020
Young, Gifted and Abroad 2020
Smile Politely Artist Interview 2020
Unity in Action Magazine 2020

Exhibitions

8 to Create Live Drawing Exhibition; *University of Illinois Art + Design* 2021
Common Ground Food Co-op: Black Lives Matter Outdoor Installation 2020
Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual Gallery 2019
Solo Manga Art Exhibition for Asian Heritage Month – EIU Booth Library 2019
Solo Exhibition EIU Art Department Passage Gallery 2019
Art Exhibition with Stacey Robinson Urbana 2019
Urbana Independent Media Center Exhibition 2018
Boneyard Arts Festival 2017
Pizza M Solo Art Exhibition 2016

Awards

Foreign Language and Area Studies(FLAS) Fellow *UIUC; 2021*
Fulbright Semi-Finalist *Japan* 2021
Magna Cum Laude *EIU* 2021
EIU All Student Show Digital Art 1st Place 2021/2020
EIU Undergraduate Research Grant 2021/2020
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar 2020
EIU Study Abroad Student of the Year 2020
EIU Talented Student Award Art Department 2019/2020
U.S.-Japan Bridging Scholar 2019
Freeman Asia Scholar 2019
EIU Talented Student Award Study Abroad 2019
EIU Asian Studies Leadership Award 2019
EIU Asian Studies Research/Creative Work Award 2019
Midwest Animation Promotion Society Manga Award 2019