

Kwame Scruggs, Ph.D.

EXPERIENCE

Kwame Scruggs has over 20 years of experience using myth in the development of male youth and adults. He holds a Ph.D. and MA in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, California. Kwame also holds a MS degree in Technical Education with an emphasis in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Akron where he also completed all the course work for a MS degree in Community Counseling. In 1993, after being formally initiated into the Akan System of Life Cycle Development (African-based rites of passage), Kwame became a facilitator of this process.

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Kwame is the founder and director of Alchemy, a non-profit organization in Akron, Ohio established in 2003. Alchemy uses mythological stories to engage adolescent youth. In 2012, Alchemy was one of 12 programs to receive the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities—the nation's highest honor for after-school and out-of-school programs. Alchemy was also the backdrop for feature-length documentary, "*Finding the Gold Within*."

AWARDS

In 2016, Kwame was one of seven recipients awarded the National Guild's Milestone Certificate of Appreciation and one of three to receive the University of Akron's Black Male Summit Legacy Award. In 2013, Pacifica Graduate Institute presented him with the initial Wendy Davee Award for Outstanding Service and contributions in the tradition of soulful service. In 2020, the Association of Teaching Artists (with Lincoln Center Education) announced that Kwame was the winner of their Innovation in Teaching Artistry award.

CURRENT AND MOST RECENT WORK

In addition to his work with youth, he has used myth with adults in numerous group settings. He is currently a Core Instructor for Mentor Agility and faculty at the Salome Institute of Jungian Studies, a teaching institute focused on socially relevant psychology. Since 2017 Kwame has been a Part Time Lecturer for the DSW Program School of Social Work, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. For five years he conducted workshops for parents of The University of Akron's Upward Bound Program. He facilitated groups for fathers in Cleveland, the Oriana House in Akron and conducted workshops on the use of myth with Family Services of Summit County, Columbia University's Teacher College, Clinical Psychology Program, Grand Rounds, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, Pacifica Graduate Institute, C.G. Jung sites of New York, Cleveland, Dallas, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and the Dallas Institute of Humanities & Culture.

AFFILIATIONS

Kwame is also a board member of the Joseph Campbell Foundation and a graduate of the National Guild Community Art Education's CAELI (Community Arts Education Leadership Institute) Class of 2015 and a BMe Fellow (2017).