

2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Lippincott Award



LASHAY CARR

Exhibition Design
Graduate Student
Fashion Institute of Technology

I came into this world as a child with limited opportunities, so from the start of birth I have been fighting. I was born prematurely with an underdeveloped heart and lungs, but I fought to stay in this world. Despite having to wear leg braces at the age of 2 and corrective glasses since the age of 6, I walked, played and read into the late hours of the night. Despite being told I would never make it to college with low S.A.T. scores and no money to even apply, I fought to attend Syracuse University and will be graduating with a Bachelors in Industrial Design. I was accepted into the Higher Educational Opportunity Program at S.U. and given almost full funding. I have never taken this opportunity for granted. I stay up late studying and designing; I am the President of an organization, which assists students by hosting workshops, trips and volunteer opportunities. I have been a mentor for both my peers and young children in the Syracuse community. I have completed research in Ghana, Africa on the current condition of the country. I have researched the lack of Black artists in the inner cities. I have completed thesis research on the current state of public elementary schools furniture and environment and have worked with children to help them understand design. I currently am working on a product that students can make themselves to deal with their classroom situation in public schools. I travel to Albany, NY every year to lobby for funds to higher education and I have participated with Syracuse Public Schools every year. College has given so many opportunities in my life that I am continuing my education at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City to pursue a Masters of Exhibition Design.



Worldstudio
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the professional association for design

LASHAY CARR

Exhibition Design

In 2002, someone told me I should give back to my community and I refused. I thought about all the times the community instilled fear within me. I mean, what have I ever taken from them? But then I thought about the children who were like myself and wanted to go to college or pursue a career in the arts. This is why I try to volunteer in the Syracuse community as much as I can. The children rarely interact with students of color from the University and they think we (students) are all rich. But I tell them that they can attend S.U. too, and encourage them to not just dream, but believe. I will use my education to teach design to high-schoolers in the inner city of New York, by hosting design workshops. By the age of 45, I will have opened a community center known as The L Center for the Arts. It will be a place for young people to prepare and apply for college; to learn about design and the performing arts, and travel to different colleges and universities. And no, there are no basketball courts in it! Because I know what it is not to have educational resources as a youth growing up in the inner-city. Currently, I have no idea how I will finance graduate school, but I said the same thing when I applied for to travel to both Ghana and London within the same year. I always find a way to pursue my passion for learning and cultural experiences. I have accomplished what many adults in my hometown of Brooklyn will probably never get to do because of the conditions in which they exist. I just want others to know that with will and determination, we can accomplish anything we desire.

