

Sydney Davis

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SUMMARY

Nonprofit leader, entrepreneur, and financial professional passionate about community-driven change. As Founder of Artist Talk Mental Health, I create programs that provide Black and Brown artists with mental health resources, professional development, and support. Skilled in fundraising, team management, and financial operations, I have led 30+ events, secured foundation funding, and built key partnerships. With a background in banking and financial management, I bring expertise in compliance, risk mitigation, and relationship-building. Committed to advancing equity in mental health and the arts, I develop sustainable funding models and empower artists to thrive. Seeking to contribute to a mission-driven organization that values innovation, collaboration, and community empowerment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artist Talk Mental Health Founder/ CEO

November 2021-Present

- Founded Artist Talk Mental Health in 2020, creating safe spaces for Black and Brown artists to grow professionally while prioritizing mental health.
- Established and led an advisory board to guide the organization's strategic direction and ensure alignment with its mission.
- Designed programs and initiatives to address gaps in mental health resources and
- Recruited, trained, and managed a multidisciplinary team, including five therapists, a program coordinator, a chef, a grant writer, and two marketing and communication professionals.
- Oversaw day-to-day operations, ensuring smooth execution of programs, events, and outreach efforts.
- Maintained financial operations, including bookkeeping, budgeting, and financial planning, to ensure the organization's sustainability and growth.
- Directed all fundraising and grant-writing efforts, securing vital support from local foundations and individual donors.
- Collaborated with a grant writer to develop compelling proposals, resulting in increased funding for organizational programs.
- Built and nurtured relationships with community stakeholders, enhancing the organization's visibility and securing long-term partnerships.
- Designed and implemented Therapeutic Spaces, a series of events connecting artists with mental health resources and fostering community support.
- Supervised therapists in delivering group therapy sessions tailored to the unique challenges faced by Black and Brown artists.
- Developed and delivered professional development workshops and wellness programs for artists, equipping them with tools to manage mental health and advance their careers.
- Led over 30 events and workshops, addressing critical mental health topics and fostering open dialogue within the artist community.
- Advocated for equitable access to mental health services through targeted programming and resource development.
- Enhanced organizational outreach with a dedicated marketing team, increasing engagement and attendance at events.
- Managed organizational budgets, financial reporting, and compliance, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Provided strategic oversight of catering services to enhance event experiences and support community-building efforts.
- Increased operational efficiency by delegating responsibilities across a team while maintaining a hands-on leadership approach.

Citizens Bank N.A.
Commercial Development Loans Advisor

April 2018 - March 2020

- interpreted federal regulations and loan documentation to ensure compliance with terms and conditions for personal loans.
- Increased loan production by identifying pain points, aligning resources, and leveraging product knowledge and value propositions.
- Processed loan documentation to mitigate operational and reputational risks effectively.
- Developed strategic partnerships across business channels to enhance product integration and expand personal loan adoption.
- Collaborated with internal business partners, legal counsel, lead banks, and clients to deliver seamless service and support.

First National Bank of Pennsylvania
Customer Service Representative

Jan 2017 - August 2018

- Exceeded key performance indicators and goals for inbound customer service operations, consistently delivering high-quality support.
- Demonstrated expertise in product knowledge, policy and procedure adherence, and compliance with risk management regulations.
- Navigated complex financial software systems, including Navigator, Baker Hill, Relationship Manager, and Client Central, to support customer inquiries and transactions.
- Addressed customer concerns with empathy and efficiency, fostering trust and long-term client relationships.

SKILLS

Project/ Program management Data-driven strategic planning	Public Relations	Strong interpersonal skills
Strong organizational skills	Public Speaking	Proactive and self-motivated
Strategic Planning	Excellent communication skills	Leadership
	Grant Management	Community Support

AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP

- City of Pittsburgh Proclamation – Suicide Awareness Month 2024 -Honored by Pittsburgh City Council for championing mental health awareness,
- Children’s Museum – Speaker, Entrepreneurship (2022)- Shared insights on entrepreneurship with young creatives.
- Opera Conference – Speaker, Sustainability in the Arts (2023)- Spoke on sustainable artistic practices and personal experiences.
- Radiant Hall – Panelist, Mental Health in the Arts (2023)- Discussed mental health challenges and support for artists.
- AATA American Art Therapy Conference – Speaker & Panel Curator (2024- Led a panel on bridging communities through art and therapy.
- YWCA – Panelist & Thought Leader, Self-Care (2025)- Engaged in a discussion on self-care and well-being.

EDUCATION

Community College of Allegheny Northside
Majors: Business Managment

2013- 2015