

VD: African American woman with silver and pepper short hair, wears a grey blouse with silver hoop earrings.

Hello!

I want to share my reflections of the past year, 2021, for VOCA - Visionaries of the Creative Arts. 2021 has been a good year for VOCA. We have done a lot of work throughout the year, and we are grateful! We genuinely appreciate your continued support, which has gained VOCA's visibility beyond our expectations and spread the word about who we are and about our work.

I want to mention VOCA's critical highlights of what we have been doing the past year, 2021. 1) VOCA received its first grant from Borealis Foundation, our first "seed money" to help expand the organization and staff, 2) Another grant from Events DC to implement our annual summer camp for our deaf and hard of hearing BIPOC youth, 3) Kennedy Center - VOCA partnered with National Theater of the Deaf (NTD) to organize a festival, D.E.A.F. - Deaf Enlightenment & Arts Festival, a three-day festival with local and nationwide BIPOC artists showcasing their talents in music, poetry, dance, and performance. In addition, we had several vendors displaying their artwork and fashion, etc. What a beautiful, rich experience! 4) Collaborations with local and nationwide organizations. For example, Deaf Spotlight from Seattle, Washington, partnered with VOCA, often doing workshops and panels. For instance, we did an acting workshop with Alexandria Wailes and the most recent casting director panel. 5) VOCA's first live production since the beginning of the pandemic; it was called I.S.M. - a very successful production. What is ISM? Five Deaf BIPOC individuals wrote their own stories sharing their real-life experiences - oppression, discrimination, and condescension associated with words -isms such as racism, sexism, and audism. It was very successful! All these highlights that VOCA has been doing throughout 2021. What a blessing!

Now the new year is coming into tomorrow - 2022. For 2022, VOCA will continue what we have been doing - GREAT WORK, giving back to the community, and doing what we do best. We look forward to your continued support, and we thank you for your donations, again support, love, and your kind comments helping to spread the word about VOCA. Thank You!

VOCA wishes you a Happy New Year! May 2022 bring you abundance, prosperity, and happiness. Thank you again! See you in 2022!

