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M. SIMONE BOYD

MSIMONEBOYD.COM

BIO

M. Simone Boyd dreams of a day when her neighborhood will be free from violence, and as a neighbor, writer, and speaker...she is working towards that day. Since 2018, her arts-based advocacy efforts have helped secure almost \$17 Million in infrastructure investments and direct payments to artists and individuals in her neighborhood.

HOW ARTISTS CAN HELP HEAL COMMUNITIES

This talk is best suited for those seeking to leverage the power of creative strategies in neighborhoods. It is geared toward artists, art councils, philanthropic organizations and municipal governments. In this interactive talk, we will:

- Learn creative tools for artists to build empathy, raise support and connect community
- Identify barriers philanthropic and government entities must eliminate
- Learn tools for resisting problematic development & zoning changes
- Share strategies for navigating politics and protecting capacity

Hear how North Nashville residents responded to neighborhood violence, unseated a problematic politician, stopped efforts to build a rocket factory and built productive relationships with government officials that led to almost \$15 million in infrastructure investments from local, state and federal government.



Simone is an inspiring, top-notch, and highly professional speaker. She was a pleasure to work with in preparing for the event, and gave a crystal-clear and extraordinarily powerful talk about the complex, creative, and multi-sector work she is doing in Nashville. We can't wait to host her again.

Danya Sherman
Artplace America



Simone Boyd is the glue that holds North Nashville together. Her passion and love for the community is what stands out whenever you talk to her. Simone has been such a blessing to me in so many ways. However, the one that I'm most proud of is her giving my father an opportunity to tell his story and receive the love he deserves from the community he cherishes.

Larry Turnley, Jr.
*Author of What's Your Excuse?
and North Nashville Resident*





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HOW TO HACK YOUR CITY (OR STATE!) BUDGET

Are you having trouble getting your elected official to act? If so, this talk is for you. It is geared toward neighbors, organizers and advocates seeking to solve neighborhood problems with local investments. In this interactive talk, we will learn:

- How to build neighborhood consensus
- Systems you must learn to navigate
- The love language of politicians

Hear how a years-long advocacy effort and community meal led to a \$4 Million infrastructure investment and interstate overpass repair.

It was not by coincidence that I met Simone at a North Nashville neighborhood meeting. She courageously represents our community and cares for longtime residents, such as myself, by helping us avoid the pitfalls of gentrification and problematic zoning. She prioritizes her impactful storytelling gifts to maintain the legacy of our community. I'm grateful to have her as a neighbor and friend.

Cheryl McReynolds
North Nashville Resident



Simone is an expert artist in the medium of community and world-building. Simone listens, convenes, visions, ideates—and boldly brings to life unprecedented works such as a community meal with neighborhood elders under an interstate bridge, complete with chandeliers hanging from the beams (for which she successfully advocated repair). I highly recommend working with Simone to develop a creative and thoughtful approach to projects and engagement.

Anna Dearman
*Nashville Department of Transportation
Walking and Biking Manager*



Simone has a gift, and it is guiding others, bridging conflict, and leading with kind strength. She led two teams, who were at odds with each other, to create something more than they could be on their own. The Bordeaux Collaboration came together because of Simone and her desire to understand the impact projects have on people and communities and share that understanding with others.

Sallie Hussey
CEO, FiftyForward



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SETTING THE COLLABORATIVE TABLE

Collaborations can get tricky when parties with varying interests, perceived power and differing backgrounds get involved. In this interactive talk, we will learn ways to:

- Move collaborators toward shared goals and common interests
- Identify collaborator assets
- Set the defining question
- Imagine successes
- Balance power

Hear how residents, local police and a bike advocacy group partnered to respond to neighborhood violence and how it led to a \$3 million infrastructure investment and a street festival attended by 3,000 people in 2019 and 5,000 people in 2021.