



Maya Smart
BOOK ENTHUSIAST

maya@mayasmart.com
1101 W. 34TH ST. #621
AUSTIN, TX 78705
(330) 329-1614

EDUCATION

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
Master of Science in Journalism
DECEMBER 2005

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies
CUM LAUDE
JUNE 2002

AWARDS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD
MID-ATLANTIC REGION
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

40 UNDER 40 AWARD
STYLE WEEKLY

WOMEN IN THE ARTS AWARD
BELLE MAGAZINE

OHIO EXCELLENCE IN
JOURNALISM AWARD
THE PRESS CLUB
OF CLEVELAND

WRITING

MAYA SMART INC. (FORMERLY RALSTON PAYNE ENTERPRISES LLC) | (2003–PRESENT)

- » Write about books and reading for *MayaSmart.com*, *BookRiot.com*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and other publications.
- » Wrote news stories and features about careers, education and entrepreneurship for diverse clients, including *Black Enterprise*, *Black MBA*, *CNNMoney.com*, *Edutopia*, *Heart & Soul*, *Savoy* and *Virginia Business*.
- » Published *WritingCoach.com*, a website that provided articles, newsletters, courses and coaching to help freelance writers hone their business skills.
- » Taught entrepreneurial journalism courses for organizations, including the *Society of Professional Journalists* and the *Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism* at *Arizona State University*.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FRIENDS FOUNDATION

BOARD MEMBER (2015–PRESENT) | TREASURER (2016–PRESENT)

- » Advocate and fundraise to promote community literacy and enhance library collections, programs and facilities.
- » Ensure development and board review of financial policies and procedures.

LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS | BOARD MEMBER (2016–PRESENT)

- » Advocate for community-based educational programs that improve regional literacy rates.

MONTESSORI FOR ALL | BOARD MEMBER (2016–PRESENT)

- » Foster the development of high-performing, authentic, public Montessori charter schools in diverse communities across the country.

ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION COMMUNITY FUND

TOAST OF THE TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBER (2015–PRESENT)

- » Plan and host unique spring events to raise money and awareness for the *St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship Fund*.
- » Review scholarship applications to identify exceptional students pursuing health care professions.

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL | BOARD MEMBER (2016–PRESENT)

- » Provide strategic support to explore, identify, and plan long-term improvements and innovations for the main Festival and Teen Festival.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES | ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR (2016–PRESENT)

- » Promote and advance library facilities, collections, and initiatives.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS FEARLESS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER (2016–PRESENT)

- » Provide academic, personal and professional development opportunities for undergraduate women of color through workshops, retreats, mentoring and more.

GRANT MAKING

IMPACT AUSTIN | EDUCATION FOCUS AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER (2015–PRESENT)

- » Evaluate the leadership, operations, programming and boards of nonprofit applicants to inform grantmaking.

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SERVING RICHMOND & CENTRAL VIRGINIA

BOARD MEMBER (2015–2016) | GRANTS DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (2014–2016)

- » Evaluated leadership, operations and collaborations of nonprofits to inform grantmaking.

FUNDRAISING

RICHMOND CHRISTMAS MOTHER FUND | RICHMOND CHRISTMAS MOTHER (2014)

- » Raised \$325,000 as the chief spokesperson and fundraiser for the holiday giving campaign.
- » Made dozens of community and media appearances to promote the fund to a younger, more diverse audience.
- » Donated 1,000 books to local children to encourage a love of reading and promote literacy as a community endeavor.

MEMBERSHIPS

JUNIOR AUSTIN WOMEN'S CLUB | MEMBER (2015–PRESENT)

- » Raise funds and awareness to support the preservation and restoration of *North-Evans Chateau*, an Austin property built in 1874.

THE LINKS, INCORPORATED | MEMBER (2005–PRESENT)

- » *Town Lake (TX) Chapter's Communications Chair*
- » *Founding Editor of Linked*, the organization's national magazine