

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006-present

Design Action Collective

CO-OWNER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Designer and project manager at Design Action — a worker-owned cooperative providing graphic design and visual communications for progressive, non-profit, and social change organizations.

2019-present

University of San Francisco

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Faculty in the Department of Art & Architecture at USF teaching Design & Social Change. The course examines the roles and responsibilities of graphic designers and the strategic impact of visual communications in social justice movements.

2020-present

Race Forward

AFFILIATE TRAINER

Facilitator of racial equity trainings using Race Forward's pedagogy in collaboration with national network of affiliate trainers.

2004-2006

Public Interest GRFX

GRAPHIC DESIGN FELLOW

In-house designer for the National Association of State PIRGs — a nonprofit organization focused on environmental conservation and consumer protection campaigns around the country.

EDUCATION

June 2016

Center for Story-based Strategy

ADVANCED TRAINING

Participant in intensive training on narrative strategy with social justice organizers from across the United States.

June 2009

School of Unity and Liberation

FACILITATION TRAINING

Participant in training on social justice leadership development and facilitation with a focus on understanding systems of oppression such as racial and gender bias.

September 2000-June 2004

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Art & Design, Cum Laude

I have been involved with economic justice, immigrant rights, and anti-war organizing since the mid-1990s. As a Muslim woman and the daughter of immigrants, I found my political voice in the post-9/11 political terrain, and continue to ground my work in international solidarity.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2009-present

Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)

CO-COORDINATOR

Community leader working with South Asian activists in the Bay Area. Coordinator role includes planning and facilitating general meetings, coordinating South Asian contingents in direct action protests, and supporting ongoing political education to address violence within and against our diverse communities.

2017-present

Center for Political Education (CPE)

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Advisor on political priorities, event planning, and resource development. CPE provides a left space and perspective for organizers and activists by hosting classes, educational forums, study groups, presentations, film series and dialogues.

2016-present

US Federation of Worker-owned Cooperatives Racial and Economic Justice Membership Council

COUNCIL MEMBER

Council member responsible for building connections between national worker-coop development and grassroots economic justice campaigns through outreach and workshops.

2016-2019

Islamic Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Political Education event coordinator on topics of internationalism and anti-imperialist struggles combined with banner painting and screen printing workshops for local street demonstrations.

2020-2022

Maktoub Collective

MEMBER

Co-organizer of poetry and arts collective for Muslim-identifying and Muslim heritage artists.

2001-2004

Progressive Student Alliance

CO-COORDINATOR

Student leader in building the anti-war movement at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the post-9/11 political terrain.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

The Trauma of Caste: Book Talk with Thenmozhi Soundararajan

Moderator of a conversation with the author on survivorship, healing and abolition with a focus on Caste abolition.

Eastwind Books of Berkeley
2023

Grasping at the Root

Guest lecture for a seminar supporting a network of support and leadership development to prepare incoming BIPOC students to thrive at CCA and in the Bay Area.

California College of the Arts, San Francisco
2022

Ms. Marvel: Kamala Khan & Desi Community Power

Guest on the podcast Graphic Policy Radio alongside Darakshan Raja and Harini Marchadi.

Podcast
2022

UNPACKD: Essentials for Designing an Online Revolution

Panelist with The Webbys and NAACP on design in politics, community building, and activism.

Virtual
2022

Denison University Studio Art Department

Guest lecture about social Justice organizing and graphic design.

Virtual
2022

Students of Color in Public Policy (SCiPP) 12th Annual Race and Policy Symposium

Presentation of research on the Post 9/11 Era: Imperialism, Surveillance and Progressive South Asian Organizing in the Bay Area.

UC Berkeley
2022

ClimateDesigners.org

Panelist for "Designing Protest - The Power of Branding for Social Change."

Virtual
2021

The Plague of Worker Expendability with Sabiha Basrai and Ricardo Nuñez

Episode 7 of *The Plague* Podcast: Discussion about the plague of worker expendability in our current economy and pandemic crisis, and how worker owned-cooperatives are the cure.

The Plague Podcast
2020

The Art of Protest: 1960s/1970s - The Present

Panelist in conversation with Lisa Maria Castellanos of Taller GiRASOL, archivist and author Lincoln Cushing, and curator Sharat G. Lin, on the opening of an exhibit of original silk-screen political posters celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Great Poster Workshop in Wurster Hall.

Morrison Library, UC Berkeley
2020

Exploring Art as Activism

Chai Chat guest speaker at the Markaz Muslim Community Center at Stanford University.

Stanford University
2020

Designs on Democracy: The Roles and Responsibilities of Graphic Designers in the Trump Era

Guest lecture for the LetterForm Archive in San Francisco

San Francisco Public Library
2019

Solidarity is a Verb: Why Worker Cooperatives Should Build Connections to Social Justice Movements

Presenter on behalf of the US Federation of Worker Coops Racial & Economic Justice Council.

National Webinar
2019

Cooperators Without Borders hosted by the Hollings Institute for International Dialogue and facilitated by Youth Deal Cooperative, Istanbul

Presenter on worker-owned cooperatives as a model for economic empowerment with the goal of sharing skills and ideas with participants from Muslim-majority nations.

Istanbul, Turkey
2018

Center for Political Education Presents Vijay Prashad:

The Long, Bitter and Beautiful Struggle for Freedom

Panelist in conversation with Vijay Prashad, the Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research and Chief Editor of LeftWord Books, on the future of Left organizing and international solidarity.

Oakland, CA
2018

American Institute of Graphic Arts

Presenter for San Francisco Design Week event "Expand: Beyond the Brand."

San Francisco, CA
2018

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

Core 77 Design Awards

Juror for Core 77 Design Awards in the category of Design for Social Impact.

2018

University of San Francisco

Guest lecturer for seminar on Design and Social Change. Organized student visits to Design Action Collective's office and presented at USF campus.

2015, 2016, 2017 (Oakland, CA)

2018 (San Francisco, CA)

Allied Media Conference

Workshop presenter on visual design strategy for social justice campaigns.

Detroit, MI

2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018

Internationalist Gathering at the Highlander Research and Education Center

Participant and presenter in gathering to build solidarity across grassroots movements addressing anti-imperialism, racial justice, and indigenous peoples rights.

Knoxville, TN

2017

The Women's March

Main stage speaker at the first Women's March in Oakland after Trump's inauguration. Speech addressed the issue of immigrant rights as women's rights.

Oakland, CA

2017

People Get Ready Conference hosted by the Center for Political Education

Conference organizer and moderator for panel on neo-liberalism identifying strategies and tactics for resistance in the Trump era.

Berkeley, CA

2017

Society for Environmental Graphic Design

Presenter and panelist for San Francisco Design Week event "Responsible Design."

San Francisco, CA

2017

National South Asian Summit

Presenter on media strategy for immigrant rights and racial justice campaigns with an intersectional approach to understanding Islamophobia in America. Participant in lobby day on Capitol Hill.

Washington, DC

2015, 2017

Netroots Nation

Panelist on the roles and responsibilities of graphic designers with an emphasis on how communities of color are reclaiming our narratives.

2015 (Phoenix, AZ), 2016 (St. Louis, MO)

2017 (Atlanta, GA), 2018 (New Orleans, LA),

2019 (Philadelphia), 2020 (Virtual), 2021 (Virtual)

Islamic Cultural and Community Center of Northern California: Islam and Authors

Moderator of a conversation with Zahra Billoo from the Council on American Islamic Relations and Deepa Iyer, the author of "We Too Sing America."

Oakland, CA

2016

Youngstown State University, Department of Art

Guest lecturer on the history of political poster art and the roles and responsibilities of graphic designers.

Youngstown, OH

2013

NorCal Graphic Artist Guild

Panelist on how to be your own boss in the graphic design industry.

San Francisco, CA

2012

National Coop Conference

Workshop presenter on branding strategy for worker-owned cooperatives.

Boston, MA

2012

Celebrate People's History Artist Panel

Panelist for book release party and poster exhibit in San Francisco with historian Lincoln Cushing discussing Josh MacPhee's book *Celebrate People's History: The Poster Book of Resistance and Revolution*.

San Francisco, CA

2010

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

US Social Forum

Panelist on political graphic design history and activist art making.
2007 (Atlanta, GA), 2010 (Detroit, MI)

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Department of Art & Design Portfolio Review

Gave feedback to students on their portfolios and presentation skills and advised faculty on ways to best support their students as they prepare to graduate and start their professional careers.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
2006, 2007, 2009, 2021, 2023

Change the Status Quo

Conference organizer and workshop presenter on using media to promote anti-war messaging on the college campus.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
2003

United We Heal

Curated and installed a show at Cal Poly's University Art Gallery addressing bigotry, war, and the Muslim identity in post-9/11 America.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
2003

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

How Bay Area South Asian Americans Organized in the Years After 9/11: A visual counter-memory from the Alliance of South Asians Taking Action

By Sunaina Maira, Madihah Akhter, Sabiha Basrai

Published by the *Asian American Writers Workshop* on October 22, 2021

<https://aaww.org/south-asian-american-progressive-organizing-post-9-11-era/>

Every Design Studio Should Be a Worker-Owned Studio: Good labor practices = good design

By Design Action Collective and Partner & Partners

Published by *AIGA Eye on Design* on October 25th, 2021

<https://eyeondesign.aiga.org/every-design-studio-should-be-a-worker-owned-studio/>

AWARDS

Change-Maker and Social Justice Warrior

The California Endowment's Sons & Brothers AAPI Heritage Month Leadership award.

2017

Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts Senior Recognition Award

Awarded for contributions to the objectives and public image of the college.

2004

Cal Poly Arts Student Arts Award

Awarded in recognition of significant involvement and support of the arts at Cal Poly.

2004

Mothers for Peace University Scholarship

Awarded for leadership in student organizing efforts to protest the bombing of Afghanistan and Iraq.

2004