

Karen Hewitt, M. Ed.

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Karen Hewitt (they/she/ze) is committed to doing the work of building connection, belonging, and community. Her work and presence compels others to journey inward, and encourages them to see the world in more expansive and hopeful ways. Ze is a non-negotiable stand for the most vulnerable and the dignity and value of every human life. Karen embodies the spirit and integrity of servant leadership. Their professional reach is vast and includes expertise in Culture and Diversity Management, Leadership Development, Intersectionality, and Gender and Sexuality from a trauma-informed and healing-centered lens. Karen is seen as a necessary contribution to various community tables and conversations; and is both celebrated and respected for their ability to be strategic in navigating difficult and nuanced conversations, as well as barriers in a brave and productive way. In addition to their work in service and community, Karen has an uncanny ability to take strategy from vision to implementation in a short amount of time. She is able to provide tangible solutions that allow people to move forward together in the now and address the challenges the organization or community is facing in real time from a grounded space. Karen is also a published author, creative, and musician.

Education

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| 2014 | The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio Master of Arts in Educational Policy and Leadership Minor: Diversity and Inclusion, Workforce Development Summa Cum Laude |
| 2004 | St. Francis University Loretto, Pennsylvania Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Minor: Secondary Education, Elementary & Special Education Magna Cum Laude |

Areas of Practice & Expertise

- Executive and Senior Leadership
- Leadership Development
- Culture and Diversity Management
- Community & Team Building
- Intersectionality
- Transformative Justice, Restorative Justice and Community Accountability
- Cultural Responsiveness
- Inclusion and Accessibility
- LGBTQ+ Identities and Community
- BIPOC Identities and Community
- Emotional Intelligence & Soft Skills
- Organizational Management
- Communications and PR
- Community Relations
- Strategic Partnerships
- Fundraising
- 20+ years of coaching: collegiate athletics, leadership, emotional intelligence, cultural responsiveness
- 15+ years of workforce development and human resource management: recruiting, training and development, advancement, and retention.
- Curator and facilitator of panels, workshops, and experiences

Professional Experience

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| 12/2021-present | <u>The Ohio REST Collective</u> Co- Founder Columbus, Ohio |
| 5/2016-Present | <u>Karen Hewitt M. Ed. LLC</u> Founder, Consultant, Curator, Facilitator, Speaker Columbus, Ohio |
| 5/2023-5/2024 | <u>Seminole Hard Rock Support Services</u> Director of DE&I Strategic Partnerships Columbus, Ohio |
| 6/2021-6/2023 | <u>Leadership Columbus</u> Associate Director Columbus, Ohio |
| 10/2018-6/2021 | <u>Kaleidoscope Youth Center</u> Deputy Director Columbus, Ohio |
| 6/2019-Present | <u>Unifying Solutions Anti-Racism Collective</u> Facilitation, Coaching, Administration, & Content Design |
| 5/2019-Present | <u>ImprovEdge</u> Facilitation, Coaching, & Content Design |
| 9/2015-9/2022 | <u>Hewitt Consulting & Diversity Management</u> Facilitation, Coaching, Administration, & Content Design |

Community Engagement & Leadership

- The Buckeye Flame, Board of Directors, President (2021-current)
- Zora's House, Board Member and Community Ambassador (2023-current)
- Short North Stage Resident Culture and Diversity Management Consultant (2022-current)
- Creative Mornings Columbus Vibe and Culture Alchemist (2023-current)
- Columbus LGBTQ+ Leadership Roundtable Steering Committee (2019-Current)
- Mezacello Farms, Board Member (2023-June 2024))
- African American Leadership Academy Fellow 2023, Cohort 20
- Human Service Chamber, Former Organizational Representative
- Queer Partnership for Black Liberation, Founding Member
- Franklin University Non-Profit Advisory Council Member (2023)
- Lincoln Theatre Incubation Program (For Emerging Black Artists), Member 2021 Cohort, Coach 2022
- Transforming Care Awards Committee, Member (2019-2020)
- Africentric Personal Development Shop Board of Directors, Member at Large (2020-2022)

Awards, Honors, and Features

- 2022 Columbus CEO Future 50 Cohort Member
- 2020 Create Columbus Visionary Award
- 2020 Cohort Poet in Scott Woods' Rhapsody and Refrain
- 2020 Ensemble member in Counterfeit Madison's Aretha Franklin Tribute

Publications & Literary Contributions

- [Karen Marie, Grounded, 2019](#)
- [Karen Marie, Fire: Poetic Memoirs of a Movement, 2021](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., The Black Woman's Guide to Love & Business: A Blueprint to Self-Mastery, 2021
- Hewitt, K. M., & Upchurch, E. R. (2021, February 25). [Safe Environment Needed for Black Transgender Youth. Dispatch.com. The Columbus Dispatch.](#)
- Hewitt, K.M. (2021, June 18). [Pride Month Would Not Exist as We Know it if Juneteenth Did Not Happen. Thebuckeyeflame.com The Buckeye Flame.](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., (2021, October 1). [Against The Flow: Journals of a Queer, Black, Genderfluid Womyn](#)
- Hewitt, K.M. (2021, October 9). [Championing LGBTQ+ Voices. What Does It Mean and Where Do We Start?](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., (2022, January 18) [Intentions and Commitments for 2022](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., (2022, April 22) [Recognizing A Healthy Workplace](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., (2022, October 23) [Finding Nuance, Choosing Curiosity, and Embracing a Culture of Interrogation](#)
- Hewitt, K.M. (2022, August 25). [Voyage Ohio Magazine Community Member Profiles](#)
- Hewitt, K.M. (2022, December 18). [What is Centered Accountability and How Do I Apply It?](#)
- Hewitt, K.M. (2023, April 26). [Top Ten Best Practices for Building Community](#)
- Hewitt, K.M., et. al. (2023, May 31). Chapter 2. [Culture Impact: Strategies to Create World-Changing Workplaces](#)