

Jamilah Peters-Muhammad

So, how can I treat someone if I don't really know who they are? So, community became the type of work that I did as a nurse. I came into the community and started doing more community nursing, midwifery, home health, working on the ground with people who were crack addicted, working on the ground with people with HIV. So then I got to know them. And could adapt their cultural needs to their medical, physical and emotional needs. And Ashé has been a platform for that, thus coming from a one dance class a week to a full fledged health and wellness program which embraces culture as the root. When people ask now as a nurse what work I do, I say I work at the intersection of culture, faith and community. Throughout the years, community just kept coming back. I don't care what I did, community and as I said, leaving my hospital nursing career to work in the community, I think was my first fulfillment of where I am now. Finding the link to Ashé, which allowed me - well before that, I found my cultural self. And it changed my whole world when I found out who I was culturally. And I say now that if you teach someone who they are, no one can tell them who they are not.