

Black Yarn — Team Bios

Voices of Home: A Housing Story Circle

LexArts CAD Grant Application

Kristen LaRue Bond

Executive Director & Co-Founder

Kristen LaRue Bond is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Black Yarn, where she provides strategic leadership for the organization's storytelling, community engagement, and cultural programming. A Lexington native, Kristen has dedicated her career to strengthening communities through relationship-building, civic leadership, and collaborative action.

As a REALTOR® and housing professional, Kristen brings deep knowledge of Lexington's housing landscape and extensive relationships throughout neighborhoods, businesses, and community organizations. Her professional experience, combined with her commitment to advancing equitable opportunities for Black communities, informs Black Yarn's work at the intersection of storytelling, history, and housing.

Kristen helped lead the production and community engagement surrounding Lexington: Resilience in the Redline, guiding partnerships and public programming that connected more than 1,500 residents to Lexington's history. For Voices of Home, she will oversee project implementation, community outreach, and partnership development while helping create a welcoming and inclusive storytelling experience.

Regina M. Lewis, Ph.D.

Managing Director & Storytelling Strategist

Regina M. Lewis serves as Managing Director of Black Yarn, where she leads research, storytelling strategy, and community engagement initiatives. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Kentucky, where her research focused on housing, wealth, and opportunity through the lens of racial equity.

Regina specializes in translating complex research into compelling public narratives that foster dialogue and inspire action. She served as a producer and researcher for Lexington: Resilience in the Redline, Black Yarn's award-recognized documentary exploring the lasting impacts of discriminatory housing policies in Lexington. The film has engaged more than 1,500 community members through screenings and discussions and was recognized as a quarterfinalist in the International Indie Film Festival and an official selection of the BronzeLens Film Festival.

For Voices of Home, Regina will serve as the project's storytelling strategist and artistic facilitator, developing the Story Circle framework, designing participant prompts, facilitating the artistic experience, and guiding documentation that honors community voices with care, authenticity, and cultural integrity.

KRISTEN LARUE BOND

BOARDS & TITLES

'25 to Present - Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative

'24 to Present - Blue Grass Community Foundation

Board Member (3 Year Term)

'24 Chair of Diversity Committee for
Bluegrass REALTORS

'24 Executive Committee Member
for Bluegrass REALTORS

'22 -'23 Founding President of
NAREB of Central KY ®

CONTACT INFORMATION



Lexington, KY



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/KristenELaRue

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY)

MS BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES '18

- Focus in Physiology & Molecular Biology

Belmont University (Nashville, TN)

MA TEACHING & EDUCATION '12

- Focus in Instructional Planning & Design

Fisk University (Nashville, TN)

BA PSYCHOLOGY '08

- Graduated Cum Laude

SKILLS

- Public Speaking and Presentation
- Leadership and Team Management
- Strategic Planning and Project Management
- Community Engagement and Outreach
- Advocacy and Social Justice
- Cultural Competency and Sensitivity
- Communication & Negotiation
- Product & Brand Marketing
- Business & NonProfit Development
- Project Fundraising

WORK EXPERIENCE

Non-profit Founder & Executive Director (Lexington, KY)

BLACK YARN INC.

JUN 2023 TO PRESENT

- Co-founded and lead a Black-led, all-women-led nonprofit focused on research, storytelling, and collaboration to address systemic inequities.
- Directed the development and successful release of a feature-length documentary *Lexington: Resilience in the Redline*. A film focused on redlining and its impact on Lexington's Black middle-class community.
- Established organizational strategy, brand identity, and long-term vision across multiple storytelling platforms (film, podcast, written content).
- Designed and implemented strategic vision across multimedia platforms, including film, podcast development, and written journalism.
- Cultivate and manage relationships with donors, community leaders, and institutional partners.
- Oversee daily operations, program development, and cross-functional team coordination.
- Guide research initiatives translating historical and housing data into accessible, community-centered narratives.
- Support board development, governance processes, and organizational infrastructure.

Key Achievements in This Role

- Successfully raised **\$600,000+** in funding through grants, donations, and fundraising events to support the production of the documentary film.
- Garnered widespread media coverage and community support for the project, generating momentum and interest in addressing issues of racial equity in Lexington.
- Established partnerships with local organizations and institutions to expand the reach and impact of the documentary, including Kentucky REALTORS, Bluegrass Community Foundation, Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative, Lex 250 Commission, Lexington History Museum, Visit Lex, and many others.

KRISTEN LARUE BOND

WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

President NAREB of Central KY (Lexington, KY)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS
JAN 2022 TO DEC 2023

Mission

Solidify a community of black real estate professionals in Central Kentucky, who are committed to elevating one another & amplifying our collective voice to better represent the community in which we serve.

- Provide visionary leadership, setting the strategic direction for the organization, and ensuring alignment with the mission and values. Develop and implement strategies that drive impactful change and growth.
- Acted as the public face of the organization, advocating for the mission through public speaking, media appearances, and engagement with policymakers. Raised awareness about key issues and lobbied for change.
- Successfully secured organization funding through corporate partnerships and individual donations

Licensed Realtor (Lexington, KY)

GUIDE REALTY
AUG 2018 TO PRESENT

- Proven ability to increase agency revenue, closings, contracts, and client acquisition through marketing, sales, community & customer relations
- Cultivate strong positive working relationships with banks & other related vendors to ensure clients a worry free, efficient, streamlined experience
- Organized & implemented community-based Home Ownership workshops, aimed at educating the public about preparing to enter the real estate market

Graduate Student & TA (Lexington, KY)

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
AUG 2016 TO MAY 2018

- Conducted research with a focus on the molecular mechanisms of hypertension & genetic variations due to altered sleep and circadian rhythm
- Lead laboratory instruction (TA), implemented project-based learning curriculum for various undergraduate biology courses
- American Physiological Society (APS) Frontiers in Physiology Research & Community Leader (RCL) Fellow

High School Biology Teacher (Lexington, KY & Nashville, TN)

STEAM ACADEMY & VARIOUS OTHER SCHOOLS
AUG 2009 TO MAY 2016

- Designed and implemented project based learning curriculum for microbiology and biology classes, with a focus on public health

REGINA M. LEWIS

Developer | Connectedness | Responsibility | Discipline | Belief

Education

University of Kentucky; Lexington, KY

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration

Aug 2026

Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences; Community Nutrition

May 2013

Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition

Aug 2011

Professional Experience

Black Yarn Inc., Lexington, KY

Managing Director of Research and Operations

2026 –

Write the Future Research Summit

Threads of Place: The Stories Systems Tell

Speaker and Facilitator

2024 – 2026

Writer, Producer, and Lead Data Scientist

Lexington: Resilience in the Redline Documentary

The State of Black Lexington Report

Racially Restrictive Deed Covenants Documentation

Community Conversations on Race, Place, and Policy

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Public Policy Graduate Research Assistant

2023 –

Dietetics and Human Nutrition Research Coordinator

2020 – 2023

Nutritional Sciences Graduate Research Assistant

2011 – 2013

Chiseled Hope LLC, Lexington, KY

Owner and Principal Consultant

2026 –

Rooted Lex, Lexington, KY

Digital Marketing Entrepreneur

2019 – 2020

Crowe Horwath, LLP (acquired SDGblue), Lexington, KY

Senior Consulting Resource Coordinator

2017 – 2019

SDGblue, LLC, Lexington, KY

IT Resource and Process Coordinator

2016 – 2017

Technical Editor

2013 – 2016

Mosaic Lexington, Lexington, KY

Executive Administrative Officer

2014 – 2017

Humble Humanity Inc., Lexington, KY

Executive Administrative Officer

2013 – 2015

Academic Honors and Awards

2026	Second-place Award for Best Poster. UNITE Research Showcase
2026	National Community Reinvestment Coalition: Just Economy Story Winner
2026	Nomination for NASPAA's Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society
2025	Nominee for Best Documentary in the International Indie Film Festival
2025	Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Humane Studies Fellowship Award
2025	Lyman T. Johnson Torch Bearer of Excellence
2025	University of Rhode Island, MPA Emerging Scholar Series
2023	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Entrepreneurship Policy Student Fellowship with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
2023	Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Professional Development Training Series on Poverty and Economic Mobility Research
2023	Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Graduate Student Workshop Dissertation Award
2023 - 2025	University of Kentucky UNITE Predoctoral Research Enhancement Fellowship
2023	Center on Race and Wealth at Howard University and the Institute for Research on Poverty of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Graduate Student Workshop
2023	First-place Award for Graduate/Postdoctoral Research. University of Kentucky UNITE Research Showcase
2022	University of Kentucky Women's Forum Employee Education Assistance Award
2017 - 2019	Presidential Volunteer Service Award
2017 - 2018	Bluegrass Community Foundation Neighborhood Grant Recipient
2012	Bailey Provost Scholarship Recipient
2011 - 2013	Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship Recipient
2010	University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Study Abroad Scholarship
2009	Center for Public Anthropology Excellence in Writing on Public Issues
2007 - 2011	William C. Parker Academic Scholarship

Service and Community Involvement

2026	Bluegrass Community Foundation Catalyst Collective Cohort
2025 -	Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative Board of Directors
2025 - 2026	Lexington Black Philanthropy Grassroots Nonprofit Roundtable Facilitator
2025	LIFT Conference, Summer Youth Job Training Program, Vendor
2024 - 2026	Black Yarn, Inc Board of Directors
2024	Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration Reviewer
2024	Institute for Research on Poverty Research Center Advisory Committee
2023 - 2024	Director of Martin School Search Committee
2023 - 2025	Arnold Sports Festival Strongman World Championship Expediter and Scribe
2022 -	All God's Children, Inc. Board Member
2021 - 2024	Every Nation Lexington Hospitality Team Lead
2017 - 2020	William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association
2016 - 2020	Equestrian View Homeowners Association President; Social Chair; Board
2014 - 2020	Mosaic Lexington Service Liaison
2018 - 2019	Financial Coaching and Literacy Instructor
2018 - 2019	Crowe LLP, Lexington Office Lead for Diversity and Inclusion
2014 - 2015	William Wells Brown Elementary Classroom Volunteer