

Dr. Cheryl D. Holmes Miller

Professor of Communication Design | Design Justice Advocate | Author | Theologian

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[wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheryl D. Miller](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheryl_D._Miller)

Professional Summary

Award-winning communication designer, professor, and cultural historian with over four decades of leadership in graphic design education, equity advocacy, and scholarly publishing. A trailblazer in decolonizing design curricula, and recognized with the AIGA Gold Medal, Cooper Hewitt Design Visionary award, IBM Luminary and AIGA Steve Heller Prize for Cultural Commentary. Proven academic leader with experience across top institutions in curriculum development, capstone mentorship, and institutional service.

Education

- M.S. Communications Design, Pratt Institute
- B.F.A. Graphic Design, Maryland Institute College of Art
- Foundation Studies, Rhode Island School of Design
- Master of Divinity, Union Theological Seminary
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- Honorary Doctorates: RISD, MICA, Pratt Institute (2022–2023)

Academic Appointments

- ArtCenter College of Design – Professor, Publication Design & Graduate Thesis (AY22–AY25/26)
- University of Texas at Austin – Distinguished Senior Lecturer, E.W. Doty Professor Fellowship (AY21–AY24)
- Howard University – Lecturer, Graphic Design & Design History (Decolonized) (AY21–AY25/26)
- Watkins College of Art – Design Resident/Decolonizing Graphic Design (AY24–AY25)
- Roger Williams University – Distinguished Lecturer in Virtual Residence (AY21)
- Lesley University – Adjunct Faculty, Senior Capstone & Portfolio (AY21)
- Maryland Institute College of Art – Wm. O. Steinmetz Designer-in-Residence (2021)
- University of Connecticut – Lecturer, Decolonizing Graphic Design (AY23)

Design Honors

- AIGA Gold Medalist – Advocacy and DEI in Design
- AIGA Steve Heller Prize for Cultural Commentary
- Cooper Hewitt Design Visionary – National Design Award
- IBM Honorary Luminary – Design Thought Leadership
- One Club Creative Hall of Fame – Lifetime Achievement
- Multiple industry awards: PIA, Neenah Paper, CEBA, Desi, Peabody

Selected Publications

- “Black Designers Missing in Action” – Print Magazine (1987, 2016, 2020)
- “Decolonizing Graphic Design” – Book (Kendall Hunt, 2025)
- “HERE: Where the Black Designers Are” – Book (Princeton Architectural Press, 2024)
- “Black Coral: A Daughter’s Apology” – Memoir (2013)
- Assorted Trade Articles 1987-Present

Keynote Lectures & Visiting Engagements

- Graduation Keynotes, RISD, MICA, PRATT
- AIGA National Design Conference
- IBM Global Design Leadership Summit
- One Club for Creativity
- Stanford University, Parsons, Drexel University, and more

Collections & Exhibitions

- Cheryl D. Miller Collection – Stanford University
- Poster House Museum – New York
- DEDEL Design Museum – The Netherlands
- Cooper Union – Herb Lubalin Center
- MvVO Art – AD ART Show, NYC

Service & Governance

- Board of Trustees – Vermont College of Fine Arts (2021–2023)
- Global Advisory Council – Maryland Institute College of Art
- Admissions Review and Search Committee Leadership for Associate Professors

Areas of Expertise

- Communication & Publication Design
- Digital Branding & Visual Storytelling

- Capstone Thesis Development and Graduate Advising
- Design Justice and Equity Advocacy Communications
- Decolonizing Design History and Theory; Graphic Design History
- Design Writing: Trade, Scholarly, and Memoir
- Design Course Development
- Mentor/Portfolio Coaching