

Nikka Landau
University of Michigan-Dearborn



The CIViC as a Whole and “The Vagina Monologues”

Nikka Landau, a Philadelphia native, came to Detroit in the summer of 2010 after reading about the city's public schools from across the world in Taiwan, where she was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in a small Aboriginal town in Yilan, a rural county on the east coast of the island. Having grown up in Philadelphia and gone to college at Rice University in Houston, Landau was curious to learn about a different American city; Detroit was ripe for exploration and the Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA position at University of Michigan-Dearborn was a perfect opportunity to learn about the city through public service.

Being the second MCC*VISTA member in UM-Dearborn's Student Activities Office, Landau was given the opportunity to start a Community Involvement Center, an idea that the former VISTA and the Student Activities Office had conceived and prepared for. What was at first just an empty space, has become the Community Involvement and Volunteerism Center, or The CIViC. The CIViC strives to be a community resource and space that promotes and organizes direct service, awareness and education around social issues in its local, state, national and international communities.

The CIViC has had an exciting first six months having engaged the university community in service and education around social issues through Make a Difference Day, MLK Day, MLK Week, Alternative Breaks and the CIViC's on-going programs: CIViC First Saturdays and the brand new Tutoring Thursdays. Through Landau's work and the commitment of the CIViC's three UM-Dearborn student employees, the CIViC is responsible for over 300 University of Michigan-Dearborn students engaging in direct service over the five months since the CIViC opened in September of 2010.

One of Landau's biggest accomplishments will be leading over 30 students in an effort to raise over \$3,000 to aid to local organizations in their fight to end violence against women in the university's community. Landau has been Co-Producing and Co-Managing "The Vagina Monologues" with Shareia Carter, the Women's Resource Center's Senior Project Manager. The play, a series of monologues written by Eve Ensler, will be performed on February 11th and 12th at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Tickets for the Friday performance can be purchased [here](#), while tickets for Saturday can be purchased [here](#).

A Note from her Supervisor, Kristine Day: As an office and University, we have been thrilled to have Nikka join our team this year! In such a short time, she has been able to develop sustainable programming through the CIViC that will serve our campus and the metro Detroit community well. By continuing to build on programming, recreating initiatives and creatively challenging our students, Nikka has developed a great new resource through her work on, and in, The CIViC. Through her desire to learn about and explore Detroit, she has begun to connect the University and our students in new ways, too!