Want to be a 40 Under 40? Consider finding something other than a desk job

By: Aaron Elstein
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Meet the inspiring young professionals revitalizing New York City Page 13

Left, Khalia Campbell; center from top, Annaleigh Ashford, Oszamuel Arron and Mike Rosner; right, Coco Rocha. / BUDD DANG
Meet the class of 2023

New Yorkers really know how to get stuff done, and the young professionals on the following pages are no exception. They each have climbed the corporate ladder, at times charting a new path where one never existed. They are solving essential city issues such as getting rid of rats, prioritizing constituent needs in local government, and helping their clients strategize and make deals in the legal and real estate spaces. They are also leaving their stamp on the arts and Broadway, assisting their fellow New Yorkers in attaining affordable housing and advising other entrepreneurs in finding success.

Crain's 2023 class of 40 Under 40 honorees includes some of the most talented young people in New York. Read on to be inspired by the professionals doing the hard work well.

—TESSA BRYAN, MANAGING EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BUX FERIS
CrainsNewYork.com/crnyc/40Under40

Khalia Campbell, 30
Company member, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

People search for inspiration in all sorts of places. Khalia Campbell found it on a city bus.

The South Bronx native remembers seeing members of the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a show and wanted one day she'd travel with them. She joined the company in 2018.

"It's family," she said.

Dance has been a part of her since before she was born. She started taking classes when her father, a Prince fan and DJ, played music to her pregnant mother. He died in an accident when she was 1. Her mother, a fashion department manager, cultivated her daughter's talent, and at age 3, Campbell was on the church dance team. At 4, she led choirs when the teacher didn't show up on time.

Dance started opening when she landed at LaGuardia High School for Arts & Music and Performing Arts. There was Dance Theatre of Harlem, a tour of Taiwan with the musical version of Aida, The Waltz of the Flowers at Central Park's Stern Auditorium and a stint with Ailey's junior company, among other roles. She just completed a summer tour with Ailey and is mentoring a fellow City Center's next. The Washington Post called her work "sensuous and beautiful."

About the only thing she regrets is bypassing college at age 16 to focus professionally. She got walk-ins and didn't want to wait. But now she's only one semester short of her degree and keen to learn the business side of the performing arts she loves. As the stories of the performing arts are shorted, she's doing what she can to help bridge the gap and provide opportunities for newcomers.

In her spare time, she works as a volunteer, and she volunteers at her Midtown church to help others learn how dance can get them in touch with God.

"My purpose in life is to uplift people."

—AARON ELSTEIN

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