

Phat Man Dee's Mission Statement 2019

My name is Mandy Kivowitz-Delfaver and I have been known professionally as “Phat Man Dee” since 1996. My art is the product of exchanged ideas, voices, and perspectives. It grows and develops based upon community interaction. I consider music to be a tool for political and cultural empowerment. As an educator who has worked with Allegheny County foster youth, and students enrolled at the Afro American Music Institute, I believe artists play an essential role in combatting inequality with educational outreach. I commit to the pursuit of social equity both on stage, and off stage, as well as inside and outside the classroom. To me, music is one of the purest and most intimate forms of communication, and I consider honesty, passion, and integrity to be of the utmost importance in my chosen medium.

As someone raised in the Jewish tradition, social responsibility and justice underline all of my spiritual and artistic projects. My teachers outside the faith tradition include Paul Critser, O’Labrice Beckholm, Howard Alexander, Beth Claussen, and Dr. James Johnson, all of whom exhibit intense commitment to justice and equity. It was this sense of dedication that drove me to create “Social Justice Disco

My discography includes six full-length cds which feature musicians and artists which I curated from my Pittsburgh based musical community. I am humbled to be recognized in the Best of Pittsburgh City Paper Readers' Poll as one of the “Top 3 Local Jazz Acts” every year since 2010, and number one in both 2016 and 2018. In 2019, I was voted “Best Activist” and I intend to use this publicity to educate others on our greater Pittsburgh activist community, while developing myself as a more mature artist.

Musical events that I worked to produce include major events benefiting the Afro American Music Institute, the Red Cross, Dr. Kofi’s Nunya Music Academy in Ghana, and a number of other domestic activist and charitable groups. I have showcased Pittsburgh musicians, dancers, and visual artists in local and national performances in ever-growing productions since 1998. Through a very successful crowdfunding project, I was able to travel and perform my music and art in 15 countries in 2015. I am committed to spreading my message beyond Pittsburgh by touring, encouraging more collaborations, and promoting my work through video marketing.

My 2019 - 2020 season shall include the launch of my podcast “Chewin’ the Phat with Phat Man Dee”, activating my Patreon crowdfunding site, and the continued pursuit of live performances outside of Pittsburgh for both my jazz combo and Social Justice Disco.