[00:00:04]

You are listening to tell me your story where we connect to HLS staff on a personal level. [MUSIC] Hello everyone. This is Edgar Kley Filho from HLS Human Resources department. My pronouns are he, him, his and today, we are talking to Vaughn Samuels from LXT. Who will tell us about his life, how long he's in this position at HLS and the work he does. Thank you for joining us, Vaughn and please tell me your story.

[00:00:39]

Thank you. Thank you for having me Edgar. I am excited.

[00:00:42]

Tell me a little bit to where you are from. If you're from this area, your family is from this area from somewhere else?

[00:00:48]

Sure, yeah. I'm not from Massachusetts, I'm from Maryland. My dad grew up here around Brookton area.

[00:01:00]

Really?

[00:01:01]

Yeah.

[00:01:01]

Your dad is from Brokton?

[00:01:03]

Yeah.

[00:01:04]

Your mama I would assume is from the area?

[00:01:07]

She's from Brooklyn.

[00:01:08]

Brooklyn too?

[00:01:08]

Yeah. Brooklyn, New York.

[00:01:14]

You were born in Maryland?

[00:01:15]

No. There's a lot of zigzagging in my background.

[00:01:20]

Sounds very much like mine. [LAUGHTER] My dad was in construction so you are all over the place. I never spend I think I would say a full year depends on the size that you had work to do. Six month in one school and then let's move for another one so I always [OVERLAPPING].

[00:01:39]

The reason I always say I'm from Maryland, give like a city is because I was always moving to different cities in Maryland. I was born in New Jersey. That was a quick summary, I guess. I was born in New Jersey where my parents were separated and then they got back together and they moved to Atlanta and then Atlanta where my brother was born. Then we moved up to Baltimore area and then from there we just hopped around Maryland.

[00:02:17]

As far as you can remember, how was the moving? Do you remember Atlanta?

[00:02:21]

I have looked like faint glimmers. I remember bits and pieces.

[00:02:28]

Yeah, Baltimore?

[00:02:32]

Baltimore was a split second and then we went from Baltimore to, I want to say Reisterstown to goodness. Owings Mills around Baltimore County and then from there we went to Laurel, PG County and then into Howard County eventually. The moving is always a blur, honestly. Yeah.

[00:03:01]

What's the earliest that you remember at that time assuming that you are not in school yet?

[00:03:06]

No. I started school in Maryland [OVERLAPPING] I was schooling in Reistertown.

[00:03:14]

Because if you take just store a little bit, look like your father is from Boston area then go meet your mom in Brooklyn. Then you go down to New Jersey and then had your brother in Atlanta, that's really cool.

[00:03:31]

They both met in Atlanta because my dad was he went to Morehouse and my mom went to Spelman and those are two HBCUs that are right next to each other. Historically, black college university. If anybody wasn't familiar, of course everybody would probably know what that is at Harvard, but know that's where they met. Like that's why we went back to Atlanta because they came from there when they met.

[00:03:58]

Now I have to go back just because I understand that really sad. Well, Harvard, probably, everybody knows.

[00:04:06]

Sure.

[00:04:07]

I definitely don't. Is that okay if you tell me a little bit about where they met in Atlanta? Different schools or?

[00:04:15]

Yeah, there are two different schools. Morehouse College is a famous historically black college. Martin Luther King went there. This is a funny person to come to after Martin Luther King like Samuel Jackson, Spike Lee [OVERLAPPING].

[00:04:32]

Wow they all went there too?

[00:04:35]

Yeah. It's a very renowned College in the black community and then Spelman. I can't pull out names of Spelman graduate side. I feel bad about that. I need to look into that. But that's like all Women's University and it's the same thing. It's illustrious.

[00:04:56]

Where your dad was, was all men's [OVERLAPPING] for African-Americans and then all women?

[00:05:04]

Yeah. Like a black women's college and a black men's college and they're right next to each other so I'm called a Spelhouse baby. Oftentimes people will meet one from Morehouse and one from Spelman and marry and start a family so I'm technically a Spelhouse baby.

[00:05:22]

It's really my ignorance here. When you say Samuel L. Jackson, Spike Lee. Well, Martin Luther King, who was to be a little bit off that [OVERLAPPING] there, but you feel like a more drama? That is a specific course towards drama for its own folks and those schools.

[00:05:48]

There's definitely a strong drama representation. My grandfather, not like my father's father but the man my grandmother married was actually one of the people working at Morehouse when my dad was going there and he gave me he always has like a bunch of insight on like the history of Morehouse. There's a lot of investment in the drama program but it's a place where a lot of like just all over the place, very successful black names have come from. It's really amazing.

[00:06:20]

That's really cool. I want to research more on that now I'm curious about that.

[00:06:24]

Definitely. Yeah.

[00:06:29]

After moving around but they went to Maryland where you have most of your childhood. Is that correct?

[00:06:36]

Yeah.

[00:06:36]

How long did you live there in Maryland?

[00:06:40]

I didn't leave Maryland. I left Maryland once when I was going to college.

[00:06:47]

Really?

[00:06:48]

Yeah.

[00:06:48]

So you were most of your life was there.

[00:06:50]

Yeah.

[00:06:52]

How was childhood, going to school, and everything there? You can say?

[00:06:55]

Yeah, it was interesting. Like earlier on in my schooling, elementary school, was a little difficult. I definitely experienced something like isolation, some bullying. I mean, like we weren't really well-off necessarily. Like my parents made sure every need was met so like we ate, we had clothes but I definitely got made fun of for close the head or whatever for various reasons. But eventually, going into middle school and high school, it became a little bit easier. Like, I think I found my [OVERLAPPING].

[00:07:38]

High school became easier?

[00:07:39]

Yeah. I mean, like as far as socially. That's like [OVERLAPPING].

[00:07:44]

Why do you think it is? Is it because when you were younger and you didn't know how to navigate to do climate around what the school was and then in high school you are already more savvy or usually people would complain that school to be more difficult. I am curious to know.

[00:08:01]

Yeah. That's not fair. That's usually what the answer is. It's fair. I would say that's accurate a bit like when I was a kid. I've always had this like demeanor. I'll explain really quickly. Like my speech, the way I speak as a black person has always gotten attention from people because I don't know how to summarize this. Basically like for a lot of my life, it seems like a lot of people black, white otherwise seem to and this was more of a problem when I was younger. But it seems like a lot of people seem to think that enunciating your words and having a larger vocabulary is a white people thing at least where I was and so I was made fun of by kids. Who it sounded white or I was not really embraced by other kids, other cultures. I was also just isolating myself. I was just awkward too. There's just a number of things that just kind of [OVERLAPPING].

[00:09:20]

Your personality was one factor for that, of course. But then there was the environment as well.

[00:09:28]

Yeah.

[00:09:29]

Curious to hear because if I heard properly you were saying that it sounds like it was not just a majority white school where you went.

[00:09:40]

No. Yeah. I've seen, I guess like a fair amount of the spectrum of like majority black or majority white or really intermingled and culturally diverse schools. Earlier on it was definitely more majority black.

[00:10:00]

When you are having those issues with the being isolated or being picked on. You think that when you showed more vast vocabulary was they would make fun of you are like a white person's vocabulary is because of your parents education coming from where they [OVERLAPPING].

[00:10:20]

Probably my mom's like an English teacher so I didn't have much of a choice. I don't blame those kids either. Like, I think there's a lot of stuff in like America culture and just culture in general across the world that makes people seem to think that a certain type of person has to act a certain type of way and we were all kids.

[00:10:49]

There's a lot of programming in society in my opinion that you have to come out of as you grow as a person of color. I don't blame them. My mom made sure I was reading in all of these things and learning new words and stuff like that, my dad too.

[00:11:13]

Did you tell your parents what was going on at school and that you were picked on because you knew more or you have a better vocabulary?

[00:11:22]

I don't think I knew it was that then. I don't think I was aware. Like I said, it definitely wasn't just that, but that definitely played a role. But I think over time I had to think about what was happening and what was changing over time. That's something that is still present with my interactions with people and stuff.

[00:11:48]

[OVERLAPPING] Because you're more of an introvert?

[00:11:53]

Yeah, I'm definitely an introvert and I can definitely be extroverted in certain situations if I'm uncomfortable, but I definitely had an introvert qualities.

[00:12:04]

Is that same situation? Because I'm wanting to keep saying that and people don't believe me because they think that I talk to everyone. Well, I'm here for 20 years, so I know a lot of people, so it's easy for me to go through hallways and see people that I know for a long. Hey, Hi. Do know what I'm saying?

[00:12:20]

Absolutely.

[00:12:21]

But in general, what I always try to make comparison is if I am in a social event that I don't know people, I will be the one here at a column standing and I will not be interacting. I'm not the one that can go on and say, hey, how's it going? My name is Edgar. I envy people who are able to do that,.

[00:12:42]

[OVERLAPPING] Exactly.

[00:12:42]

I think it's a beautiful manner. I just can't, I'll stay there, if someone come and talk to me, you take a little while for me to read the present if you're [NOISE] what are you coming here for?

[00:12:54]

No, of course.

[00:12:55]

Then after, that, this a situation about introvert-extrovert until you feel comfortable with the environment or whoever is around you, then you find and you're going to be joking, you feel like, you're king of the party. But not always, there's that situation. I wonder if it was the same with you at that time. Of course, it's interesting to hear that you could have been picked on because of the way that you were talking. But at same time, the way that you are dressing and things like that. Kids are kids.

[00:13:29]

Kids are kids. I'd just like for equal representation of the whole thing like kid. I definitely ended up in more culturally diverse and even majority white schools later on throughout moving and stuff. But that still played a role in me feeling comfortable and accepted. It wasn't just like the black kids making me feel.

[00:13:57]

Up to high school. What happens with high than that? If you feel like, this is a better place now.

[00:14:05]

I think it was just I knew more about what core parts of my personality were what I should dive deeper into when interacting with other people. That made it easier for me to have friends. But culturally, [LAUGHTER] my high school was interesting. Howard County, specifically, the place where I was in high school, which is like Ellicott City, it's like they pride themselves about being very diverse and it's definitely probably the most diverse place I've lived. That being said, it was definitely still majority white that area and my high school was the same.

[00:14:51]

But the interaction was better.

[00:14:53]

No, definitely.

[00:14:54]

Since you have a region that's extremely white vision and white culture, and that kind of thing.

[00:14:59]

There was definitely, there was a mix of just a lot of different people. It is a very diverse area.

[00:15:05]

But then you said diverse would mean diverse than have people who are feeling included and participate in everything.

[00:15:13]

That's definitely there. But there was also I think because of there were two things happening that I think influenced a lot of people of color like experience at that school, which was, one it's a wealthier area. It's not the wealthiest, but it's definitely up there. Two, the school is still more than 50% white student body. You're still like, I'm seeing more people of different backgrounds than I have before. But it was probably the most outside I felt. Just because I, not to get too crazy with like I've experienced like homelessness for the first time when I was out there and I wasn't anywhere near anyone else's financial standing when I was there. That was always a factor, and then the racial part of the experience, the majority of the people I've talked to you after high school who were also people of color like they all realized that they were the way they felt they needed to act there and the stuff they wanted to avoid talking about for fear of getting certain reactions from the student body and stuff like we all had a very similar experience of having being guarded and being careful about how much of yourself you've expressed and let out while you were there.

[00:16:54]

Thinking about what you could say, or how you could react to certain things that were happening there? Did that marked you somehow? I'm asking this question, I'm going to explain why?

[00:17:07]

Shorter.

[00:17:08]

We had in my family because my dad traveled a lot of its construction. There was one specific moment in our lives that he and my older brother, they always worked together. Then in maintaining the family. There was an opportunity, is not about gold or mining, but while in construction would be the Gold Rush, that place. That's a big general construction in the South. Everybody is going there. You're going to go there and make a lot of money. You are going to not getting out of reach, but that's a good opportunity.

[00:17:43]

Absolutely.

[00:17:43]

There we all went, left our place, do you know where I used to live? In one estate, and went to that specific town. My mom and I stayed in one town and they went farther away on the other direction to work in that construction site with a group of people. Anyways, lost everything and nothing worked. My mom and I, there were periods that we experienced starvation, there were days that she would make whatever she had. She would make soup and say that she was not hungry. I figured that out really quick. I knew she was doing that to let me eat. I would do the same and say I'm not hungry, I'm not feeling okay about this and so she could. But going to school, I had an experience that I never forget that. Again, like you said, I didn't blame anybody was our experience. But in Brazil we have a French roll that's not very common here, you have to go to a Brazilian place to find, a bakery. I love them. They have the French rolls, and very common thing, it's not about rich people, it's just people who didn't know your family that are in a condition that you are not. They would have that French roll with butter or mayonnaise and mortadella, that's very common for Brazilian folks. They would have that during the break and they would take from her bags and stuff. I had nothing. I always looked at that, and I didn't have any money to bring anything to buy anything. That marked me so bad, and once in awhile I have to make that sandwich just for the sake of, it is a memory. I don't know if I'm trying to say I can now, talk to do the [inaudible 00:19:40] best. It's over.

[00:19:44]

I've heard that.

[00:19:44]

That's why I'm saying, did it mark you somehow or motivated you somehow or is it something that's in your mind served as a basis to say, I'm going to try something different because this is a difficult situation?

[00:19:58]

I would say so. I think I experienced exactly that, but not in a financial way, if that makes sense. A lot of the reason I was experiencing financial hardship had to do with my parents relationship that they're a very on and off a couple or they have been off for awhile, which is for the best. But at the time they were about to split up again in a lot of the things that were wrong with the foundation of their relationship rose to make it so that we were all having a very difficult time. I feel like I saw that. My version of that was just like I'm going to do whatever I need to do not make these mistakes. If I have a family and in my relationships, I'm going to watch out for these traits, like these issues that can arise with myself. I had that epiphany, I feel like. Also getting a job and having your own money and sustaining yourself and being able to provide for yourself so that you have security. But that was definitely [OVERLAPPING]

[00:21:29]

Also ended the way that sometimes everything is, if you have experienced. Everyone is trying to get a job in trying to learn, you've never had that experience if you don't give them a chance. This has always bothered me.

[00:21:42]

Absolutely. As a year up, like graduate personally, that's a big thing that I felt trying to get into the job market and something that going into that program helped me out a lot with.

[00:21:59]

Before you go to your Year UP, let's just go back one thing. You finished with your experience from high school. You mentioned that you went to college.

[00:22:07]

Yeah, I did.

[00:22:08]

Where did it go to college?

[00:22:10]

I went to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which is like art school.

[00:22:17]

[OVERLAPPING] Chicago?

[00:22:18]

Yeah. I couldn't afford it though, so I went for a semester and then I came back to Maryland. I dropped out.

[00:22:27]

You didn't finish?

[00:22:29]

No.

[00:22:29]

No?

[00:22:30]

I didn't finish.

[00:22:31]

Then that's what takes you to Year Up?

[00:22:35]

Eventually, yeah. Like 2017, 2018 is when I come back from Chicago.

[00:22:44]

I stayed in Maryland for awhile. I was just working, living with my mom because I had issues with my father at the time. I was just living with her and my siblings and trying to help pay bills and whatnot. Then eventually something happened there just argument me and my mom so I end up living with my dad and I do that for about a year and then the pandemic happened. Right before the pandemic happened, I was talking to my uncle who lives in Boston. He still lives in Boston and I was trying to figure out just like what I could do to just get a real job and move basically. He told me about Europe.

[00:23:36]

You apply from there or you came to Boston, apply here?

[00:23:39]

I applied for Boston while I was in Maryland. Because I knew I wanted to move there, and the plan was to move there and join Europe as soon, the plan basically before the pandemic was for me to move to Boston and start that. But then the pandemic slowed that for a minute. But eventually, want to say in May 2020, I moved up to Boston to stay at Europe with my uncle.

[00:24:13]

How was the experience with the Europe?

[00:24:15]

It was great. It wasn't easy all the time. But it was a blessing really. That program. Long story short, it got me the internship that I was able to be introduced to the Harvard universe with and it gave me the opportunity I have now working with LXT.

[00:24:46]

How long you stay in the program?

[00:24:49]

Yes, it's one year. Six months, you're doing like L&D learning and development. You're learning your trade, or your career path that you've chosen at the beginning. I think we had the option between something in the financial realm, business operations or something like that. But like my field was QA, quality assurance and IT, information technology. I did the information technology track.

[00:25:24]

You liked it. I think my my question is wrong, not that you'd like.

[00:25:27]

Sure.

[00:25:28]

Is that what you're interests is, IT something that calls your attention or that they offer that and you felt like, Oh, I like this or I'm comfortable with that.

[00:25:40]

How will I put this? It wasn't my direct interests no. It was something that I felt I could probably get acclimated to because I do like technology, using it. But when I began learning about it and stuff like it was definitely interesting.

[00:26:03]

Not your first.

[00:26:04]

Yeah. No, I realized it probably wasn't the area I wanted to be in. But that's why it was a really cool what ended up happening with my internship and how they like matched me here. Because what I was interested in was media work. When I went to art school, I wanted to work on digital art and using Photoshop and things of that nature like creative apps. Then.

[00:26:39]

That's what you pursued that you went to Chicago.

[00:26:43]

It's what I wanted to eventually, what I actually went there for was to study painting. I got accepted for painting. But I really wanted to go into learning about music production and media stuff like photoshop, Premiere video edit, that type of thing they had all of those resources over there. Creative writing too. But number of things happened where I couldn't.

[00:27:13]

But that's where your interests is, more in media. I don't know if that's a good question, but I'm curious. If you if you went to you enter in Chicago College through painting. Is that something that you're really interested you? Or are something like I'll go for days and trying to figure out what I'm going after that's more or less like this or painting is not your.

[00:27:38]

That's a good question. Painting was something I loved at the time and I still appreciate it. But yeah, I was looking at it as my way in. Because I enjoyed it. I thought I was good at it and they agreed. But the cool thing about that school was that it was interdisciplinary, you didn't have to declare a major. People went in.

[00:28:08]

You couldn't try and manage different styles there?

[00:28:10]

Yeah.

[00:28:11]

That's really interesting.

[00:28:12]

Yeah. I have my own story about like dealing with that at school because some things were not satisfactory, but that was the thing that drew me over there.

[00:28:26]

Then back to in the program that brought you here, they aligned you with the Harvard University. It straight to Harvard Law School or for Harvard University in a different place.

[00:28:41]

Straight to the law school.

[00:28:42]

It's ready to law school. Then ITS or whatever.

[00:28:46]

Well, yeah, that's the funny thing. While I was training for IT, I guess it became apparent to like my teachers and instructors at year up, I was more interested in media, work video that type of thing. They knew I was creative person. There's one thing I think that might have made the difference where from my IT class, the instructor cave on he like every year would have people make a song talking about the steps of troubleshooting. He asked the class, you should make the song and everybody was like Von make the song because he does that, but the way we're supposed to do it, it was just supposed to be write down a couple lyrics and then recite them in the Zoom call. But what I ended up doing was like producing a song around, telling the steps of troubleshooting and recorded versus, and had people from other classes guest appear on the song in like we just played a full track and he thought it was hilarious and loved it. He was just like, I am going to tell people about it. When I look back, I feel that made the difference because what ended up happening was when it was time to get paid for internship. Even though All I had been learning was like information technology stuff and working on computers for some reason they matched me with HLS to work with Premiere in video editing, media stuff. I was working my internship was half with LXT and half with the communications office. Yeah. I produce some videos for the communications office. I learned a lot about video editing there and also with LXT, I did a lot more media work with LXT. For some reason they paid attention to what my actual interests were. I was very thankful about it.

[00:30:50]

Governance as an internship as well?

[00:30:52]

Yeah.

[00:30:54]

Internship last what? Six months.

[00:30:56]

Six months. The internship is six months and then what ended up happening on LXT side they offered me attempt position right after internship. I did that for three months and then I was given a full-time position after that.

[00:31:17]

That's fantastic.

[00:31:18]

Yeah.

[00:31:20]

Has been for how long?

[00:31:24]

Including all of that, It's been two years.

[00:31:27]

Two years?

[00:31:28]

Yeah. Because I'm bad at doing mathematics. [LAUGHTER] I graduated July 2021. I want to say immediately after that, I get the tenth position, so that puts me September 2021. Then at the end of it, that's September 2021 and then I get the full-time position. We're approaching two years, basically. Yeah. Approaching two years full-time. Me having a real position.

[00:31:58]

Having a good experience.

[00:31:59]

Great, amazing experience. I loved this team.

[00:32:01]

Now you're like Boston? Yeah absolutely.

[00:32:04]

If you live most of your life in the South. But because this is really interesting, I think we have a different experience, but from different cultures as well. Because you come from the South to Boston. What people in general say, why am I going there? It is cold. I come from almost 105 degrees all year long.

[00:32:26]

[LAUGHTER] But I don't know that it's something in this place that just makes it feel, how does it change? Do enjoy highlighting Boston in general, the community or did neighborhoods and everything, how you feel?

[00:32:39]

Absolutely. There's this weird thing with Boston specifically were a lot of my family, my dad, so my dad has he's the oldest of eight children, and so they all grew up in Mass some in Brock and some in Quincy and other places. But there's deep rooted like family DNA here.

[00:33:05]

Here right.

[00:33:06]

Yeah, I've never been here long enough to really interact with it. When I was living with my uncle, he was taking me to places to see where they went to school and all this stuff, so there's this connection that's there already and then just being exposed to a new city and your culture is extremely entertaining, and then Cambridge, I feel like I think of Boston and Cambridge is different things.

[00:33:30]

Yes.

[00:33:31]

Cambridge is the way my father tells it, it's I'm the first in the family to enter into this space of the area and so that's really crazy for me. I mean.

[00:33:50]

Breaking barriers.

[00:33:51]

I suppose. Yeah. Definitely at thus.

[00:33:56]

It's interesting because people can see, I think it depends on the experience of everyone has. For someone from outside they would see Cambridge, in completely different lens. They think that's a very diverse place because of all the colleges that you have. Would it be Boston, Cambridge, but Cambridge has the biggest. MIT, Harvard, right?. Few others lastly all here.

[00:34:26]

Exactly.

[00:34:27]

They would consider diverse because of the amount of his students here. But for someone leaving here for many years are sometime for generations. That wouldn't be a different story.

[00:34:37]

Exactly.

[00:34:38]

Some neighborhoods would be a different environment. Growing up in Cambridge would be a more I don't know.

[00:34:49]

I mean, you're getting to something that my uncle describe to me just he was shocked when you found out I was having an internship at Harvard Law and entering into that sphere just the collegiate Cambridge universe, from where he grew up in what he's experienced and the majority of the families experienced, my aunt went to I have to ask them went to Leslie. But them included they all recognize Harvard, MIT this space of Cambridge is like a different thing.

[00:35:25]

Like almost a territory. A different territory from whatever everyone is. I just think it's really interesting how perception is interms of the group that is looking into.

[00:35:39]

Exactly, yeah.

[00:35:40]

If you come from outside, you say, oh, this is so cool. Old kids have so many different diversity. But for someone living the neighborhoods nearby the opportunity might not be the same. As perceived. You are saying something that Brione.

[00:35:57]

Yes. Absolutely.

[00:35:58]

You're chatting about this beyond I think was born and grew up in Cambridge in winter camps, Latin Bridge, I think. Then he tells his story, how different was when he went to Boston, because he end up going to start in Boston and felt like the level of learning education here was much stronger. Where it is good that he was going to high school and then going to boss. It felt oh my God. Completed levels were different. Now makes sense to what you were saying or what your uncle said that.

[00:36:34]

There can be two different worlds.

[00:36:35]

Exactly. Are you more in contact with the rest of your family here? Uncles, aunts, and cousins are just few of them depends on.

[00:36:45]

Yeah. I definitely my uncle, he still lives here. We check in all the time. I mean he's deep played an instrumental role in me being able to be here and he let me live with him. Coming into the pandemic, he has a son. He's a young guy. He's like early 30s. He has a son, so like him, he agreed to take me in basically on that empowered me to be able to set myself up for success, so he played a big role, so we were in contact all the time. My aunt. I have a few aunts. Well, I know I had one aunt that lived here still, but she moved to Arizona, so most of the families scattered now. But I definitely keep in touch with a lot of people. I've spoken to every aunt on my dad's side at least a couple of times a year, and then on my mom's side as a separate thing, but definitely talk to them all the time I've seen them plenty of times recently to.

[00:37:53]

Your mom and dad happy with your new take here?

[00:37:58]

Oh, man.

[00:37:59]

Everything.

[00:38:00]

Oh, yeah, absolutely. I've been ecstatic. Yeah. I mean, I was overjoyed to be able to tell them that I was secure. [LAUGHTER] That I had a job in a community to be a part of, and just I mean, they're very happy.

[00:38:22]

Are you happy with the community? To our Harvard Law School.

[00:38:27]

Quite happy, yeah. I mean, I'm still learning about it is what's crazy? The staff art show. The shadow to my friend Jennifer, who also did Year Up with me and now she works Jennifer Nova.

[00:38:42]

I don’t know her.

[00:38:42]

She's told me that plays a number of times. I'm still bad at knowing what everything is and all that.

[00:38:51]

I'm here for 20 years. [LAUGHTER] I'm still bad. Remember pupils name of course has to do with age as well, but they still feel oh my God, what's the name of that person that [LAUGHTER] I know it's not easy.

[00:39:02]

No. Jennifer's like a good friend of mine. I just blanked on the last name. But she told me about the art show and then that exposed me to like this whole community of Harvard staff that is also creating art. Ever since I was able to be on my own, I dove deeper into making music that's been a big thing for me for my whole life, so I've found people who are also musicians and also Peters.

[00:39:30]

Have you met Caryn Shelton-May?

[00:39:32]

No, I don't think so.

[00:39:33]

I had an episode that I recorded with the her.

[00:39:36]

Oh, Caryn? Oh, yes. Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

[00:39:37]

Karen is awasome she also likes the drama. Is she more involved in news right now. We're just chatting so I was telling Caryn, maybe should have this once in awhile here doesn't need to be. Of course, when you use a different story, you have to have a closed space.

[00:39:55]

Sure.

[00:39:56]

Maybe you should work that out one, take a few of them, whatever it is without any planned strategy. Just to get together, see how it feels. Maybe later you present to someone and I didn't know. But during the summer, you will have the entire Holmes field. They're down there. They know like a spring, summer or beginning of fall and just lunchtime for an hour or bring this stuff, people bring their guitar, whatever and play and sing I don t know.

[00:40:26]

Right now. Absolutely. You're saying exactly what so last week I performed with Caryn or not alongside be me, Caryn a number of other people that are all involved in the staff art show performed at this maker shakers space event for the Harvard Art Show. Yeah. I got to see Karen and her partner. I performed together, Carol Lee and they were doing brown, I grow me and my friends, we're watching them here just this would be the most amazing campfire setup.

[00:41:04]

Yes. We should shine.

[00:41:05]

Get Caryn and Carol Lee to perform at the campfire in the brown-eyed girl, that'd be amazing though. I'd love to do that.

[00:41:14]

Or maybe I don't know, that should not be saying this, [LAUGHTER] but maybe even suggests where we have a picnic for staff. Maybe staff singing for his staff would be a good thing.

[00:41:24]

Yeah. No, absolutely.

[00:41:26]

Sample doesn't need to be. I don't know.

[00:41:29]

No. I think just talking about the Harvard community, I feel like this is a place where something that could happen.

[00:41:34]

You should they are building your community together. That's why, this is the main reason for, this is for people to get to know more if they have a chance to listen to. I know that sometimes everybody is really busy, but at least for the sense of it's there, you will never have a chance to take a look, take a listen, and do you ever think about going painting again, or not paintings behind?

[00:41:56]

No, I'm trying to get back to it now. After art school, I started focusing more on like drawing and colored pencil work. But Anastasia, member of my team, shout out to Anastasia Tolu. She hasn't been really.

[00:42:13]

Anastasia Tolu.

[00:42:14]

Atulu, yes. She's really been trying to get me to paint again. I know. Yeah. I mean, I love.

[00:42:20]

What's the complication not to go painting. Time?

[00:42:25]

No. It's been a long time since I've done it one and two.

[00:42:34]

I'm obsessed with music. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:42:39]

For me, music right now, screams out louder than the other part?

[00:42:44]

Ever since I had got a laptop and I could work on it, music just took over as far as what I would do with my creative energy. But I miss. The first thing I ever did as a kid was draw and color things and like that. I love that deeply. Like I've been drawing a little bit the day. What I need to do is just jump in and just paint something.

[00:43:10]

You should try to merge both, because I think music and painting can be such a good channels there.

[00:43:17]

I love a bunch of ideas. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:43:18]

I wonder if while you are painting, you can create music and while you are doing music, you can think about painting or whatever it is. Because I think they sounds like a different channels, because visually and sound because sound is always, but I think you want to emulate the other one. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:43:35]

Yeah, no, absolutely.

[00:43:37]

I'm talking about no expertise whatsoever because I know nothing. [LAUGHTER] I just admire people who can but I would love to see that thing happening.

[00:43:48]

I agree with what you said so much. My concentration, that's like your set of paintings, your set of pieces of work that you'll submit to the AP Art board for AP credits when you're trying to get into art school. My whole concentration was focused on paintings around music. I painted a number of pieces that were inspired by songs. I fully agree with you. I feel like there's a very direct link to music and visual arts and just all of it. All of those things have a relationship. I think that is very important.

[00:44:26]

One thing that I would tell you, I don't know how to read music whatsoever.

[00:44:32]

Me either. [LAUGHTER]

[00:44:35]

Because I like tattoos, I don't have any but I like them a lot. I like tribal tattoos, because of a meaning and everything else. Somehow de notes the music notes, their shapes also, I think, they are beautiful.

[00:44:51]

Absolutely, yeah.

[00:44:52]

Vaughn, come on, you have to use those some paintings towards that one. [OVERLAPPING] Those, I don't know, just say.

[00:44:58]

No, that's a great idea.

[00:44:59]

Because [OVERLAPPING] mess with them or distort them or whatever.

[00:45:04]

Yeah, I'll do it if you helped.

[00:45:07]

I haven't done this idea of of them because I think they are beautiful, but how you put them together would be a cool thing. One more question. Now that you are in this permanent job, you have your position, you have your thing going. You think about going back to college?

[00:45:28]

I have done that. This is the thing, I think I would benefit more from like learning directly, like in direct relation to what my career focuses. I've gone back to school in some capacity and didn't have a great time. I think mainly because like I was being asked justifiably, because this is how school works. But I was being asked to put a lot of effort into different areas or different subjects and stuff. I see the value in that. I just feel that for me I would like to focus in, especially now that I know what I want to do career wise, I would like to focus in on that specific area.

[00:46:23]

Some quality in you right now?

[00:46:25]

Yeah. Something.

[00:46:25]

You can try that later if time allows.

[00:46:28]

Sure, yeah. Right now, like, I've been looking into certifications. Like just going specifically into like, [OVERLAPPING]

[00:46:35]

Yes, whatever it is. Always is a certifications until you figure out if you're going to have your college degree or master's or whatever, I don't have them as degrees either. But certifications and if it is inside of the area that you're already doing, that's another.

[00:46:50]

Exactly you are right.

[00:46:52]

How are your brothers and your, how are your siblings in general?

[00:46:55]

They're good, they're doing great. Yeah. No, my brothers, he's in school right now. He's Kennesaw, in Georgia, and then my sister is just crazy to say, but she's about to graduate high school and she's about to go to college as well. My first sister and then my second sister. She's in high school, she's doing well.

[00:47:19]

She's going to college already? Ready to go?

[00:47:26]

One of my biggest things is just, sometimes we'll talk to people who have older siblings and there'll be like, my older sibling wanted me to suffer the same way they did or whatever. I'm like, no, I would rather my siblings avoid every mistake I made. Also they all got their license like as soon as they could. They all are like Destiny and Jeremiah. Like Destiny's working on it. They're all in school. Like they've got the financials, figure it out. Like they're not letting anything.

[00:47:56]

Getting out of the way.

[00:47:57]

Yeah. Getting their way or mess it up. Yeah, I mean.

[00:48:00]

That's fantastic.

[00:48:01]

They're learning from, the things that they may not even mistakes that I made, but just like the circumstances that I had to navigate. I feel like we were able to come together and I was able to make sure you don't experience this like you should do this, this and this. They're doing amazing. I'm so happy.

[00:48:23]

That's really good.

[00:48:24]

Yeah.

[00:48:26]

Do you have a bucket list?

[00:48:28]

Man, I definitely yeah, absolutely. My bucket list is crazy.

[00:48:33]

A few of them or not.

[00:48:37]

Yeah, I mean, so for a very long time my bucket list has just being like the equivalent of a wishlist.

[00:48:46]

Yeah.

[00:48:48]

I would like to make music with Kendrick Lamar. I would like to.

[00:48:53]

I just want to go to the sponsors.

[00:48:55]

I've been to a concert, it's pretty great. Yeah, this is what I mean by my bucket list is just.

[00:48:59]

No.

[00:49:01]

Any stratosphere.

[00:49:01]

You have to put it out there.

[00:49:03]

Yeah.

[00:49:03]

Once you put it out there. That's a different story.

[00:49:06]

Absolutely, I can also accept. I would like to win a Grammy as well. I would also accept performing at the Grammys, that'd be great.

[00:49:14]

I don't think it wouldn't be possible.

[00:49:16]

Yeah, no, I, own my own.

[00:49:19]

Because you are you are going into a direction that leads you to that environment or that.

[00:49:28]

Yeah.

[00:49:29]

All right, Vaughn, this was awesome.

[00:49:32]

Thank you.

[00:49:32]

Thank you very, very much for opening up, for showing yourself. I really appreciate. I wish you all the best.

[00:49:41]

Thank you.

[00:49:41]

All your, whatever you are doing through universe.

[00:49:46]

Yeah, thank you. Thank you.

[00:49:47]

I want to come back and I will be watching you from the Grammys.

[00:49:50]

Thank you. Yeah.

[00:49:51]

That guy was there.

[00:49:53]

We might get you in there.

[00:49:56]

Yeah.

[00:49:57]

That's really, really nice. Thank you very much.

[00:49:59]

Thank you.

[00:50:00]

All right, and for everybody listening. Thank you very much. I will see you soon. Bye bye. [MUSIC]