# SYLVIA STEPP

Detroit, Michigan 48221 • (313) 597-5600 • sylviastepp5463@gmail.com • sylviastepp.com • linkedin.com/in/sylviastepp

Sylvia Stepp is an illustrator, storyteller, and aspiring storyboard artist whose work reflects her African American heritage, early childhood in Singapore, and international experiences in Canada, Colombia, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Peru, and Spain. She creates storyboards, character designs, and expressive drawings across digital and traditional media, with a focus on gesture, atmosphere, and character-driven storytelling.

## EDUCATION

**College for Creative Studies (CCS)** Detroit, Michigan
Illustration Major and Creative Writing Minor – Junior Standing (Fall 2026)
Relevant coursework: Color & Light Studies, Digital Illustration, Figure Illustration I & II, Fiction Writing Workshop, Storyboarding for Animation
Graduation expected May 2028 *(Fall 2024 – present)*

## PROJECTS

**Portfolio**: includes character design, storyboards, visual development, and traditional drawing - www.sylviastepp.com
**Short Story:** "*Spell of the South*" – completed as part of Spring 2026 Fiction Writing Workshop course
**Animated Storyboard**: Completed as part of Spring 2026 Storyboarding for Animation course
**Original Short Animation:** 45-second, 2D hand-drawn character study created using Procreate, completed Spring 2026

## EXPERIENCE

**Student Ambassador, Admissions - College for Creative Studies** Detroit, Michigan
Lead tours for prospective students and their families across two campuses. Manage prospective student data, maintain admissions records, and participate in recruitment campaigns that contribute to increased application engagement. Support communication through social media, email, and postal mail to enhance new student recruitment.
*(February 2025 - Present)*

**Spanish Language Immersion and Graphic Design Internship** Medellín, Colombia
Six-week immersive program combining advanced Spanish practice with professional design experience at Jaime Uribe & Asociados (JUA), a full-service creative agency. Worked under a project manager to support client branding and digital content through illustration and design, expanded portfolio with real-world deliverables, and strengthened conversational Spanish in both colloquial and professional contexts. *(July - August 2025)*

## TRAVEL

**French Immersion in Montreal** Vieux-Montréal, Québec, Canada
Attended Alliance Française de Montréal's one-week immersion program with daily small-group French instruction and afternoon guided cultural excursions, including a walking tour of Vieux-Montréal, a visit to Habitat 67, a French cooking workshop, and a visit to MEM (Centre des mémoires montréalaises), while living with a local host family for full immersion. Completed the A1-level curriculum. *(August 2026)*

**Art History in Greece** Attica, Central, and Western Regions, Greece
Traveled with CCS students and faculty to Athens, the Saronic Islands, Delphi, Olympia, the Argolida region, Epidaurus, and Mycenae for on-site art history coursework, earning three college credits. *(May 2026)*

**Art History in Peru** Lima, Cusco, and the Sacred Valley, Peru
Traveled with CCS students and faculty to Lima, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Ollanta Tambo, Pisac, and Sacsayhuamán, studying Andean art and architecture on-site and earning three college credits. *(May 2025)*

**Spain Intercultural Studies** Madrid, Barcelona and the Basque Country, Spain
Completed a ten-day trip with Shrine High School Spanish students to Madrid, Barcelona, and the Basque Country in June 2023. Earned three college credits for the course "Interculturalism and Global Education" through Southern New Hampshire University. *(June 2023)*

## SKILLS

**Traditional Media:** Graphite, ink, charcoal, gouache, watercolor, acrylic
**Digital Illustration Tools:** Procreate, Clip Studio Paint, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)
**Animation Tools:** Procreate, Clip Studio, Toon Boom

## LANGUAGES

**English:** Native
**French:** A1/A2 (on-going instruction through Alliance Française de Détroit and immersion week in Montréal completed August 2026); Working toward B2 proficiency, with a Summer 2027 French immersion planned to accelerate fluency.
**Spanish:** SIELE Global certified A2/B1 (August 2026)
**Mandarin:** Elementary (learned while living in Singapore during primary school)

## PRE-COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

**Art High School Dual Enrollment - College for Creative Studies** Detroit, Michigan
Completed "Color and Light Studies" in-person studio for three credit hours during the Winter 2024 semester. Coursework included color theory, psychology of color, and historical/symbolic meanings of color. Practical work included mixing color through traditional and non-traditional materials. Recipient of the General Motors "Design for an Equitable Future" scholarship for the Fall 2023 semester. Completed the "Fashion Design: Essentials" in-person studio for three credit hours. Skills developed included drafting, machine sewing, anatomy, and garment making. *(Fall 2023 - Winter 2024)*

**Interlochen Center for the Arts – Advanced Drawing Program** Interlochen, Michigan
Selected for three-week, on-campus experience in Advanced Drawing. Coursework included drawing foundations and techniques, leveraging materials including graphite, ink, charcoal, and conté. Participated in workshops, college presentations, and portfolio reviews. *(Summer 2023)*

**Pre-College Summer Experience - College for Creative Studies** Detroit, Michigan
Recipient of the Rock Community Fund scholarship for a three-week, on-campus experience. Completed the "Drawing Studio" in-person studio course for three college credit hours. Built first art portfolio, and art was featured in student exhibitions. Art submission was selected for the summer program's annual magazine cover. *(July - August 2022)*

## PERFORMANCES

Stagecrafters Community Theatre — Royal Oak, Michigan
**Shrek Jr.** - Mama Ogre *(July 2024)*
**Disney's Descendants: The Musical** - Queen Belle *(December 2023)*

Shrine High School Performing Arts — Royal Oak, Michigan
**Grease: School Edition** - ensemble *(March 2024)*
**Disney's Freaky Friday: The Musical** - ensemble *(March 2023)*
**Disney's Beauty and the Beast** - ensemble *(March 2022)*

Mosaic Youth Theatre — Detroit, Michigan
**Ruby! The Musical** - Older Ruby Bridges *(Feb 2020)*