

# Carol Marie Webster, PhD *Cover Letter*

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Transforming Health and Health Care Systems  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
50 College Road East  
Princeton, NJ 08540-6614

Dear Search Committee,

I am making application to the position of *Program Associate, Health Communities*, advertised on The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation jobs site. I am excited about this opportunity to potentially join a team of professionals committed to supporting the creation of healthy and equitable communities - places that are “safe, with access to parks, recreation, clean water and air—with stable, affordable homes, where people live free from discrimination; without fear of eviction or displacement; and hopeful about their neighborhood and their future.” My professional experience and education include, public and community health; civic engagement; social movements and advocacy.

As a researcher, I focus on the lives of African Diaspora/Black Atlantic women under interlocking systems of oppressions; highlighting the impact of race/ ethnicity, religion, (dis) ability, and migration on individual, family, and community health and wellbeing. I hold a PhD in Sociology -with specialization in race, religion, culture and gender - from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom (UK). My PhD dissertation, *Transgressive Communion: Dance, Performance, and Presence Jamaican Catholic Women at the Liturgy of the Eucharist*, brings together my interest in interdisciplinary dance scholarship; situating the bodies of women of the African diaspora/Black Atlantic in Jamaica at a juncture at which western economy, history, and identity converge with African cosmological impulses in the religious space of Catholic Christianity, highlighting the ways in which dance informs the crafting and deployment of resistance, the cultivation of flourishing, and the forging of Jamaican Catholic Christian identity.

Since 2019, I have been a part of the founding leadership team of the Harvard Medical School-based global health initiative, *Nearsighted Globe (NG)*, an interdisciplinary team of research innovators (vision scientists, vision and health practitioners, global health experts, community engagement specialists and social scientists) with a passion for improving the lives of the visually impaired in under resourced communities in low-and-middle income countries. NG develops high science/low tech diagnostic devices for rural hard-to- reach communities in low and middle income countries. At NG, I serve as Creative Director and Community Engagement Specialist where I ensure that NG holds the lives, circumstances, and concerns of vulnerable girls and women central in its partnerships, collaborations, community engagements, training, and service delivery.

Additionally, during the 2020/2021 pandemic lockdown, I joined forces with a group of professional dance artist to launch Equipoise Dance (<https://www.equipoisedance.com>), an organization committed improving the health and wellbeing of the professional dance community.

I believe my professional background makes me an ideal candidate for the position of *Program Associate, Health Communities* at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. I look forward to meeting the Search Committee to further discuss my qualifications.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Marie Webster, PhD