

Kam Franklin Bio

Kam Franklin is an interdisciplinary artist, singer-songwriter, music producer, activist, writer, orator, model, visual artist, and actress from Houston, TX. She is best known for her work with the gulf coast soul band, The Suffers, but Kam began performing gospel music at the age of five. She is a three-time recipient of the Houston Press Music Award for Best Female Vocalist, and a two-time recipient of the Houston Press Music Award for local musician of the year. Kam has performed on five continents and has performed with the Suffers backed by The Houston Symphony in addition to being featured solo. Kam is also known for her unique collaborations, some of which include: her 2018 collaboration with Grammy Award winning Tejano legends, La Mafia, filling in for H.R. (of Bad Brains) during the 2016 Afropunk Festival Superjam alongside members of Bad Brains, Fishbone, and Living Colour, performing in the 2016 March For Science band alongside Jon Batiste and Stay Human, Questlove, Judith Hill, and Fred Wesley (longtime James Brown & Parliament collaborator), and repeated appearances at Newport Folk Festival where she has participated in numerous tributes and collaborations, most notably with Chaka Khan, Brandi Carlile, Preservation Jazz Hall Band, Margo Price, Allison Russell, Lucius, Deer Tick, and The Black Opry. In 2022, she released the Bayou City Comeback Chorus EP, a social justice album funded with a grant by The Houston Arts Alliance that features the voices and musicianship of over 20 artists from around the Houston area.

Both Forbes and Vice have featured Kam for her activism and business ventures that seek to create a more equitable and inclusive environment in the arts for Black, queer, femme, and non-binary artists working in all mediums and from all backgrounds. In fall 2018, she joined the board for Headcount.org. Kam's unique style and fashion-sense has also been covered by Buzzfeed, Refinery 29, and Nylon. Fronting The Suffers, Kam has performed nationally on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, and Jimmy Kimmel Live in addition to speaking with Ailsa Chang and Ari Shapiro on NPR's All Things Considered, Brené Brown's "Dare To Lead" Podcast, Samantha Brown's "Places To Love", The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and National Geographic's "Texas: Spirit and Soul" short film.

At home, Kam remains a very active participant in the Houston music scene, producing events that have featured emerging acts from in and around the Gulf Coast area while leveraging her and The Suffers' international platform to represent the City of Houston around the world. This has also allowed her to champion her entrepreneurial approach to finding success in the arts for women, minorities, and independent artists. She currently serves on the board of HeadCount.org, as Governor for the Texas and Oklahoma Chapter of the Recording Academy. She also served as the inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ambassador, as well as the inaugural Recording Academy Black Music Collective Chapter Ambassador for the Texas Chapter of The Recording Academy.