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Transcript Export

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### **Sagirah Shahid: Artist Reflection for American Muslim Futures**

FULL TRANSCRIPT (without timecode)

Asalaam walaikum wa rahma tullahi wabarak katahu. My name is Sagirah Shahid and I'm from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A just future is one where Black Muslim women like myself aren't always invisible. When I was a kid I remember like not even consciously accepting the fact, that I just expected to not see any depictions of my community in any kind of narrative, in any kind of story.

I just kind of assumed that there would not be any Black Muslim women there. So for me part of my poem envisions a future where it's like post-reparations. We're no longer having to survive or fight for our survivals and we get to have films. A whole genre of films where we can creatively depict perhaps our past or just to depict you know fun quirky features. A whole genre of films where we are not only the protagonists and the heroes of the stories, but we also get to make creative choices revolving and involving the story and we are also the intended audience for the story.

So my poem "*In-Visibility*" kind of touches upon these themes where Black Muslim women are truly the focal points. We get to decide and celebrate our full luscious and luxurious selves.

For me this American Muslim Futures exhibit is super important I think because, if we can't even imagine ourselves in the future how do we expect to get there. So I love the idea and the challenge of making sure that we're thinking about the value of our imaginary landscapes. I think that's just one of many steps to get towards a more just and equitable society and a future where we all get to be more than our survivals.

So thank you so much for reading my poem.