



2023 Woman of Distinction Social Impact



Dr. Kendra Janelle Ross
Head of Social Impact
Duolingo

Dr. Kendra Janelle Ross is the head of social impact at Duolingo. Previously, she served as an assistant professor of sports, arts, and entertainment management at Point Park University, where she also completed a PhD in community engagement. A proud graduate of Pittsburgh Public Schools, she holds a bachelor of music in music business and technology from New York University and master's degrees from Brooklyn College/CUNY and The New School for Social Research.

Dr. Ross spent two decades in New York City, working both on stage and behind the scenes in the entertainment industry. For over a decade, she managed label operations for Universal Music Group, the world's leading

music company. In addition, Dr. Ross is a veteran songwriter, vocalist, and producer who has recorded with several renowned artists. Since returning to Pittsburgh in 2014, she has been an active member of the local arts scene.

Dr. Ross serves as the co-chair of #ArtsInHD, a collective of creatives in the historic Hill District community and she is one of the architects of Unisound's Black Teaching Artist-In-Residence Program through her firm, ACT3 Consulting Partners. In 2022, Dr. Ross was elected to the board of governors of the Recording Academy's Philadelphia Chapter and appointed to the Regional Asset District Board by Mayor Ed Gainey.