

Azra Khalfan Bio

Azra Khalfan, the CEO of Plaques by Azra and Signs and Lucite Products, was born and raised in Queens New York. At the age of 18, she moved to Tanzania for 6 years. Living in a third world country and becoming a mother completely changed her perspective in life. Upon her return to the USA, she pursued her education in Business, first at the Queens Borough Community College, and then at the College of Old Westbury. She has been managing her family's businesses for over 18 years.

Signs and Lucite Products and Plaques by Azra were founded by her parents, Aunali & Shirin Khalfan, natives of Tanzania. The later, was in honor of Azra's birth, hence she is the namesake. Azra has an older brother and a younger sister.

The companies have been providing quality awards, engraved signs, nameplates and digitally printed products to non for profit organizations, corporations and educational institutions. Some of her awards have been presented to individuals including the former First Lady Hillary Clinton, Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammad Yunus, Mayor DiBlasio and several other political figures. While running the businesses through its ups and downs, Azra has had the opportunity to travel extensively, volunteer abroad and work closely with non for profit organizations whose missions she was passionate about. Some of the missions were in Iraq, Pakistan and Tanzania.

In 2011, Azra and her Mother were featured as the cover story for Azizah Magazine. This magazine highlights achievements of Muslim Women around the world.

In 2013, after receiving a MicroLoan from ACCION, Azra was introduced to the Tory Burch Foundation. Through their partnership with Goldman Sachs, Azra was accepted to the 10,000 Small Business Program.

After successfully graduating in 2014, Azra was selected by Tory Burch to share her views as a leader on Work/Life Balance which was featured alongside Hillary Clinton, Arianna Huffington, Carolina Herrera and other prominent female leaders. The book, Tory Burch:IN COLOR became a NY Times Best Seller.

Azra Khalfan had a triple feature on The Story Exchange, an online media outlet showcasing women entrepreneurs.

In 2014, Azra lead the Islamic Invocation for a luncheon hosted by the NMSDC. Azra has been a guest on various panels, including mentoring young adults, and small business related issues. Early last year, Azra was invited to share her insights on an online forum, Reinvention Works.

In 2016, Azra was awarded the MBE Catalyst Award by the NMSDC.

Azra enjoys to ride, hike, kayak and travel. She is intrigued by the Middle Eastern Architectural influence, and enjoys visiting Churches, Temples and Mosques. Azra has been involved with community fundraising and awareness towards assisting orphans, widows, empowerment through education and the building of wells.

Azra lives in New York with her parents and her son Muhammadali.