



The 20th Annual
Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation

LEGACY

Awards

October 15, 2021

Discover • Mentor • Honor
Black Writers



HURSTON/WRIGHT FOUNDATION

A WORLD OF BLACK WRITERS

Mission

The mission of the **Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation** is to discover, mentor, and honor Black writers.

Vision

We envision the **Hurston/Wright Foundation** as an organization that provides unique, impactful and memorable experiences of Black literary life that live far beyond the moment. We will strive to offer participants and supporters distinctive programs that enrich, fortify, and uplift the Black literary community.

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the 20th Anniversary of the Legacy Awards, the first national award presented to Black writers by a national organization of Black writers. This year, we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Hurston/Wright Foundation, an organization started through the shared purpose and determination of Marita Golden and Clyde McElvene. In a year filled with uncertainty and questions of what the “new normal” may look like, we’re proud to be marking these historic milestones as an organization.

Our society assigns “legacy” to new cars and to fashion brands, but “legacy” is creating and maintaining something of lasting value. Many organizations have come and gone, but Hurston/Wright is still here to champion discourse and debate and storytelling. The Legacy Awards was the brainchild of best-selling author and Hurston/Wright board member E. Lynn Harris and drew nearly 400 people to the first ceremony.

All that we do to promote Black literature has compelled those we’ve served to reciprocate by giving back to the next generation of writers. As you read the pages of this program, you’ll see that many of the acclaimed authors who serve as judges and presenters were once Legacy Award honorees. Honorees also lead our writing workshops and participate in our public readings.

The ceremony has drawn corporate funding from the beginning with Borders Books to this year’s Gold Sponsors, Amazon Literary Partnership and Penguin Random House. We’re pleased to have the support

of the inaugural Writers’ Circle to bring us the Legacy Awards. With the encouragement of all our supporters, we’ve built a stronger organization.

This year we added full-time staff to our team and significantly expanded our board of directors. Award-winning author and former HWF Board Chair Melanie S. Hatter has joined us as Program Director, working with Interim Executive Director Neil Stanley Henriquez. Hurston/Wright was selected by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) as a host organization for a Leading-Edge Fellowship, which places recent humanities PhDs with nonprofit organizations committed to promoting social justice in their communities. Dr. Kim Williams-Pulfer will be with us for the next year as a full-time Research and Evaluation Manager.

This year, with Covid-19 and its variants threatening another winter of isolation, we need our connection to each other and to the inspiration we find in Black literature more than ever. With your help, we will continue raising the voices of Black writers and fighting for the inclusion of Black culture and experiences in the national conversation. That, friends, is our *Legacy*.

Audrey C. Hipkins

Audrey Hipkins
Chair, Board of Directors



2002 Clyde McElvene, Monica Beckman, Marita Golden and Walter Mosley



2003 Tayari Jones



2005 Marita Golden, Henry Louis Gates and S. Epatha Merkerson



2006 David Anthony Durham accepting fiction finalist award



2012 Terry McMillan, Clyde McElvene, Lucy Hurston and merit honoree Roberta McLeod

2002: *On Her Own Ground* by A'Leia Bundles | *October Suite* by Maxine Clair | *Raising Fences* by Michael Datcher | *Gabriel's Story* by David Anthony Durham | *Breathing Room* by Patricia Elam | *Erasure* by Percival Everett | *Bombingham* by Anthony Grooms | *The Red Moon* by Kuwana Haulsey | *Salvation* by bell hooks | *Break Any Woman Down* by Dana Johnson | *Impossible Witnesses* by Dwight A. McBride | *The Warmest December* by Bernice L. McFadden | *He Sleeps* by Reginald McKnight | *Fearless Jones* by Walter Mosley | *Greenwichtown* by Joyce Palmer | *The Undiscovered Paul Robeson* by Paul Robeson Jr. | *The Dying Ground* by Michelle D. Tramble | *In the Shadow of a Saint* by Ken Wiwa | **2003:** *A Little Piece of Sky* by Nicole Bailey-Williams | *River Woman* by Donna Hemans | *Passed On* by Karla F.C. Holloway | *Ralph Ellison* by Lawrence Jackson | *Leaving Atlanta* by Tayari Jones | *The Ecstatic* by Victor LaValle | *Fifth Born* by Zelda Lockhart | *Forgotten Readers* by Elizabeth McHenry | *The Heart of Redness* by Zakes Mda | *The Herndons* by Carole Merritt | *Gigantic* by Marc Nesbitt | *Discretion* by Elizabeth Nunez | *Douglass' Women* by Jewell Parker Rhodes | *Song of the Water Saints* by Nelly Rosario | *Without a Name and Under the Tongue* by Yvonne Vera | *Water Street* by Crystal Wilkinson | *American Skin* by Leon E. Wynter | **2004:** *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | *A Place Between Stations* by Stephanie Allen | *Daughter* by asha bande | *Wrapped in Rainbows* by Valerie Boyd | *Hottentot Venus* by Barbara Chase-Riboud | *The Polished Hoe* by Austin Clarke | *Mandela, Mobutu, and Me* by Lynne Duke | *Always Wear Joy* by Susan Fales-Hill | *In Black and White* by Wil Haygood | *The Salt Roads* by Nalo Hopkinson | *Appropriating Blackness* by E. Patrick Johnson | *Hunting In Harlem* by Mat Johnson | *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones | *Somebody's Someone* by Regina Louise | *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* by Z.Z. Packer | *Getting Mother's Body* by Suzan-Lori Parks | *A Distant Shore* by Caryl Phillips | *Knee-Deep in Wonder* by April Reynolds | **2005:** *GraceLand* by Chris Abani | *The Black Interior* by Elizabeth Alexander | *The Failures of Integration* by Sheryll Cashin | *Who Slashed Celanire's Throat?* by Maryse Condé | *Bone to Pick* by Ellis Cose | *The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat | *Shifting Through Neutral* by Bridgett M. Davis | *Warrior Poet* by Alexis De Veaux | *The End of Blackness* by Debra J. Dickerson | *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne* by Esi Edugyan | *American Desert* by Percival Everett | *Links* by Nuruddin Farah | *A Continent for the Taking* by Howard W. French | *Bling* by Erica Kennedy | *The Madonna of Excelsior* by Zakes Mda | *The Man in My Basement* by Walter Mosley | *The Darkest Child* by Delores Phillips | *A Woman's Worth* by Tracy Price-Thompson | **2006:** *Tropical Fish* by Doreen Baingana | *My Face Is Black Is True* by Mary Frances Berry | *Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams* by Donald Bogle | *Upstate* by Kalisha Buckhanon | *Joplin's Ghost* by Tananarive Due | *Pride of Carthage* by David Anthony Durham | *Creating Their Own Image* by Lisa E. Farrington | *The Long Mile* by Clyde W. Ford | *Mirror to America* by John Hope Franklin | *The Untelling* by Tayari Jones | *Who Does She Think She Is?* by Benilde Little | *Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch* by Dwight A. McBride | *Freshwater Road* by Denise Nicholas | *Dancing in the Dark* by Caryl Phillips | *My Jim* by Nancy Rawles | *Third Girl from the Left* by Martha Southgate | *Love on the Dotted Line* by David E. Talbert | *Worrying the Line* by Cheryl A. Wall | **2007:** *Half a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | *Dominion* by Calvin Baker | *The Last "Darky"* by Louis Chude-Sokei | *Before the Legend* by Christopher John Farley | *Ancestor Stones* by Aminatta Forna | *Wind in a Box* by Terrance Hayes | *BookMarks* by Karla F.C. Holloway | *Unburnable* by Marie-Elena John | *All Aunt Hagar's Children* by Edward P. Jones | *Unbowed* by Wangari Maathai | *Nowhere Is a Place* by Bernice L. McFadden | *Jump at the Sun* by Kim McLarin | *Wizard of the Crow* by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o | *The Skin Between Us* by Kym Ragusa | *The River Flows On* by Walter C. Rucker | *Teahouse of the Almighty* by Patricia Smith | *Get Down* by Asali Solomon | *The Architecture of Language* by Quincy Troupe | **2008:** *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali | *The N Word* by Jabari Asim | *Conversion* by Remica L. Bingham | *The Guyanese Wanderer* by Jan Carew | *The Story of the Cannibal Woman* by Maryse Condé | *Brother, I'm Dying* by Edwidge Danticat | *Bouquet of Hungers* by Kyle Dargan | *She's Gone* by Kwame Dawes | *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz | *Dreams of Africa in Alabama* by Sylviane A. Diouf | *Measuring Time* by Helon Habila | *Someone Knows My Name* by Lawrence Hill | *The Deepest South* by Gerald Horne | *Like Trees, Walking* by Ravi Howard | *On the Courthouse Lawn* by Sherrilyn Ifill | *Quantum Lyrics* by A. Van Jordan | *Them* by Nathan McCall | *The Opposite House* by Helen Oyeyemi | **2009:** *Say You're One of Them* by Uwem Akpan | *Holding Pattern* by Jeffrey Renard Allen | *Please* by Jericho Brown | *The Agitator's Daughter* by Sheryll Cashin | *Stand the Storm* by Breena Clarke | *The Beautiful Struggle* by Ta-Nehisi Coates | *Blood Colony* by Tananarive Due | *Mr. and Mrs. Prince* by Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina | *Ida* by Paula J. Giddings | *The Headless Saints* by Myron Hardy | *Warhorses* by Yusef Komunyakaa | *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride | *Somebody Scream!* by Marcus Reeves | *Where the Line Bleeds* by Jesmyn Ward | *Incognegro* by Frank B. Wilderson III | **2010:** *Gospel* by Samiya Bashir | *Freedom by Any Means* by Betty DeRamus | *Cooling Board* by Mitchell L.H. Douglas | *Sonata Mulattica* by Rita Dove | *Blonde Roots* by Bernardine Evaristo | *I Am Not Sidney Poitier* by Percival Everett | *The Trial of Robert Mugabe* by Chielozone Eze | *Sweet Thunder* by Wil Haygood | *The Breakthrough* by Gwen Ifill | *Thelonious Monk* by Robin Kelley | *Big Machine* by Victor LaValle | *Black Water Rising* by Attica Locke | *Remembering Scottsboro* by James A. Miller | *Liberation Narratives* by Haki R. Madhubuti | *Sag Harbor* by Colson Whitehead | *More than Just Race* by William Julius Wilson | **2011:** *Crave Radiance* by Elizabeth Alexander | *Brainwashed* by Tom Burrell | *Skin, Inc.* by Thomas Sayers Ellis | *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* by Danielle Evans | *John Oliver Killens* by Keith Gilyard | *Lighthead* by Terrance Hayes | *The Indignant Generation* by Lawrence P. Jackson | *Root and Branch* by Rawn James Jr. | *Glorious* by Bernice L. McFadden | *How to Read the Air* by Dinaw Mengestu | *Wench* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez | *Wading Home* by Rosalyn Story | *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson | *Losing My Cool* by Thomas Chatterton Williams | *How to Escape from a Leper Colony* by Tiphonie Yanique | **2012:** *Courage to Dissent* by Tomiko Brown-Nagin | *Crossbones* by Nuruddin Farah | *Kingdom Animalia* by Aracelis Girmay | *Sister Citizen* by Melissa V. Harris-Perry | *Silver Sparrow* by Tayari Jones | *Mr. Fox* by Helen Oyeyemi | *Harlem Is Nowhere* by Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts | *You Are Free* by Danzy Senna | *the new black* by Evie Shockley | *Life on Mars* by Tracy K. Smith | *One Day I Will Write About This Place* by Binyavanga Wainaina | *Salvage the Bones* by

NOREES 2002-2021

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Jesmyn Ward | *My Long Trip Home* by Mark Whitaker | *Zone One* by Colson Whitehead | **2013:** *There Was a Country* by Chinua Achebe | *But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise* by Lillian-Yvonne Bertram | *The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010* by Lucille Clifton | *Half-Blood Blues* by Esi Edugyan | *A Cupboard Full of Coats* by Yvette Edwards | *me and Nina* by Monica Hand | *The Price of the Ticket* by Fredrick C. Harris | *Go-Go Live* by Natalie Hopkinson | *Elsewhere, California* by Dana Johnson | *Exit* by Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot | *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke | *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis | *Gathering of Waters* by Bernice L. McFadden | *American Lynching* by Ashraf H. A. Rushdy | *Help Me to Find My People* by Heather Andrea Williams | **2014:** *Every Boy Should Have a Man* by Preston L. Allen | *What We Ask of Flesh* by Remica L. Bingham | *Nine Years Under* by Sheri Booker | *We Need New Names* by NoViolet Bulawayo | *Kansas City Lightning* by Stanley Crouch | *Hemming the Water* by Yona Harvey | *The Residue Years* by Mitchell S. Jackson | *Darktown Follies* by Amaud Jamaul Johnson | *The March on Washington* by William P. Jones | *The Cineaste* by A. Van Jordan | *See Now Then* by Jamaica Kincaid | *The Big Smoke* by Adrian Matejka | *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride | *The Gospel According to Cane* by Courttia Newland | *Silverchest* by Carl Phillips | *Searching for Zion* by Emily Raboteau | *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward | *Ebony & Ivy* by Craig Steven Wilder | **2015:** *The Secret History of Las Vegas* by Chris Abani | *Our Declaration* by Danielle Allen | *Malcolm X at Oxford Union* by Saladin Ambar | *Radiance of Tomorrow* by Ishmael Beah | *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* by Charles M. Blow | *This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed* by Charles E. Cobb Jr. | *Revising the Storm* by Geoffrey Davis | *An Untamed State* by Roxane Gay | *We Didn't Know Any Gangsters* by Brian Gilmore | *Losing Our Way* by Bob Herbert | *The Moor's Account* by Laila Lalami | *The Orchard of Lost Souls* by Nadifa Mohamed | *Not for Everyday Use* by Elizabeth Nunez | *Digest* by Gregory Pardlo | *The Essential Hits of Shorty Bon Bon* by Willie Perdomo | *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine | *King Me* by Roger Reeves | *Land of Love and Drowning* by Tiphany Yanique | **2016:** *The Light of the World* by Elizabeth Alexander | *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty | *Honest Engine* by Kyle Dargan | *Mourner's Bench* by Sanderia Faye | *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy | *Forest Primeval* by Vieve Francis | *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* by Ross Gay | *Delicious Foods* by James Hannahan | *How to Be Drawn* by Terrance Hayes | *Confronting Black Jacobins* by Gerald Horne | *It Seems Like a Mighty Long Time* by Angela Jackson | *The Star Side of Bird Hill* by Naomi Jackson | *Welcome to Braggsville* by T. Geronimo Johnson | *Voyage of the Sable Venus* by Robin Coste Lewis | *Spectacle* by Pamela Newkirk | *The Fishermen* by Chigozie Obioma | *Under the Udala Trees* by Chinelo Okparanta | *The Lost Child* by Caryl Phillips | *Where Everybody Looks Like Me* by Ron Stodghill | *Infectious Madness* by Harriet A. Washington | *The Beast Side* by D. Watkins | **2017:** *The Crown Ain't Worth Much* by Hanif Abdurraqib | *Blackass* by A. Igoni Barrett | *The Firebrand and the First Lady* by Patricia Bell-Scott | *The Mother* by Yvette Edwards | *The Loss of All Lost Things* by Amina Gautier | *Hannah Mary Tabbs and the Disembodied Torso* by Kali Nicole Gross | *play dead* by francine j. harris | *Born on a Tuesday* by Elnathan John | *Bestiary* by Donika Kelly | *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi | *Third Voice* by Ruth Ellen Kocher | *Rapture* by Sjohnna McCray | *The Book of Harlan* by Bernice L. McFadden | *The Social Life of DNA* by Alondra Nelson | *In The Wake* by Christina Sharpe | *Swing Time* by Zadie Smith | *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead | *Thief in the Interior* by Phillip B. Williams | *Damnificados* by J.J. Amaworo Wilson | *Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson | *Another Day in the Death of America* by Gary Younge | **2018:** *Cuz* by Danielle Allen | *What it Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* by Lesley Nneka Arimah | *Loving* by Sheryll Cashin | *What We Lose* by Zinzi Clemmons | *City of Bones* by Kwame Dawes | *Tropic Cascade* by Camille T. Dungy | *Guidebook to Relative Strangers* by Camille T. Dungy | *The Tragedy of Brady Sims* by Ernest J. Gaines | *The Talented Ribkins* by Ladée Hubbard | *Dance of the Jakaranda* by Peter Kimani | *Black Moses* by Alain Mabanckou | *In the Language of My Captor* by Shane McCrae | *The Dawn of Detroit* by Tiya Miles | *The Woman Next Door* by Yewande Omotoso | *Cutting School* by Noliwe Rooks | *Ordinary Beast* by Nicole Sealey | *semiautomatic* by Evie Shockley | *Incendiary Art* by Patricia Smith | *An Unkindness of Ghosts* by Rivers Solomon | *The Cooking Gene* by Michael W. Twitty | *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward | **2019:** *Friday Black* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah | *A Lucky Man* by Jamel Brinkley | *Invisible* by Stephen L. Carter | *Brother* by David Chariandy | *Eloquent Rage* by Brittney Cooper | *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan | *Approaching the Fields* by Chanda Feldman | *DiVida* by Monica A. Hand | *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* by Terrance Hayes | *Tigerland* by Wil Haygood | *Pardon My Heart* by Marcus Jackson | *Heavy* by Kiese Laymon | *Mend* by Kwoya Fagin Maples | *She Would Be King* by Wayétu Moore | *May We Forever Stand* by Imani Perry | *The New Negro* by Jeffrey C. Stewart | *Heads of the Colored People* by Nafissa Thompson-Spires | *Crosslight for Youngbird* by Asiya Wadud | **2020:** *Avery Colt is a Snake, a Thief, a Liar* by Ron A. Austin | *Speaking of Summer* by Kalisha Buckhanon | *Africaville* by Jeffrey Colvin | *Open Season* by Ben Crump | *Night Angler* by Geoffrey Davis | *As a River* by Sion Dayson | *Patsy* by Nicole Dennis-Benn | *1919* by Eve L. Ewing | *A Tall History of Sugar* by Curdella Forbes | *Think Black* by Clyde W. Ford | *& More Black* by t'ai freedom ford | *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* by Saidiya Hartman | *We Live for the We* by Dani McClain | *Exiles of Eden* by Ladan Osman | *Gingerbread* by Helen Oyeyemi | *Library of Small Catastrophes* by Allison C. Rollins | *The World Doesn't Require You* by Rion Amilcar Scott | *The Revisioners* by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton | *Syncope* by Asiya Wadud | *Solitary* by Albert Woodfox | *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker* by Damon Young | **2021:** *Black Sunday* by Tola Rotimi Abraham | *Fantasia for the Man in Blue* by Tommye Blount | *Tacky's Revolt* by Vincent Brown | *Franchise* by Marcia Chatelain | *These Bodies* by Morgan Christie | *Ring Shout* by P. Djèlí Clark | *Telephone* by Percival Everett | *Book of the Little Axe* by Lauren Francis-Sharma | *Seeing the Body* by Rachel Eliza Griffiths | *Jump the Clock* by Erica Hunt | *The Address Book* by Deirdre Mask | *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry* by John Murillo | *The Freedom Artist* by Ben Okri | *Mediocre* by Ijeoma Oluo | *White Blood* by Kiki Petrosino | *Pale Colors in a Tall Field* by Carl Phillips | *The Alchemy of Us* by Ainissa Ramirez | *Black Bottom Saints* by Alice Randall | *Memorial Drive* by Natasha Tretheway | *Remembrance* by Rita Woods | *The Coyotes of Carthage* by Steven Wright ■



2015 North Star recipient Edwidge Danticat, right, chatting with college winners and guests



2017 Poetry Winner Donika Kelly, congratulated by Congressman John Lewis



2018 Natasha Trethewey, Kwame Dawes and Melanie Hatter at 2018 Legacy Awards



2019 Wil Haygood and Deb Heard at the 2019 Legacy Awards Ceremony



2019 Brittney Cooper, 2019 Legacy Honoree, signs book for Brittany Buckner

OUR LEADERSHIP

Photo credit: Ken Hipkins



Audrey Hipkins
Chair

Audrey Hipkins, a retired executive, spent 20 years with Bloomberg BNA in positions including chief operating officer of the Tax Division, chief product officer, and publisher for the Environment, Health & Safety Division. Her interests include aquatics, education, and the arts. She previously served on the Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Nutrition, held various leadership positions with the DC Wave Swim team, and served on the board of Higher Achievement. Audrey earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from MIT and an MBA from Duke University. Currently, she serves on the advisory board of MIT's Office of Engineering Outreach Programs, is a member of the DC Water Wizards, and manages a portfolio of rental properties.



Dionne Peart
Secretary

Dionne Peart is an attorney, serving as Executive Director for Adjunct Services at Georgetown University Law Center. She is the 2019 winner of The Caribbean Writer's Vincent Cooper Literary Prize, and her work has appeared in *Midnight Breakfast*, *The Caribbean Writer*, Akashic Books' *Duppy Thursday* series, and the 2017 *Writer's Digest Short Story Competition Collection*. She also was a finalist for the DC Mayor's Awards in the Larry Neal Writers' Award category. Dionne received her MFA in Writing with a concentration in fiction from Bennington College.



McIntosh K. Ewell
Treasurer

McIntosh Ewell has spent more than 35 years in the information technology industry supporting the Intelligence Community. He is currently a business process engineering manager for General Dynamics Information Technology. McIntosh is an avid reader and writer, and his editing skills have helped several master's and PhD students complete and successfully defend their theses and dissertations. McIntosh lives in Upper Marlboro, MD, with his wife, Cookie.



Stephanie Bray
Board Member

A non-profit executive with over 30 years of experience, Stephanie is currently the chief engagement officer at Seattle Foundation. An avid reader and creative writer, she is also the founder of Black Women Write, an organization that uplifts Black women writers on the path to publication.

Photo credit: Anna DeWitt



Brittany Buckner
Board Member

Brittany Buckner is a committed leader in adult education. She has nearly 15 years of professional experience serving public, private, and local government organizations by developing staff to achieve performance targets. Brittany earned her master of education degree from Harvard University and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is also a novelist. She lives in Washington, DC, with her husband and two young children.



Beverley East
Board Member

Beverley East is a court-qualified Forensic Document Examiner. She received the Trailblazer Award – as the only woman of color worldwide qualified and practicing in both areas of handwriting expertise. She is also a bestselling author of three books and was named by *Ebony* magazine in 2018 as one of the “Six Caribbean writers you should take some time to discover.” She has read at several Literary Festivals: Lagos, London, Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Calabash Literary Festival in Jamaica. Her fourth book *Whose Signature is it Anyway? Complexities of Caribbean Fraud* will be released in 2021.



Dr. Damien T. Frierson
Board Member

Dr. Damien T. Frierson is a public historian and social worker. He currently serves in the federal government where much of his work has focused on supporting culturally specific organizations to access resources to build and sustain their programming. Damien is an avid reader and history enthusiast whose interests include helping communities utilize literature and public history initiatives to preserve their past and foster connectedness. He is a proud native Washingtonian and member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. Damien received his PhD in social work from Howard University, an MA in history from Southern New Hampshire University, an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania, an MA in African American Studies from Temple University and a BA in history from Fisk University.



Erica Smith-Goetz
Board Member

Erica is a consultant with Bain and Company with experience in change management and growth strategy. Currently based in San Francisco, she has worked with clients across industries and stages to accelerate pre-IPO growth, execute large-scale mergers, lead strategic planning, and more. In addition to her work with Bain, she is also a founding General Partner for the 20|20 Fund, a first-of-its-kind venture fund for the Stanford start-up community. She is an avid reader and writer, and her work has been published by *Fortune* and by the Stanford magazine *non-disclosure*. Erica is a proud alumna of both Harvard College (AB, History) and Stanford's Graduate School of Business (MBA).

Photo credit: Daryl T. Stuart



Deborah Heard
Board Member

Deborah Heard is a veteran editor and manager who spent 24 years at *The Washington Post*, including serving as the assistant managing editor in charge of the Style section. She supervised the newspaper's award-winning coverage of arts, culture, and lifestyles. After leaving journalism, she began working as a consultant editing book manuscripts. She grew up in Heflin, Alabama, and lives in Washington, DC. She served as the Hurston/Wright executive director from January 2016 to May 2019.



Dr. Adrian Mayse
Board Member

Dr. Adrian Mayse is a native of Victoria, Mississippi. In 2005, he received his BBA in finance from the University of Mississippi. In 2007, he received his MPA (Master of Professional Accountancy) from Jackson State University. Dr. Mayse worked for the Mississippi Department of Revenue (formerly the Mississippi Tax Commission) for three years as a tax auditor and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Currently, Dr. Mayse is a tenured Associate Professor and Department Chair of Accounting at Howard University. Dr. Mayse has a passion for diversity, inclusion and equity in the workplace, classroom and the world. He currently resides in Washington, DC with his fiancé, Duvalier Malone, and their dog, Guy.



Dr. Andre Perry
Board Member

Dr. Andre Perry is a senior fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, a scholar-in-residence at American University, an author, and a columnist for the Hechinger Report. His research focuses on race and structural inequality, education, and economic inclusion. Perry's most recent book is *Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities*, published in 2020. An earlier book, *The Garden Path: The Miseducation of a City*, examined the real-life tensions involved in post-Katrina education reform in New Orleans. Perry is a regular contributor to MSNBC and has been published by *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*, *TheRoot.com* and *CNN.com*. Perry's scholarship has been featured on HBO, ABC, CNN, PBS, National Public Radio, NBC and in the *Wall Street Journal*.



Shawn Stokes
Board Member

Shawn serves as the Director for the Office of Human Resources Management in Prince George's County, Maryland, leading all aspects and functions of human resources, engaging and developing the workforce, and serving as a senior advisor to the senior leadership on personnel matters. Shawn also served as the Director for Montgomery County and the District of Columbia Government's Human Resources departments. Shawn earned a bachelor's degree in business from Delaware State University and a master's degree in engineering from Connecticut State University. She is the CEO and Founder of Women of Art (WOA), established to create a safe place for women to introduce, express and educate all people about art.

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Photo credit: Ken Hipkins



David Whettstone
Board Member

David Whettstone is a public policy advocate and writer with decades of national and local experience regarding such issues as civil rights and criminal justice. Presently, he serves as the host and producer of the news magazine, *We the People*, on WPFW FM (Pacifica Foundation-Washington, DC). David also has worked in several publishing and media capacities in support of writers. He is particularly interested in the presence of writers of color in the genres of historical writing, memoirs, mysteries, and speculative fiction.



Eva Greene Wilson
Board Member

Eva Greene Wilson is an author, illustrator, IT evangelist, experienced community builder, creator of the award-winning Caribbean parenting website SocaMom.com, and the founder of the SocaMom® Summit. Eva excels at combining traditional methods of connection with innovative technology to create and foster communities. At the height of the coronavirus pandemic, The SocaMom Summit brought together more than 70 speakers, including educators, filmmakers, medical experts, and authors representing over 20 countries, to educate and inspire the Caribbean diaspora. She also co-founded an IT strategy firm in Washington, DC., where she served as creative director for eight years. Eva earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law and her bachelor's degree in marketing from North Carolina A&T State University. Eva and her husband have three children and live in Chicago.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD



Malaika Adero



Marie Brown



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Monique Greenwood



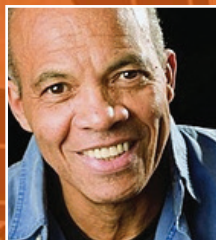
Lucy Hurston



Terry McMillan



E. Ethelbert Miller



John Edgar Wideman



Dana Williams



Elsie Williams

Photo credit: Don Baker

OUR STAFF



Interim Executive Director

Neil Stanley Henriques is an attorney with experience advising nonprofits and companies on organizational development, strategic, planning, and change management. Over the past 20 years, he has served in a variety of senior leadership and executive

management positions including Director, General Counsel, and Chief of Staff of nonprofit organizations and public sector agencies. Neil earned his LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, a J.D. from the University of Florida, and a B.A. in economics from Wake Forest University. He is an avid reader and supporter of the arts.



Communications Director

Jen Mathy is a marketing communications specialist with brand strategy, social media, advertising, sponsorship, and special event planning experience. She was VP of advertising and brand management for Morgan Stanley,

brand manager for Discover Card, and in university relations for Northwestern University. Jen led a museum feasibility study for the Maurice Sendak Foundation and chaired the Parents Action for Community Education, a nonprofit that funds the building of schools in rural Cambodia and awards scholarships to students in squatter areas of The Philippines. She has an MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College. She has written stories for *The Chicago Tribune* and WGN-TV, among others, and wrote the poetry and prose for *An Expat Journey in Singapore*, a book of photography about the island nation.



Program Director

Melanie S. Hatter is an award-winning author of two novels and one short story collection. Her most recent novel, *Malawi's Sisters*, was selected by Edwidge Danticat as the winner of the inaugural Kimbilio National Fiction Prize and was published by Four Way Books

in 2019. Her debut novel, *The Color of My Soul*, won the 2011 Washington Writers' Publishing House Fiction Prize, and *Let No One Weep for Me, Stories of Love and Loss* was released in 2015. Melanie received a 2019 Maryland State Arts Council grant for her writing. She is a participating author with the PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program and a former board member for the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation.



Research and Evaluation Manager

Kim Williams-Pulfer, PhD, is the American Council of Learned Societies Leading Edge Fellow at the Hurston/Wright Foundation. She holds a BA in Psychology from Taylor University, an MA in English from

Butler University, a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and a PhD in Philanthropic Studies with a minor in Caribbean Studies from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Her research and community engagement interests include philanthropy and social change in historically underrepresented communities, civil society in the Caribbean and the Global South, and African Diasporic community development through the arts and cultural heritage.



Communications Director (Outgoing)

Jessika Davidson is a cause-driven professional with over 9 years of experience in Marketing and Programming over a wide range of issue areas including LGBTQ+ equality, civic engagement, and arts and culture

at the local and national levels. She has led comprehensive marketing projects with the Mid America Arts Alliance, Pantsuit Nation, National March for Science, The Houston Museum for African American Culture, The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, FotoFest, Freedmen's Town Conservancy, and the Environmental Defense Fund. She has been featured in *The Atlantic*, published in *Town and Country Magazine* and in 2017, she was awarded the Burroughs/Wright fellowship by the Association of African American Museums for her digital engagement work. She is currently enrolled in the Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania.

“ Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me. ”

—Zora Neale Hurston



Marita Golden and Clyde McElvene

In 1990, as a new generation of writers sought to influence the discourse about Black life, author Marita Golden and bibliophile Clyde McElvene came together to create the Zora Neale Hurston / Richard Wright Foundation. Marita and Clyde believed Black writers required increased opportunities, mentorship, recognition, space, and community if they were to thrive within the literary culture – and they knew few diverse voices were represented inside the publishing industry. They set out to change that reality.

Emerging writers, standing on the shoulders of writers from the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement, saw a horizon filled with new meditations on the Black experience. Marita and Clyde saw the horizon, too, and wanted to provide a platform that would usher in and respond to a new and expanded Black literary canon.

From that profound realization, the Foundation began with \$750 donated by Marita to fund an award to college writers. Soon, writing workshops, public readings, and the Legacy Awards followed. In 2020, we invested in our literary community once again with the Crossover Award.

Thanks to the foresight and activism of our founders, Hurston/Wright has created a global community for Black writers and connected those writers to countless readers

Since the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation was founded in 1990:

- **359 books have been recognized with Legacy Award nominations**
- **96 students have been honored with College Writing Awards**
- **34 college-award recipients have published books**
- **1,000-plus writers have participated in Hurston/Wright workshops and classes**
- **2,000-plus readers have attended Hurston/Wright public readings**
- **2 nonfiction writers have received the Crossover Award**

OUR NAMESAKES:

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

RICHARD WRIGHT



Photo credit: Carl Van Vechten



Photo credit: Associated Press

The Hurston/Wright Foundation was named after Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright, two African American literary geniuses who displayed enormous talent, remarkable drive, and rare intellectual prowess.

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960): Novelist, anthropologist, folklorist, journalist and playwright, Hurston was a luminary of the Harlem Renaissance whose work captured the voices of Southern African Americans. She grew up in the all-black town of Eatonville, Florida, became a literary star in New York City and then disappeared from the scene in the late 1940s, a victim of changing tastes toward African American literature. Her masterpiece, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, was out of print for nearly 40 years before being reissued in 1978. Now, it is a perennial best seller that has been called one of the finest American novels ever written. With that book, as well as *Jonah's Gourd Vine*, *Mules and Men*, and *Dust Tracks on a Road*, Hurston has found a loyal and loving audience among contemporary readers. New projects continue and interest in her remains strong as ever. Hurston's nonfiction book, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo* (2018), and her collection of early stories, *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick* (2020), were released posthumously to critical acclaim and became *New York Times* bestsellers. A new collection of essays, *You Don't Know Us Negroes*, is forthcoming in early 2022.

Richard Wright (1908-1960): Novelist, journalist, short-story writer, political essayist, Wright was a witness to and participant in most of the major political and philosophical movements of the 20th Century, from Communism to Pan Africanism. Born near Roxie, Mississippi, Wright fled the segregated South for Chicago and then moved to New York, where his literary career began to soar. *Native Son*, published in 1940, became an international best seller. *Native Son*, alongside *Black Boy*, *Uncle Tom's Children* and *The Outsider*, earned Wright an important place in literary history. His disillusionment with America, however, prompted him to find a home in Paris. He died there in 1960. His books gained new readers and renewed critical acclaim in the late sixties and have since become a staple in the literary canon and on reading lists. *The Man Who Lived Underground*, a novel about an innocent Black man forced to confess to the murder of a white couple, was released posthumously in 2021 and became a *New York Times* and Indiebound bestseller.

The narratives of these two writers, springing from Black folk traditions and modernist impulses, provide a holistic and complete vision of Black life.

2021 LEGACY AWARDS CEREMONY

11

Master of Ceremonies: **Nikole Hannah-Jones**

Musical Selection: **Jason C. Walker**

Welcome: **Audrey Hipkins**

The Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers
(Presented by Marita Golden)

College Fiction Winner: **Erica Frederick**

College Poetry Winner: **monét cooper**

The Crossover Award Winner: **Prince Shakur**
(Presented by Raina Kelley)

Madam C.J. Walker Award Winner:
Calabash International Literary Festival
(Presented by Chris Abani)

Ella Baker Award Winner: **Ibram X. Kendi**
(Presented by Nafissa Thompson-Spires)

North Star Award Winner: **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**
(Presented by Tiphany Yanique)

Food and Heritage: **Chef Kathleen O'Brien-Price**

Legacy Award for Poetry: *(Presented by Safiya Sinclair)*

Legacy Award for Nonfiction: *(Presented by A'Lelia Bundles)*

Musical Selection: **Jason C. Walker**

Legacy Award for Fiction: *(Presented by Laila Lalami)*

Legacy Award for Debut Fiction: *(Presented by JJ Amaworo Wilson)*

Closing Remarks: **Audrey Hipkins**

LEGACY

COLLEGE AND CROSSOVER AWARD WINNERS

The Hurston/Wright Foundation honors excellence in writing by Black college students with The Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers. The award, sponsored by Amistad books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, is presented in the categories of Fiction and Poetry. The Hurston/Wright Crossover Award, sponsored by ESPN's The Undefeated, honors probing, provocative, and original new voices in literary nonfiction. The award highlights an unconventional winner who writes across genres and can effectively crossover between writing styles and techniques.



The Recipient of the 2021
Award for Fiction:

ERICA FREDERICK

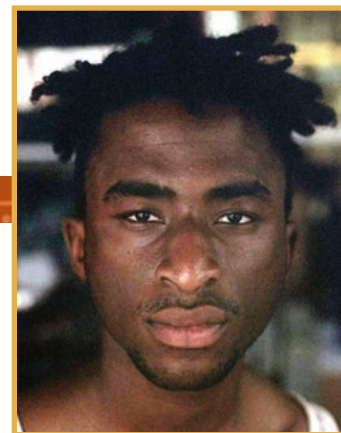
Erica Frederick is a queer, Haitian-American writer and an MFA candidate in fiction at Syracuse University. She writes about being brought up by immigrants, brought up in brotherhood, brought up while being big in all the ways there are to be big—in body, in vitriol, in Blackness in Florida suburbia. She is an alum of the Hurston/Wright Foundation's Summer Writers Week and the 2019 VIDA Fellow for the Chautauqua Writers' Festival. She's a child of the internet and ran a quasi-successful fan blog in her teens.



The Recipient of the 2021
Award for Poetry:

MONÉT COOPER

monét cooper is a black, queer poet from the South, currently residing in the Midwest where she's a doctoral student in the Joint Program in English and Education at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining the academy, she spent 11 years serving students and families in middle and high school English classrooms in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. A Georgia Peach from Decatur, she enjoys naps and eating German chocolate cake and misses live theater, museums, porch sits, and hugging her people back home. monét has work forthcoming in *This House Will Not Dismantle Itself: Critical Future in Education*.



The Recipient of the 2021
Crossover Award:

PRINCE SHAKUR

Prince Shakur is a queer, Jamaican-American freelance journalist, cultural writer, organizer, and traveler. He helped bring the Black Lives Matter movement to Ohio University's campus in 2014-2015, and organized a rally that pressured the university to oust the president. His writings on queer culture, black iconography in culture and social movements, and the impacts of policing on black communities have been featured in publications such as *Teen Vogue*, *VICE*, and *Daily Dot*. He is a local Columbus organizer and abolitionist involved with BQIC. In 2017, he was awarded the Rising Star Grant from GLAAD for his YouTube series, *Two Woke Minds*. He has been an artist in residence with Sangam House, La Maison Baldwin, Studios of Key West, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Norton Island Residency. He is the host of *The Creative Hour* podcast on Verge FM.

“Men can starve from a lack of self-realization as much as they can from a lack of bread.”

—Richard Wright, *Native Son*



North Star Award

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is the author of award-winning and best-selling novels, including *Americanah* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*; the short story collection *The Thing Around Your Neck*; and the essays “We Should All Be Feminists” and “Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions.” A recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, she divides her time between the United States and Nigeria.

The North Star Award pays homage to the significance of the North Star for enslaved Africans, who looked to it as a guide to freedom. The recipients of the award are individuals whose writing and/or service to the writing community serves as a beacon of brilliant accomplishment and as an inspiration to others.

Ella Baker Award

IBRAM X. KENDI

Ibram X. Kendi is one of America’s foremost historians and leading antiracist scholars. He is a National Book Award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books. Dr. Kendi is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and the Founding Director of the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research. He is also the 2020-2021 Frances B. Cashin Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for the Advanced Study at Harvard University. In 2021, he was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant.” Dr. Kendi is a contributing writer at *The Atlantic* and a CBS News Racial Justice Contributor. He is the host of *Be Antiracist with Ibram X. Kendi*, a new podcast he launched in June 2021 with Pushkin Industries and iHeartMedia. In 2020, *Time Magazine* named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

The Ella Baker Award, named for the heroic civil rights activist, recognizes writers and arts activists for exceptional work that advances social justice.

Madam C.J. Walker Award

CALABASH INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Calabash International Literary Festival was founded in 2001 by novelist Colin Channer with the support of two friends, the poet Kwame Dawes and the producer Justine Henzell. Their aim was simple—to create a world-class literary festival with roots in Jamaica and branches reaching out into the wider world. A three-day festival of readings and music with other forms of storytelling folded in the mix, Calabash is earthy, inspirational, daring and diverse.

The Madam C.J. Walker Award recognizes exceptional innovation in supporting and sustaining Black literature.

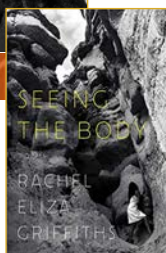


TOMMYE BLOUNT

Fantasia for the Man in Blue

Four Way Books

A Cave Canem alumnus, Tommye Blount is the author of *Fantasia for the Man in Blue* (Four Way Books, 2020), a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award, Kate Tufts Discovery Award, Publishing Triangle Thom Gunn Award, Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry, and Julie Suk Award, and *What Are We Not For* (Bull City Press, 2016). A graduate from Warren Wilson College's MFA Program for Writers, he has been the recipient of scholarships and fellowships from Kresge Arts in Detroit and Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Born and raised in Detroit, Blount now lives in the nearby suburb of Novi, Michigan.



RACHEL ELIZA GRIFFITHS

Seeing the Body

W.W. Norton & Company

Born in Washington, D.C., Rachel Eliza Griffiths is a poet, photographer, and novelist. Her hybrid collection of poetry and photography, *Seeing the Body* (W.W. Norton), was selected as the winner of the 2021 Paterson Poetry Prize and nominated for a 2021 NAACP Image Award. Griffiths's visual and literary work has appeared widely, including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Paris Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Best American Poetry* (2020 and 2021), *Mosaic Magazine*, *Guernica*, *The L Word: Generation Q*, *BOMB Magazine*, and many others. She is a recipient of fellowships including Cave Canem Foundation, Kimbilio, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and Yaddo. Her debut novel, *Promise*, is forthcoming from Random House. She lives in New York City.



ERICA HUNT

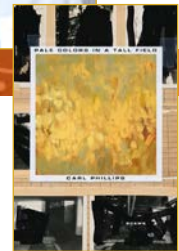
Jump the Clock: New and Selected Poems

Nightboat Books

Erica Hunt is a poet and essayist, author of *Jump the Clock: New and Selected Poems*, *Local History*, *Arcade*, *Piece Logic*, and *Veronica: A Suite in X Parts*. Her poems and essays have appeared in *BOMB*, *Boundary 2*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Poetics Journal*, *Tripwire*, *Recluse*, *In the American Tree*, and *Conjunctions*. With Dawn Lundy Martin, Hunt is the editor of an anthology of new writing by Black women, *Letters to the Future*. Hunt has received awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Art, the Fund for Poetry, and the Djerassi Foundation and is a past fellow of Duke University/University of Capetown Program in Public Policy. She teaches at Brown University.



Photo credit: Marcus Jackson



JOHN MURILLO

Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry

Four Way Books

John Murillo is the author of the poetry collections *Up Jump the Boogie* (Cypher 2010, Four Way Books 2020), finalist for both the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the Pen Open Book Award, and *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry* (Four Way 2020), winner of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the Poetry Society of Virginia's North American Book Award, and finalist for the PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry and the NAACP Image Award. His other honors include the Four Quartets Prize from the T.S. Eliot Foundation and the Poetry Society of America, two Larry Neal Writers Awards, a pair of Pushcart Prizes, the J Howard and Barbara MJ Wood Prize from the Poetry Foundation, an NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Cave Canem Foundation, and the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. Recent poems have appeared in such publications as *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and *Best American Poetry* 2017, 2019, and 2020. He is an assistant professor of English and director of the creative writing program at Wesleyan University and also teaches in the low residency MFA program at Sierra Nevada University.

KIKI PETROSINO

White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia

Sarabande

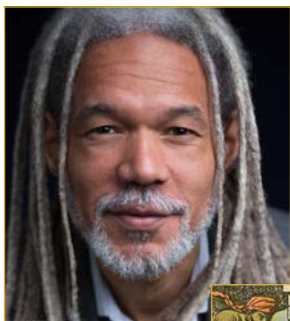
Kiki Petrosino is the author of *White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia* (2020) and three other poetry books. She holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Best American Poetry*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *FENCE*, *Gulf Coast*, *jubilat*, *Tin House* and on-line at *Ploughshares*. She directs the Creative Writing Program at the University of Virginia, where she is a Professor of Poetry. Petrosino is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Fellowship in Creative Writing from the National Endowment for the Arts, an AI Smith Fellowship Award from the Kentucky Arts Council, and the UNT Rilke Prize.

CARL PHILLIPS

Pale Colors in a Tall Field

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Carl Phillips is the author of 16 books of poetry, most recently *Then the War: And Selected Poems 2007-2020* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, and Carcanet/UK, 2022) and *Wild Is the Wind* (FSG, 2018), which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Other honors include the 2021 Jackson Prize, the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry, the Kingsley Tufts Award, a Lambda Literary Award, the PEN/USA Award for Poetry, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Library of Congress, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Academy of American Poets. Phillips has also written three prose books, most recently *My Trade Is Mystery: Seven Meditations from a Life in Writing* (Yale University Press, 2022); and he has translated the *Philoctetes* of Sophocles (Oxford University Press, 2004). He teaches at Washington University in St. Louis.

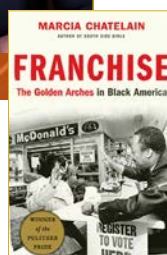


VINCENT BROWN

Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War

Belknap / Harvard University Press

Vincent Brown is the Charles Warren Professor of American History and Professor of African and African-American Studies at Harvard University, and is the co-founder of Timestamp Media. His first book, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (2008), was co-winner of the 2009 Merle Curti Award and received the 2009 James A. Rawley Prize and the 2008-09 Louis Gottschalk Prize. His most recent book is *Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* (2020).

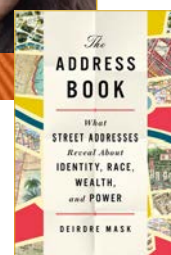


MARCIA CHATELAIN

Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America

Liveright

Marcia Chatelain is a Professor of History and African American Studies at Georgetown University. The author of *South Side Girls: Growing up in the Great Migration* (2015) she teaches about women's and girls' history, as well as black capitalism. Her latest book, *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* (2020) examines the intricate relationship among African American politicians, civil rights organizations, communities, and the fast food industry. In 2021, Chatelain received the Pulitzer Prize in History, the Hagley Prize in Business History, and the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Lawrence W. Levine Award for *Franchise*.



DEIRDRE MASK

The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power

Profile Books Ltd / Griffin

Deirdre Mask graduated from Harvard College summa cum laude, and attended University of Oxford before returning to Harvard for law school, where she was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She completed a master's in writing at the National University of Ireland. The author of *The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power*. Deirdre's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Guardian*. Originally from North Carolina, she has taught at Harvard and the London School of Economics. She lives with her husband and daughters in London.

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. It is a seeking that he who wishes may know the cosmic secrets of the world and they that dwell therein.”

—Zora Neale Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road*

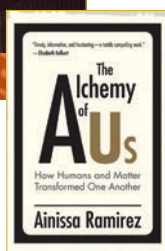
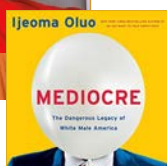
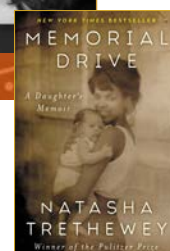


Photo credit: Nancy Crampton



IJEOMA OLUO

Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America

Seal Press

Ijeoma Oluo (ee-joh-mah oh-loo-oh) is a writer, speaker and internet yeller. She is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *So You Want to Talk About Race* and most recently, *Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America*. Her work on race has been featured in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among many other publications. She was named to the 2021 *TIME* 100 Next list and has twice been named to the Root 100. She received the 2018 Feminist Humanist Award and the 2020 Harvard Humanist of the Year Award from the American Humanist Association. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

AINISSA RAMIREZ

The Alchemy of Us: How Humans and Matter Transformed One Another

MIT Press

Ainissa Ramirez, PhD, is an award-winning scientist and science communicator, who is the author of *The Alchemy of Us* (The MIT Press). A graduate of Brown University, she earned her doctorate in materials science and engineering from Stanford. Dr. Ramirez began her career as a scientist at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, NJ, and was later an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Yale. She has written for *Forbes*, *Time*, *The Atlantic*, *Scientific American*, and *Science* and has explained science headlines on CBS, CNN, NPR, and PBS. Dr. Ramirez is dedicated to making science understandable to the general public. She speaks widely to audiences of all ages and is currently writing a series of science children's books. (www.ainissaramirez.com)

NATASHA TRETHEWEY

Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir

Ecco Books

NATASHA TRETHEWEY is a former US poet laureate and the author of five collections of poetry as well as a book of creative nonfiction. She is currently Board of Trustees Professor of English at Northwestern University. In 2007, she won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection *Native Guard*.

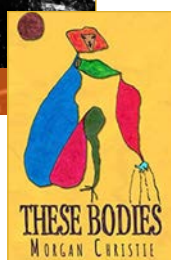
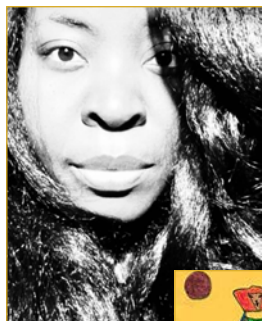
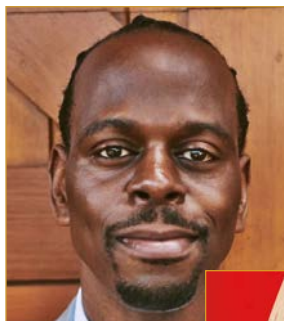


Photo credit: Le Image Photography



MORGAN CHRISTIE

These Bodies

Tolsun Books

Morgan Christie's work has appeared in various literary magazines and anthologies, and has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes. Her first poetry chapbook *Variations on a Lobster's Tale* was the winner of the 2017 Alexander Posey Chapbook Prize (University of Central Oklahoma Press) and her second poetry chapbook *Sterling* was released by CW Books. Her first full-length short story manuscript *These Bodies* was published by Tolsun Books (2020) and was featured in Poets & Writers, BuzzFeed News, Foreword Reviews and elsewhere, and is now nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in fiction. Her most recent poetry chapbook *when they come* was released by Black Sunflowers Press (2021) and is featured in the Forward Arts Foundation's National Poetry Day exhibit. She is currently a PhD in English candidate and SREB fellow at the University of Louisiana.

P. DJÈLÍ CLARK

Ring Shout

West Virginia University Press

P. Djèlí Clark is the author of the novellas *Ring Shout*; *The Black God's Drums*, winner of 2019 Alex Award from the American Library Association; *The Haunting of Tram Car 015*; and *A Dead Djinn in Cairo*. His short story "The Secret Lives of the Nine Negro Teeth of George Washington" (Fireside Fiction) has earned him both a Nebula and Locus award. Born in New York and raised mostly in Houston, Clark spent the formative years of his life in the homeland of his parents, Trinidad and Tobago. He currently resides in New England and ruminates on issues of diversity in speculative fiction.

PERCIVAL EVERETT

Telephone

Graywolf Press

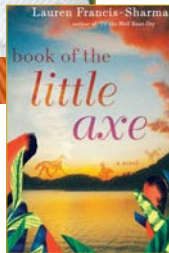
Percival Everett is Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California and the author of over thirty books, including *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*, *Erasure*, and *Telephone*, which was shortlisted for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in fiction.

"I would hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo, and if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would send other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws in us all, to keep alive in our hearts a sense of the inexpressibly human."

— Richard Wright, *Black Boy*



o credit: Anna Carson DeWitt

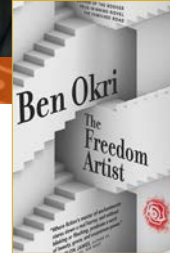


LAUREN FRANCIS-SHARMA

Book of the Little Axe

Atlantic Monthly Press

Lauren Francis-Sharma is also the author of the critically acclaimed novel *'Til the Well Runs Dry*, a Black Caucus of the American Library Association honoree, and shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize. She resides near Washington, DC, with her husband and two children, and is the Assistant Director of Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College.

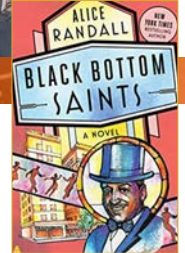


BEN OKRI

The Freedom Artist

Akashic Books

Ben Okri is a poet, playwright and novelist. He has published eleven novels, five books of short stories, four volumes of poems, and two collections of essays. His books include *The Famished Road*, which won the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1991. His other novels include *The Age of Magic*, *Dangerous Love*, and *Astonishing The Gods*, selected as one of the BBC's "100 novels that shaped our world." His most recent books are *The Freedom Artist* and a volume of short stories, *Prayer for the Living*. His latest book of poems, *A Fire in my Head*, was published in January 2021.



ALICE RANDALL

Black Bottom Saints

Amistad Books

Alice Randall is the author of five novels: *The Wind Done Gone*; *Pushkin and the Queen of Spades*; *Rebel Yell*; *Ada's Rules*; and *Black Bottom Saints*. Randall was the first black woman to pen a #1 country hit as co-writer of "XXX's and OOO's" which celebrates Aretha Franklin. With her daughter, Caroline Randall Williams, she co-authored the iconic cookbook *Soul Food Love* which won the NAACP Image Award and the young adult novel, *B.B. Bright, Possible Princess*, which received the Phillis Wheatley award. A Professor and Writer-in-Residence at Vanderbilt University in the Department of African American studies, she holds an honorary doctorate from Fisk University and a BA from Harvard. A native of Detroit, MI, she resides in Nashville, TN.

LEGACY

LEGACY AWARD DEBUT FICTION NOMINEES

photo credit: Carole Cassier



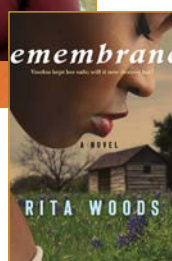
TOLA ROTIMI ABRAHAM

Black Sunday

Catapult

Tola Rotimi Abraham is a writer from Lagos, Nigeria. She lives in Iowa City and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in journalism. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she has taught writing at the University of Iowa. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Catapult*, *The Des Moines Register*, *The Nigerian Literary Magazine*, and other places.

photo credit: Linda L. Phelps

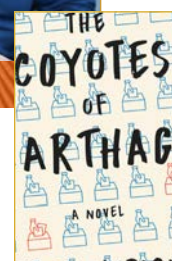


RITA WOODS

Remembrance

Forge Books

Rita Woods is a family doctor and the director of a wellness center. When she's not busy working or writing. Dr. Woods spends time with her family or at the Homer Glen library where she served on the board for ten years. *Remembrance* was her debut novel. Her next book, *The Last Dreamwalker*, is coming in Fall 2022. Visit her online at <https://ritawoodswrites.com/> or follow her on Twitter @RitaWoodsAuthor.



STEVEN WRIGHT

The Coyotes of Carthage

Ecco Books

Steven Wright is a clinical associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, where he co-directs the Wisconsin Innocence Project. From 2007 to 2012 he served as a trial attorney in the Voting Section of the United States Department of Justice. He has written numerous essays about race, criminal justice, and election law for the New York Review of Books.

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”

— Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

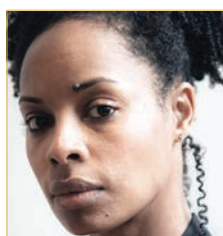
Zora Neale Hurston wrote *Their Eyes Were Watching God* while in Haiti. She travelled to the island on a trip funded by a Guggenheim fellowship to study folk and religious culture in the West Indies.

COLLEGE FICTION



Camille Acker is the author of the short story collection, *Training School for Negro Girls*. She co-edited *Dismantle: An Anthology from the VONA/ Voices Workshop*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Publishers Weekly*, *LitHub*, *VICE*, and *DAME Magazine*, among others. She holds a BA in English from Howard University and an MFA in Creative Writing from New Mexico State University.

COLLEGE POETRY



Nicole Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast*, finalist for the PEN Open Book and a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her honors include

a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from The American Poetry Review, and a Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem, the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Poetry* 2018 and 2021, *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. She is a visiting professor at Boston University and teaches in the low-residency MFA Writers Workshop in Paris program at New York University.

THE CROSSOVER AWARD



Morgan Jerkins is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America*, which was longlisted for a PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award, and *Wandering In Strange*

Lands: A Daughter of the Great Migration Reclaims Her Roots. Her third book, *Caul Baby: A Novel*, was released by Harper Books in April 2021. She holds a BA in Comparative Literature from Princeton University and an MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College.

POETRY



Chanda Feldman is the author of *Approaching the Fields*, which was nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals including *Cincinnati Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Poetry*, and *The Southern Review*. She has

received awards and fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Cave Canem Foundation, Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, the National Endowment for the Arts, and she was a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Oberlin College.



Donika Kelly is the author of *The Renunciations* and *Bestiary*. *Bestiary* is the winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* online, *The Paris Review*, *Foglifter* and elsewhere.



Asiya Wadud is the author of *Crosslight for Youngbird, day pulls down the sky/ a filament in gold leaf* (written with Okwui Okpokwasili), *Syncope*, and *No Knowledge Is Complete Until It Passes Through My Body*. *Crosslight for Youngbird* and *Syncope* were both finalists for the

Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her recent writing appears in *e-flux journal*, *BOMB Magazine*, *Poem-a-Day*, *Chicago Review*, *Social Text*, *FENCE*, and elsewhere.

NONFICTION

Dr. Brittney Cooper is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University. She is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her*

Superpower, a finalist for the 2019 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. She is also author of the award-winning *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women* and co-editor of *The Crunk Feminist Collection*. Named multiple times to *The Root* 100's annual list of Black influencers, she is also a graduate of Howard University.



C.J. Farley is the author of five novels, *Game World*, *My Favorite War*, *Kingston by Starlight*, *Around Harvard Square*, and *Zero O'Clock*, and a number of nonfiction books including *Before the Legend: The Rise of Bob Marley*, which was

nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the national bestseller *Aaliyah: More than a Woman*, which was adapted into a hit movie for Lifetime television. Farley co-wrote and co-edited the book *The Blues* (Harper Collins), the companion volume to Martin Scorsese's PBS documentary series. Farley's short fiction has been featured in a number of anthologies including *The Vintage Book of War Fiction* and *Kingston Noir*. A graduate of Harvard, he has won a number of awards including an NAACP Image Award in 2020.



Ron Stodghill is an award-winning journalist who has worked for *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Business Week*, and *Savoy*. Stodghill has authored several books, including *Redbone: Money, Malice and Murder in*

Atlanta and *Where Everybody Looks Like Me: At the Crossroads of America's Black Colleges and Culture*, which was nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. He co-authored former US Congressman Kweisi Mfume's bestselling memoir, *No Free Ride: From the Mean Streets to the Mainstream*. His freelance work has appeared in *Salon*, *Slate*, *Reader's Digest*, *Fortune*, *Essence*, and elsewhere.

FICTION

Clyde W. Ford is the award-winning author of 13 works of fiction and non-fiction, including *The Long Mile*, winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Other works include *We Can All Get Along: 50 Steps You Can Take to Help End Racism*, *The Hero with an African*

Face, *Boat Green*, *Hotel Angeline*, and *Think Black*, a memoir about his father, the first Black software engineer in America. His latest, *Of Blood and Sweat: Black Lives and the Making of White Power and Wealth* is due out in Spring 2022 from HarperCollins. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Mathematics from Wesleyan University.



Kim McLarin is the author of the memoir *Divorce Dog: Motherhood, Men, & Midlife*, the essay collection *Womanish: A Grown Black Woman Speaks on Life and Love*, and three novels, including *Jump at the Sun*, which was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her

most recent book is a bibliomemoir, *James Baldwin's Another Country: Bookmarked*. McLarin's nonfiction has appeared in *Glamour*, *The Washington Post*, *New England Review*, *The Sun Magazine* and many other publications. She is a former staff writer for *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Associated Press*. She is Professor of Creative Writing and Graduate Program Director of the MFA in Popular Fiction at Emerson College.



Dinaw Mengestu is the author of the novels *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* (2007), which won *The Guardian* First Book Award, the *Los Angeles Times* First Novel Award, and named a *New York Times* Notable Book, *How to Read the Air*, a *New*

York Times Notable Book and a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award nominee, and *All Our Names*. His nonfiction writing has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *Jane Magazine*, *Harper's*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere. Dinaw received the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 award, *The New Yorker's* 20 Under 40 award, and a 2012 MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant."

DEBUT FICTION



David Anthony Durham is the author of a trilogy of fantasy novels set in *Acacia: The Sacred Band*, *The Other Lands*, and *The War with The Mein*, as well as the historical novels *The Risen*, *Pride of Carthage*, *Walk Through Darkness*, and *Gabriel's Story*, winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. His

middle grade novel set in a fantastical ancient Egypt, *The Shadow Prince*, is the first in a series from Tu Books. His stories have appeared in four of George RR Martin's Wild Cards novels: *Fort Freak*, *Lowball*, *High Stakes*, *Texas Hold 'Em*, and another is forthcoming in *Pairing Up*. Other short fiction has been anthologized in *Unbound*, *Unfettered*, *Unfettered II*, *It's All Love*, and in *Gumbo: A Celebration of African American Writing*. He received the Hurston/Wright College Award for Fiction in 1992.



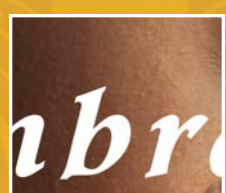
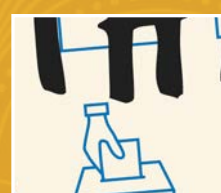
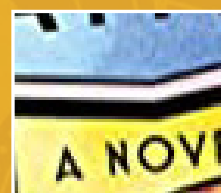
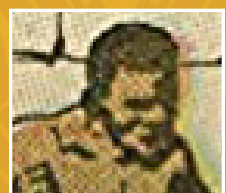
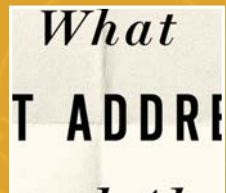
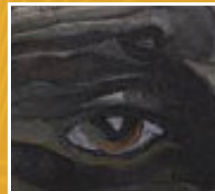
Dr. Amina Gautier is the author of three short story collections: *At-Risk*, *Now We Will Be Happy*, and *The Loss of All Lost Things*, which was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. More than 130 of her stories have been published in *Agni*, *Callaloo*, *Cincinnati*

Review, *Gulf Coast*, *Kenyon Review*, *Latino Book Review*, *Triquarterly*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of the Eric Hoffer Legacy Fiction Award, the Phillis Wheatley Book Award in Fiction, the International Latino Book Award, the Chicago Public Library Foundation's 21st Century Award, and the PEN/MALAMUD Award for Excellence in the Short Story. She is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Miami, where she is the 2021-2024 Gabelli Senior Scholar. She is currently on leave at The Bogliasco Foundation in Italy where she is the 2021 Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation Special Fellow.



Donna Hemans is the author of two novels: *Tea by the Sea* and *River Woman*, which was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *Slice*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Ms. Magazine* and *Electric Literature*,

among others. She received her undergraduate degree from Fordham University and an MFA from American University. She lives in Maryland and is the owner of DC Writers Room, a co-working studio for writers.





Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter covering racial injustice for *The New York Times Magazine* and creator of the landmark 1619 Project, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of the beginning of slavery and reframing the way we understand

this history and the contributions of black Americans to the nation. Nikole also has written extensively about school resegregation across the country and chronicled the decades-long failure of the federal government to enforce the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act. In 2016, Nikole Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization dedicated to increasing the ranks of investigative reporters of color. In 2021, Hannah-Jones joined the faculty of Howard University as the inaugural Knight Chair in Race and Journalism



Dr. Chris Abani is a novelist, poet, essayist, screenwriter and playwright. His fiction includes *The Secret History of Las Vegas*, *Song For Night*, *The Virgin of Flames*, *Becoming Abigail*, *GraceLand*, and *Masters of the Board*. His poetry collections are *Sanctificum*, *There*

Are No Names for Red, *Feed Me The Sun - Collected Long Poems*, *Hands Washing Water*, *Dog Woman*, *Daphne's Lot* and *Kalakuta Republic*. Abani is the recipient of the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, the Prince Claus Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a California Book Award, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, a PEN Beyond the Margins Award, the PEN Hemingway Book Prize and a Guggenheim Award. He is Board of Trustees Professor of English at Northwestern University.



A'Le'lia Bundles is the author of four biographies, including *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker*, a New York Times Notable Book and the non-fiction source for *Self Made*, the fictionalized four-part Netflix series starring Oscar-winner

Octavia Spencer. She is at work on her fifth book, *The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Le'lia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*, about her great-grandmother whose parties, arts patronage and travels helped define the era. She is a trustee of Columbia University and chair emerita of the National Archives Foundation. She founded the Madam Walker Family Archives and is on the advisory boards of the March on Washington Film Festival, the Schlesinger Library

on the History of Women in America at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute, and the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.



Marita Golden co-founded the Hurston/Wright Foundation in 1990 with Clyde McElvene. She is an acclaimed author of more than a dozen works of fiction and nonfiction. Her most recent novel, *The Wide Circumference of Love*, was a 2017 NAACP Image Award Nominee

and a 2017 NPR Best Book. It also has been optioned by Just A Rebel Productions for development as a television series. Her newest book, *The Strong Black Woman: How a Myth Endangers the Physical and Mental Health of Black Women*, was published October 12th. Marita's numerous awards for writing and literary activism include the Honor Award for her novel *After* from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the Writers for Writers Award presented by *Poets & Writers* and Barnes & Noble. She is a teacher of writing, having served as a member of the MFA faculties at George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University, as a member of the MA Writing Program at Johns Hopkins University, and as writer in residence at the University of the District of Columbia.



Raina Kelley is Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of The Undeclared, ESPN's multimedia content initiative exploring the intersections of sports, race and culture. Kelley's leadership helped The Undeclared earn awards and commendations for its work, including citations by the Associated

Press Sports Editors and several NABJ Salute to Excellence Awards for exemplary coverage of African American people and issues. Kelley served as deputy editor at *ESPN The Magazine* and as a writer for *Newsweek*. She has received several NY NABJ awards for her work on race and culture and was a 2010 Newswomen's Club of NY Front Page Award winner for her contribution to a *Newsweek.com* package entitled "The Beauty Advantage."



Laila Lalami is the author of four novels, including *The Moor's Account*, which won the American Book Award, the Arab-American Book Award, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. It was on the longlist for the Booker Prize and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. Her most recent

novel, *The Other Americans*, was a national bestseller and a

finalist for the Kirkus Prize and the National Book Award in Fiction. Her essays and criticism have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Times*. She has been awarded fellowships from the British Council, the Fulbright Program, and the Guggenheim Foundation and is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.



Kathleen O'Brien-Price is a Harlem based personal chef, virtual cooking instructor, and champion of the Food Network show *Chopped*. O'Brien-Price is the host of *Chefleen's Virtual Kitchen*, an online cooking class with public and private options where she teaches attendees virtually. She also hosts a live series called *Real Life Cooking* monthly on Instagram and Facebook. In 2020, O'Brien-Price organized Blackout the Park, an event to showcase Black businesses and Black joy, creating an alfresco dining experience in Seneca Village, the first place in New York City where the Black community owned property.



Safiya Sinclair was born and raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica. She is the author of *Cannibal*, winner of a Whiting Writers' Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award in Literature, and the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry. Sinclair's other honors include a Pushcart Prize, fellowships from the Poetry Foundation, the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, and the Elizabeth George Foundation. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. She is currently an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Arizona State University. Her memoir, *How to Say Babylon*, is forthcoming from Simon & Schuster.



Nafissa Thompson-Spires is the author of the story collection *Heads of the Colored People*, which won the 2019 PEN Open Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, the Hurston/Wright Award for Fiction, and a Whiting Award. It was also longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award and the Aspen Words Literary Prize, nominated for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, and was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Paris*

Review Daily, *Dissent*, *The Root*, *Buzzfeed Books*, *The White Review*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Quarterly Journal*, and other publications. She currently serves as the Richards Family Assistant Professor at Cornell University.



Jason Walker was a featured soloist and ensemble leader of two Robert Wilson and Bernice Johnson Reagon productions, *Temptations of Saint Anthony* and *Zinnias*. He also toured with Phillip Glass and Robert Wilson's *Einstein on the Beach*. Jason was the composer in the Bolton Theatre's adaptation of George C Wolfe's play *Spunk*. Jason's most recent performances include sharing the stage with Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Mick Jagger, Bono, Macy Gray, Toshi Reagon, and Angelique Kidjo.

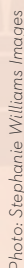


JJ Amaworo Wilson is the author of the novel *Damnificados*, which won the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction, the Independent Publishers Book Award, the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, the Prix Révélation de Traduction (French edition), and was on Oprah's Top 10 Books to Read Now list. His second novel is *Nazaré* will be released in November 2021 from PM Press. He is the writer-in-residence at Western New Mexico University. He also teaches in Stonecoast's MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine and is the co-chair of Southwest Word Fiesta.



Tiphany Yanique is the author of the poetry collection, *Wife*, which won the 2016 Bocas Prize in Caribbean poetry and the United Kingdom's 2016 Forward/Felix Dennis Prize for a First Collection. Her novel, *Land of Love and Drowning*, won the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Award from the Center for Fiction, the Phillis Wheatley Award for Pan-African Literature, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Family Foundation Award. She is the author of a collection of stories, *How to Escape from a Leper Colony*, which won her a listing as one of the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35. Her writing has been published in *The New York Times*, *Best African American Fiction*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *American Short Fiction* and other places. She is an associate professor at Emory University.

The Hurston/Wright Legacy Award™ honors the best in Black literature in the United States and around the globe. Introduced in 2002, the Legacy Award was the first national award presented to Black writers by a national organization of Black writers. Each fall, writers and publishers are invited to submit fiction, nonfiction and poetry books published that year. Legacy Award honorees from previous years serve as judges to select nominees, finalists and winners. Nominees, who are announced in June, are invited to participate in free public readings. The awards ceremony is held the third Friday in October.



The Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers recognizes excellence by Black college students in the categories of fiction and poetry. It was the first program created when the foundation was formed. Each year, undergraduate and graduate students submit unpublished work to be judged by award-winning authors. Amistad and HarperCollins Publishers sponsors the competition.

Multiple workshops serve writers working in the genres of nonfiction, fiction and poetry. Participants receive intensive instruction and feedback from acclaimed authors, journalists, agents and editors in weekend and week-long sessions. In master classes, award-winning authors discuss craft and sources of inspiration with writers in an interactive one-day seminar.

Photo: Stephanie Williams Images



Free public readings and programs in libraries and bookstores connect authors and fans of Black literature. Author Pages on www.hurstonwright.org are a resource for readers, book clubs, and others to discover Black writers.

In honor of the birthdays of Richard Wright on September 4, 1908 and Zora Neale Hurston on January 7, 1891, the Hurston/Wright Foundation hosts public readings, panel discussions and social media campaigns to recognize the achievements of these legendary writers.

The Writers' Circle

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To become a member of The Writers' Circle, please contact Audrey Hipkins, Chair, Board of Directors.



“Whenever my environment had failed to support or nourish me, I had clutched at books.”

— Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

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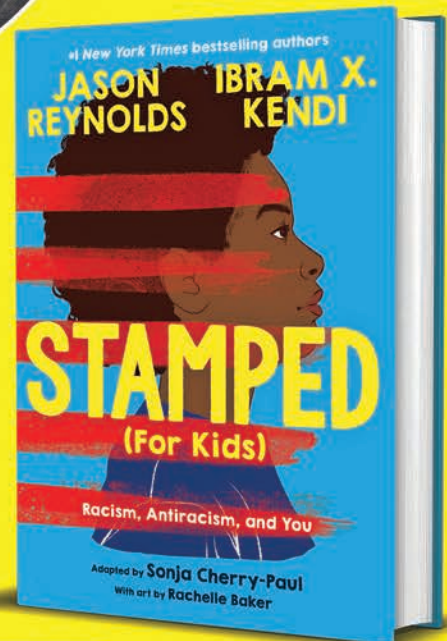
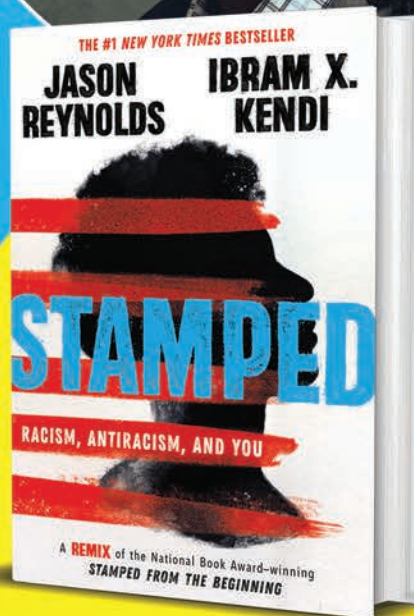
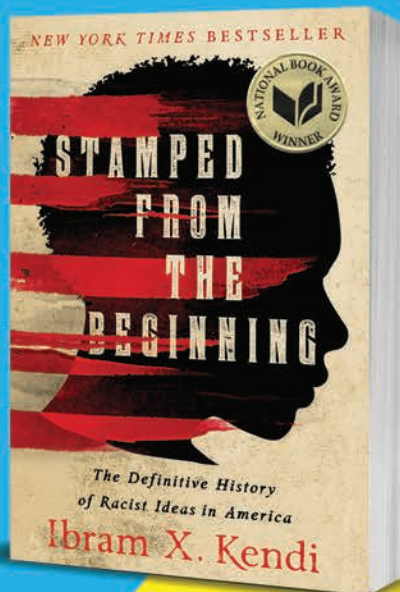
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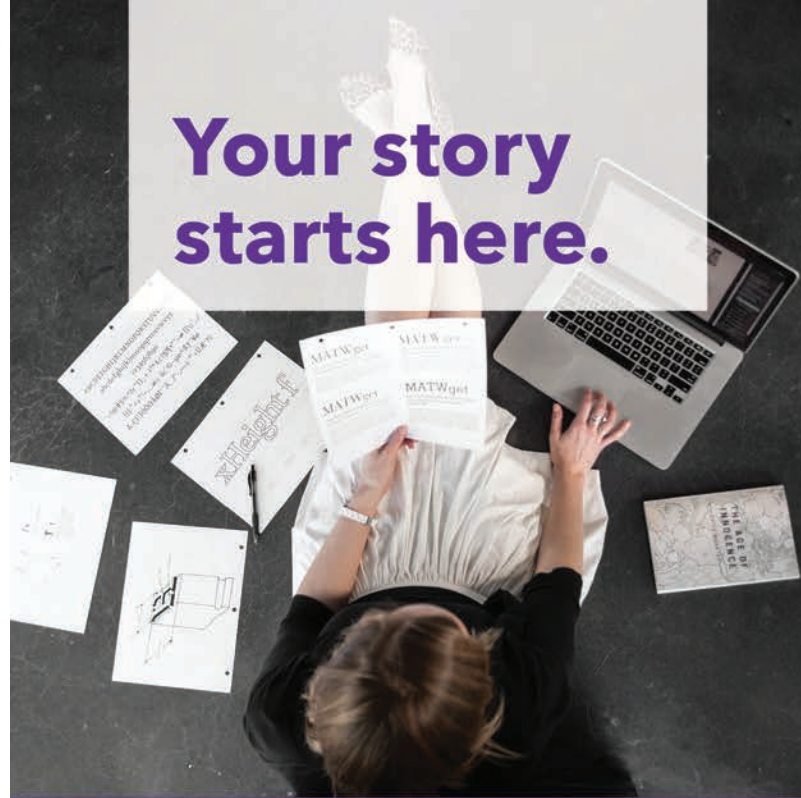
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CORN FRITTERS & CAJUN SHRIMP



Corncakes

- 3 cups corn kernels
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Optional for serving: scallions, tomatoes, romaine, parsley, sour cream

1. Stir together all dry ingredients and corn kernels.
2. Add in eggs and cream, stir to combine.
3. Heat 1/4 C oil on medium until very hot and shimmering.
4. For each cake use about 2-3 TB of mixture and spread to circular shape.
5. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side.
6. Drain on paper towels. Re-season with salt.

Cajun Shrimp

- 1 stick of butter
- 1/4 C Worcestershire sauce
- 4-6 garlic cloves, sliced, minced, or smashed
- 1 Tablespoon creole seasoning
- 1 t paprika
- 1 t sugar
- 1 lemon
- 1 lb shrimp

1. Combine butter, garlic, Worcestershire, sugar, and spices in a skillet on low heat.
2. Swirl to combine. Cook until mixture begins to slightly boil.
3. Add in shrimp and cook until just pink about 3-4 minutes. Stirring to make sure they are getting cooked evenly.
4. Taste and re-season.

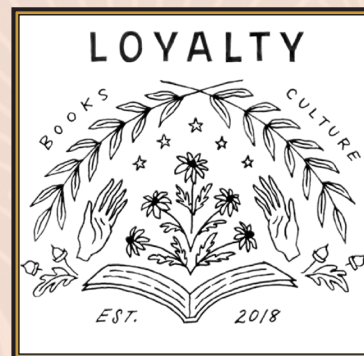


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