The Hurston/Wright Foundation’s Writer-in-Residence (WIR) Program aims to provide published Black writers with funding to focus on their writing craft and individual writing projects. This program strives to enable them to make meaningful impact on emerging Black writers and the community-at-large through workshops and community events.

This year, the Hurston/Wright WIR program provides a stipend of $15,000 to two writers who have demonstrated community impact with their work as writers and global citizens. Selected from a pool of two dozen applicants interested in teaching with Hurston/Wright, this year’s 2023 Writers-in-Residence—B. Sharise Moore and Imani Cezanne—were selected based on their record of community engagement as writers, works-in-progress, and published works.

“Amidst a national climate of book banning and the dismantling of multicultural education programs, this year’s selected writers are at the forefront of change as they share their literary talents,” says Hurston/Wright Foundation’s executive director, Khadijah Ali-Coleman.

Both Writers-in-Residence will enjoy opportunities to connect with other writers, share their craft with emerging writers as workshop instructors, present their published work with the surrounding community and find support through valuable mentorship opportunities. In its second year, the Hurston/Wright WIR Program builds a viable pipeline of Black writers through intentional peer-supported engagement, culturally competent mentorship, and financial support. This program is supported in part by Hachette Book Group and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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B. Sharise Moore is a multigenre author, curriculum designer, and Poetry Editor for *FIYAH Magazine of Black Speculative Fiction*. In 2020, she received the Sustainable Arts Foundation Award for YA Fiction and her poem, *Black Beak* was nominated for a 2022 Dwarf Star Award. In 2022, she edited *Conjuring Worlds: An Afrofuturist Textbook for Middle and High School Students*. Her forthcoming books include *Fangs, Feathers, and Folklore*, a field guide of African mythological creatures (Algonquin Young Readers, 2024) and *Fatimah’s Fantastic City*, a picture book from HarperCollins (2025). She lives in Baltimore, MD with her husband and son.

During her residency with the Hurston/Wright Foundation from February-June 2023, B. Sharise Moore will be working on building a database of children’s book and YA novels written by Black authors that center the experiences of people of African descent. She will debut the database this summer during a workshop she will lead during Hurston/Wright’s inaugural #ReadBlackBooks Summer Symposium for parents and educators.

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To have received a coveted residency from The Hurston/Wright Foundation, an organization named for Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright, is not only an honor, but a privilege I will always hold dear. During my tenure as a Writer-in-Residence, I will continue to hone my craft and produce vibrant stories that amplify our multifaceted experiences as Black people in this country. I cannot thank you enough for this honor.

The Hurston/Wright Foundation’s mission is to provide services, supports and opportunities that mentor, recognize and provide community for professional and aspiring Black writers. Workshops and classes taught by award-winning authors serve emerging and midcareer adult writers. More than a thousand Black writers have taken our classes since the first one in 1996, increasing diversity in the cultural community as they have gone on to create books and careers as professors, local cultural workers, and national thought leaders.

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Imani Cezanne is a Black writer, performer and educator based in Oakland, California. As a two-time Pushcart Nominee, Imani spends her time reading and teaching writing and performance to youth and adult writers within various schools, universities, and literary organizations. In March of 2020 she became Woman of the World Poetry Slam Champion for the second time and in July of the same year she was named a finalist for the Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship. Imani has work published in *POETRY, Nimrod,* and *Palette,* among others. While all are welcome to enjoy her work, Imani writes for Black people, especially Black women, and is committed to the liberation of all oppressed people.

During her residency period from July-November 2023, Imani Cezanne will teach a virtual poetry writing workshop during Hurston/Wright Foundation’s annual summer Writers Weekend. In addition, she will present a youth-specific event or activity yet to be determined.

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