



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

## Kitchen Table Literary Arts

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary _____	3
Organizational Highlights _____	3
Director’s Note _____	4
Financial Overview _____	5
Outreach and Programming Overview _____	6
Select 2018 - 2019 Programs _____	7
Board and Community highlights _____	8
New Board Member _____	8
Board Member Spotlight _____	8
Advisory Board _____	9
Community Member Spotlight _____	11
Organization Information _____	12

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Organizational Highlights

The 2018-2019 year presented additional opportunities to grow our visibility as a local arts agency. Our strategic partnerships, both new and sustained, made for a dynamic year of literary arts programming across the state of Florida, and our financial viability grows ever stronger as we broaden and diversify our revenue streams. We have expanded our capacity for tuition-based creative writing classes, started an official Kitchen Table Literary Arts online store, expanded our writing retreat, and engaged in successful local and national fundraising initiatives. In our community outreach and public programming, we continue our work with trusted community partners and build relationships with new organizations and businesses. Our outreach and programming took us north to Eatonville and south to Delray Beach. We enjoyed bringing back program favorites like *Sips and Stories*, *Book Club @The Woodson*, and our *#YearOf...* reading series and found success with new literary arts programs like *Book Reviews and Boba* and *Not Just Music*. All in all, we continue to meet our strategic goals as an organization and look ever forward to continuing the good work we have done in the community.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As an organization, we continue to offer innovative, high-quality literary arts programming and continuously challenge ourselves to deepen our community impact in ways that reflect our mission. Our workshops, classes, reading series, and other public programs illustrate our passion for supporting and showcasing the work of Black women and women of color writers. This passion is a driving force for us as we use the missteps and successes of 2018-2019 to guide our way forward.

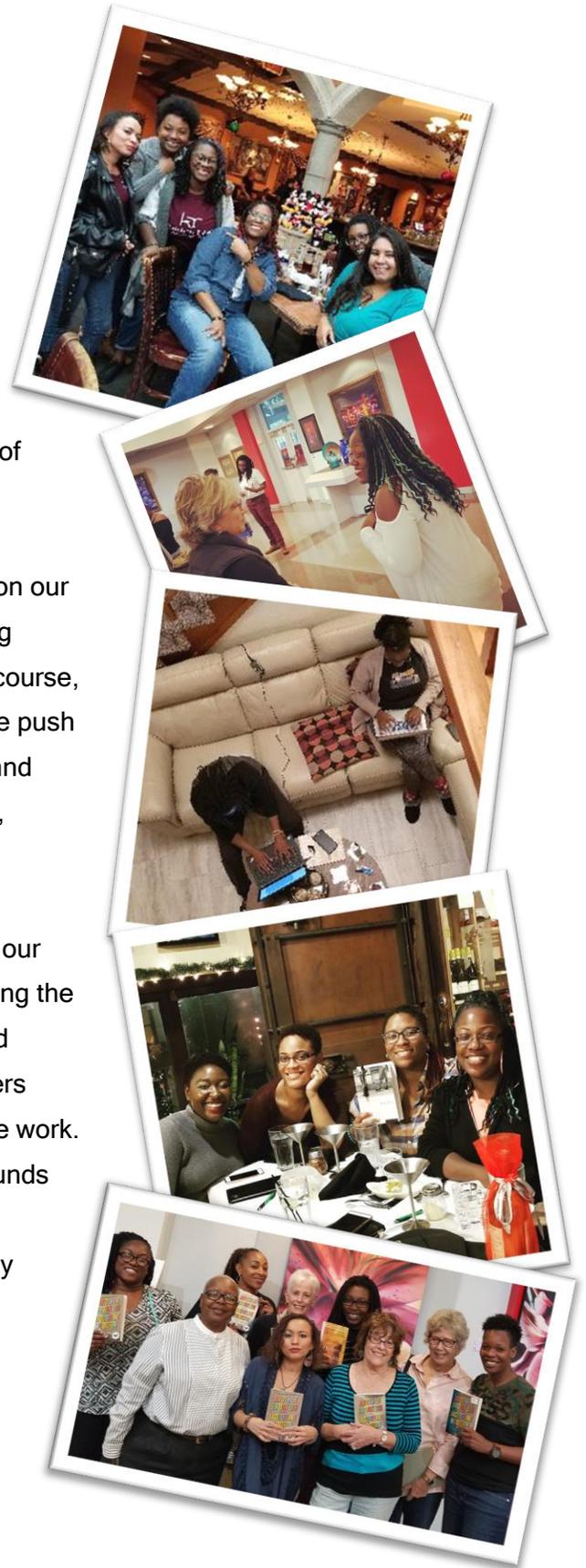
The missteps are opportunities to pivot, chances to reflect on our shortcomings and refocus on our strengths. We are a young organization with a growth mindset that serves us well. Of course, as we grow, we learn, but more importantly, as we grow, we push ourselves out of our comfort zone, all the while supported and encouraged by our enthusiastic board member association, experienced advisory board, and dedicated community.

The successes are also opportunities, chances to see how our work is bringing people together, how we are literally showing the community that **we write here**. Our classes, workshops, and retreats are helping Black women and women of color writers make progress on, complete, and publish their own creative work. Our reading series are bringing women of diverse backgrounds and experiences together to share their stories—their challenges and their joys—through conversations inspired by the literary work by Black women and women of color.

Each year, we come more and more into our own. Each year, we learn, we challenge, we grow stronger.

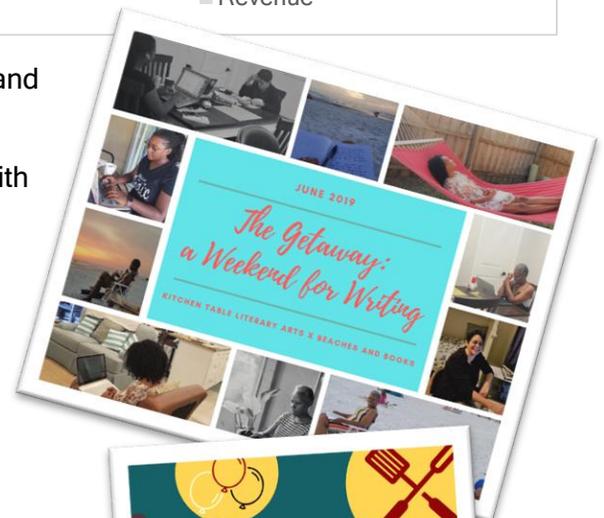
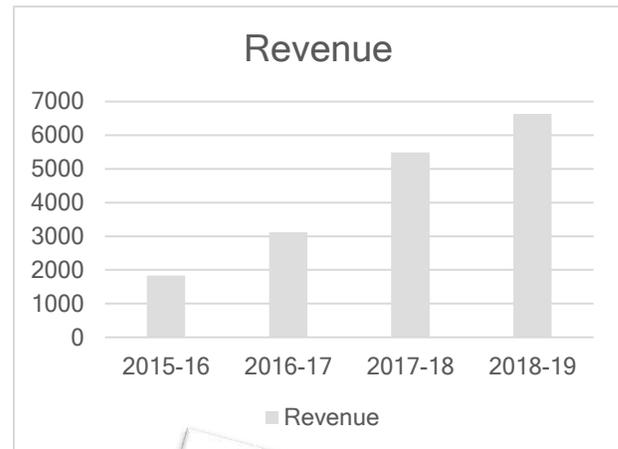
Each year, we are thankful.

*She'ree*



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As a young organization, we have so many aspirations of what we want this literary art center to look like and how we will sustain ourselves. Three years ago, we acknowledged that “Our focus for the next couple of years will be building a pipeline of revenue through expanded classes, more fundraising activities, and increased grant writing.” Since then, our revenue has grown on an average of fifty percent! We have offered more online classes, engaged in more local and national fundraising initiatives, and sought out more partnerships to sponsor and underwrite programs. Our most substantial partnership for this year, with *Beaches and Books*, made it possible to increase our writing retreats from yearly to quarterly. The opportunity quickly became one of our biggest revenue boosters.



We have significantly ramped up our fundraising activities. Our “4 on the 4<sup>th</sup>” campaign in 2018 and our *Birthday and Building Fund Barbeque* in 2019 provided specific and significant initiatives for small donor giving, which has been the backbone of our fundraising capacity. Our merchandise sales contribute to our financial bottom-line, as well as, offer a broader reach for name recognition. We continue to struggle with securing more consistent grant funding and continue to strategize on the best way to build relationships with grantmaking foundations and larger donors. However, we are up for the challenge. This year, we officially announced our **Kitchen Table Literary Arts Office and Co-Working Space Fund**. With a brick-and-mortar space, we will be able to increase the availability and variety of our programs and workshops, in addition to hosting literary arts events like author talks and book releases.

*“Specific and significant initiatives for small donor giving has been the backbone of our fundraising capacity.” - Jasmine Smith, Financial Director*

# OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

We continue to make strides as an organization committed to innovation, growth, and increased visibility for Black women and women of color writers and poets through our community programs and engagement. This year, we presented our second edition of our successful “Year of...” reading series, transitioning from our #YearofToniMorrison to an exciting #YearofMemoirs. We traveled to Historic Eatonville, Florida, twice—once for an writing workshop, *Ekphrastic Eatonville*, in partnership with the Eatonville Public Library and for the annual ZoraFest! celebration, where we hosted all-day youth workshops based on the Zora Neale Hurston piece, *What it Feels Like to be Colored Me*. In addition to our impactful youth workshops, we brought a little competitive spirit to the authors’ tent with an interactive game. Participants received a Kitchen Table Literary Arts swag bag, and we made genuine connections with writers, readers, and academics in the area.

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*“We are committed to innovation, growth, and increased visibility for Black women and women of color writers and poets.” - Slam Anderson, Outreach Director*

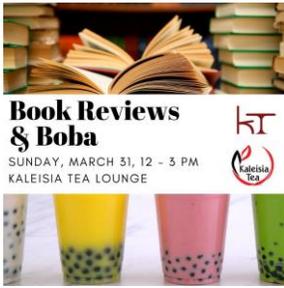
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We continued our engagement with the SunLit Festival, in partnership with Keep St. Pete Lit, Cultured Books, and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum. We contributed once again to the second annual Tampa Bay Publishing Conference with Wordier Than Thou, offered innovative community-based workshops and writing meet-ups like *Book Reviews and Boba* with Kaleisia Tea Lounge, and continued popular reading series, *Sips and Stories* and our *Book Club@ The Woodson*.

As we forge ahead with both new programs and sustained favorites, we will continue to move in the direction of creativity, resourcefulness, and dynamic literary arts-based community engagement.



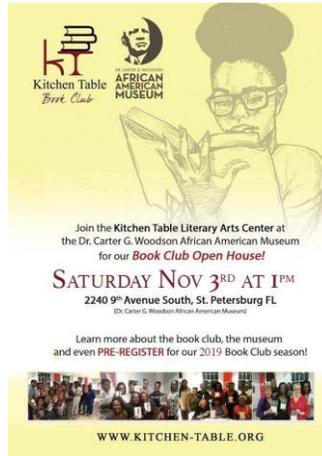
# SELECT 2018 – 2019 PROGRAMS



**Book Reviews & Boba**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 12 - 3 PM  
KALEISIA TEA LOUNGE



**WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE ME**  
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP  
Facilitated by Kitchen Table Literary Arts  
EDUCATION DAY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2019  
PROJECT COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
EATONVILLE CITY HALL



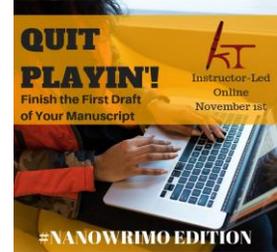
**Kitchen Table Book Club**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM  
Join the Kitchen Table Literary Arts Center at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum for our **Book Club Open House!**  
**SATURDAY NOV 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 1<sup>PM</sup>**  
2240 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg FL  
Learn more about the book club, the museum and even **PRE-REGISTER** for our 2019 Book Club season!  
[WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG](http://WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG)



**Memory as Memoir**  
MINISO HERSTY FOR STORY  
ONLINE, SELF-PACED, AVAILABLE 10/1  
ONLINE, SELF-GUIDED COHORT, STARTS 11/1  
<http://www.kitchen-table.org/creative-writing-society.html>



**WHERE ARE WE?**  
Techniques for Establishing Setting in Your Work  
Explore setting as a literary element of fiction that establishes both space and time in narrative movements.  
SELF-PACED, ONLINE, AVAILABLE 10/1  
SELF-GUIDED, COHORT, ONLINE, AVAILABLE 11/1  
<http://www.kitchen-table.org/creative-writing-society.html>



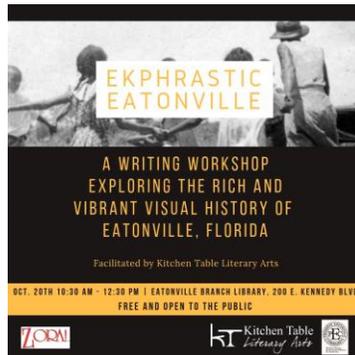
**QUIT PLAYIN!**  
Finish the First Draft of Your Manuscript  
INSTRUCTOR-LED ONLINE  
November 1st  
#NANOWRIMO EDITION



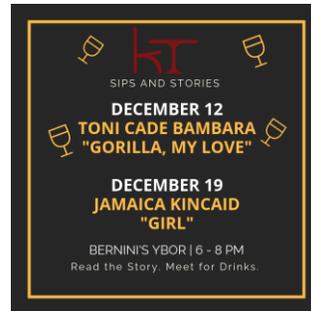
**Submit Yourself**  
HOW TO SUBMIT TO LITERARY MAGAZINES AND WHY YOU SHOULD  
2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TAMPA BAY PUBLISHING CONFERENCE  
February 22-24



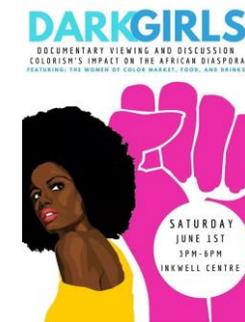
**LEARN 'EM. BREAK 'EM.**  
BASIC ELEMENTS OF FICTION  
INSTRUCTOR-LED, ONLINE  
December 1st  
Only FIVE seats LEFT



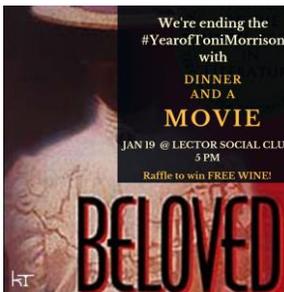
**ECKPHRASTIC EATONVILLE**  
A WRITING WORKSHOP EXPLORING THE RICH AND VIBRANT VISUAL HISTORY OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA  
Facilitated by Kitchen Table Literary Arts  
OCT. 20TH 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM | EATONVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY, 200 E. KENNEDY BLVD  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



**SIPS AND STORIES**  
DECEMBER 12  
TONI CADE BAMBARA  
"GORILLA, MY LOVE"  
DECEMBER 19  
JAMAICA KINCAID  
"GIRL"  
BERNINI'S YBOR | 6 - 8 PM  
Read the Story. Meet for Drinks.



**DARK GIRLS**  
DOCUMENTARY VIEWING AND DISCUSSION  
COLONISM'S IMPACT ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA  
FEATURING: THE WOMEN OF COLORE MARKET, FOOD, AND DRINKS  
SATURDAY JUNE 1ST  
5PM-8PM  
INREWELL CENTRE



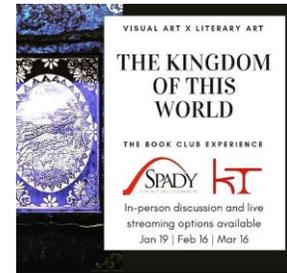
We're ending the #YearOfToniMorrison with **DINNER AND A MOVIE**  
JAN 19 @ LECTOR SOCIAL CLUB 5 PM  
Raffle to win FREE WINE!  
**BELOVED**



**NOT JUST MUSIC: A SONIC JOURNEY**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH | 3:30 - 5:30 P.M.  
DR. CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM



**THE GETAWAY**  
A WEEKEND FOR WRITING  
ONLY \$150 FOR ENTIRE WEEKEND  
AUBURNDALE, FL | SPACE IS LIMITED



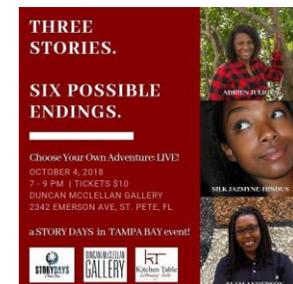
**THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD**  
THE BOOK CLUB EXPERIENCE  
In-person discussion and live streaming options available  
Jan 19 | Feb 16 | Mar 16



**THE GETAWAY**  
A WEEKEND FOR WRITING  
JUNE 21 - 23, 2019  
WRITE. EAT. SLEEP. REPEAT.  
Accommodations for up to FIVE writers in a beautiful home in Largo, Florida, close to Indian Rocks Beach, the Botanical Gardens, and more. Pinellas Trail hiking and biking from the backyard, private patio for outdoor writing and reading.  
Only \$150 for entire weekend



**SIPS AND STORIES**  
NOVEMBER 14  
OCTAVIA BUTLER  
"BLOOD CHILD"  
NOVEMBER 28  
ANN PETRY  
"LIKE A WINDING SHEET"  
BERNINI'S YBOR | 6 - 8 PM  
Read the Story. Meet for Drinks.



**THREE STORIES.**  
**SIX POSSIBLE ENDINGS.**  
Choose Your Own Adventure: LIVE!  
OCTOBER 4, 2018  
7 - 9 PM | TICKETS \$10  
DUNNAN MCCLELLAN GALLERY  
2342 EMERSON AVE. ST. PETE, FL  
a STORY DAYS in TAMPA BAY event!



**2nd Annual Tampa Bay Publishing Conference**  
February 22 - 24, 2019  
**STOP GOING IT ALONE...**  
Traditional Publishing vs Self-Publishing



**ZORA NEALE HURSTON**  
**Angela Davis**  
COMING SOON  
#YearOfMorrison  
Hunger  
Roxane Gay  
MEN WE REAPED  
JESMYN WARD

# BOARD AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Our board association is comprised of professionals across each providing support, guidance, and encouragement as we our work. Each board member contributes valuable perspectives specific to their professional expertise and personal experience.

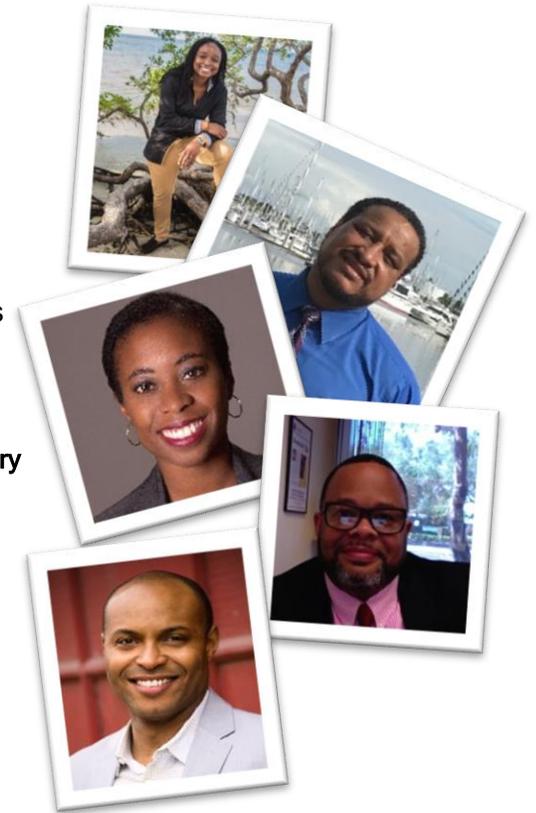
**Ashley Butler**, entrepreneur and owner of Ice Cold Air-South Dale Mabry

**Orlando Pizana**, associate professor, St. Petersburg College

**Adella Deacon**, attorney, Sable Law Group

**Dr. Albert Farr**, associate provost, Des Moines Area Technical College

**Donald Gordon**, solution consultant, Meperia



## New Board Member

January 2019, we welcomed **Adrienne Newlon** to our board member association! Adrienne is a Boston native, who comes to Florida by way of Washington, California, Montana and North Carolina. After a first career in the culinary field, she finished her bachelor's degree, as a first-generation student at age 34. She has run an art gallery, freelanced in editing and copywriting, and worked with low-income youth. Wherever she plants herself, Adrienne dives into her surroundings via networking, volunteering and activism. As a Kitchen Table board member, she brings with her years of experience in community sourcing, fund-raising,

outreach, and big love for KT's mission and dedication to women writers of color and passion for the written word.



## Board Member Spotlight

We're showing our gratitude for board member **Ashley Butler** for her outstanding contributions this year. Ashley has consistently put her experience and enthusiasm to work for Kitchen Table Literary Arts through initiating revenue-building partnership ideas, sharing professional development opportunities, and highlighting our organization during

corporate networking events and civic engagements. Ashley Butler is a Serial Entrepreneur with a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of South Florida. Her passion is to build successful businesses from the ground up and to utilize the resources received from her business endeavors to give back to her local community. Born and raised in Tampa, FL, she credits her local community and her love of continuous self-education with her success. Through Kitchen Table she hopes to return the favor. Ashley specializes in thinking outside of the box, fundraising, business growth while operating on meager budgets, business organization, and developing meaningful business relationships. Ashley is a lover of non-fiction books especially books on mindset and business. Her favorite book is Oprah Winfrey's *What I Know for Sure*.

## Advisory Board

In late 2018, we embarked on a new phase of our organizational development through the formation of an advisory board. The Kitchen Table Literary Arts advisory board is made up of literary powerhouses whose work and experience will undoubtedly help our organization strategize, plan, and execute our programs and growth more effectively. We welcome **Valerie Boyd**, **Sheree Renee Thomas**, and **Shay Youngblood** and look forward to us all supporting one another and continuing our amazing work.



**Valerie Boyd** is author of the critically acclaimed biography *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*, winner of the Southern Book Award and the American Library Association's Notable Book Award. *Wrapped in Rainbows* was hailed by Alice Walker as "magnificent" and "extraordinary"; by the Boston Globe as "elegant and exhilarating"; and by the Denver Post as "a rich, rich read." Formerly arts editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Boyd has written articles, essays and reviews for such publications as The

Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, Creative Nonfiction, The Oxford American, Paste, Ms., Essence, and Atlanta Magazine. She is a professor of journalism and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, where she founded and directs the low-residency MFA Program in Narrative Nonfiction. Boyd is currently curating and editing a collection of Alice Walker's personal journals, which span more than 50 years. Simon&Schuster/37 Ink will publish *Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker* in 2019.



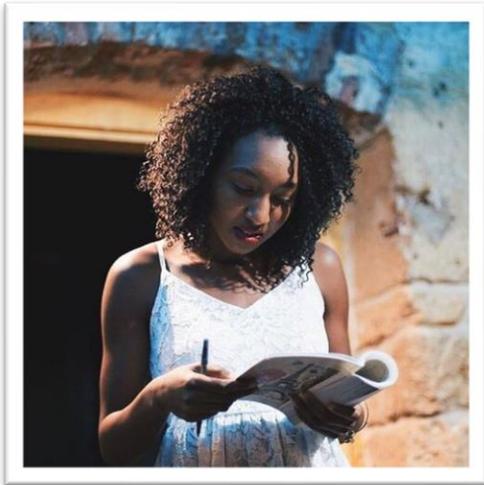
**Sheree Renee Thomas** is an award-winning fiction writer, poet, and editor. Her work is inspired by myth and folklore, natural science and conjure, her roots in Memphis, and in the genius culture created in the Mississippi Delta. Sheree's stories and poetry explore ordinary people facing extraordinary circumstances. She is the author of *Sleeping Under the Tree of Life* (Aqueduct Press), honored with a Publishers Weekly Starred Review and longlisted for the 2016 James Tiptree, Jr. Award, and of *Shotgun Lullabies* (2011), described as "a revelatory work like Jean Toomer's *Cane*." Thomas edited the two *Dark Matter* black speculative fiction volumes that first introduced W. E. B. Du Bois's work as science fiction, winning two World Fantasy Awards. Her work appears in numerous anthologies and literary journals, including *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writing of Gwendolyn Brooks* edited by Quraysh Lansana Ali and Sandra Jackson-Opoku, *Ghost Fishing: Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology* edited by Melissa Tuckey, *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South* edited by Nikky Finney, *Apex Magazine*, *Callaloo*, *Fireside Quarterly*, *African Voices*, *FIYAH*, *Jalada*, *Strange Horizons*, *So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy*, *Memphis Noir*, *Mojo Rising: Contemporary Writers*, *Mojo: Conjure Stories*, *Renaissance Noire*, *Stories for Chip: Tribute to Samuel R. Delany*, and *Harvard's Transition*. She is the Associate Editor of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora* (Illinois State University, Normal) and the co-editor of *Trouble the Waters: Tales of the Deep Blue* (forthcoming 2019 from Rosarium). Honored with fellowships from Breadloaf Environmental, the Millay Colony of Arts, Smith College, the New York Foundation of the Arts, VCCA, Cave Canem Foundation, and the Tennessee Arts Commission among others, Thomas's multigenre writing explores the hidden wonders in the invisible. Her stories have received Notable Mention in the Year's Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy and in several volumes of the Year's Best Fantasy & Horror. Her editorial work uncovered a legacy of over a century of black science fiction writing and helped launch the careers of some of the most exciting new voices in the field. Look for her first all-fiction collection, *Nine Bar Blues*, forthcoming from Third Man Books in 2020.



Georgia born writer **Shay Youngblood** is author of the novels *Black Girl in Paris* and *Soul Kiss* (Riverhead Books) and a collection of short fiction, *The Big Mama Stories* (Firebrand Books). Her published plays *Amazing Grace*, *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* and *Talking Bones*, (Dramatic Publishing Company), have been widely produced. Her other plays include *Square Blues*, *Black Power Barbie* and *Communism Killed My Dog*. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including a Pushcart Prize for

fiction, a Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, an Edward Albee honoree, several NAACP Theater Awards, an Astraea Writers' Award for fiction and a 2004 New York Foundation for the Arts Sustained Achievement Award. Ms. Youngblood received her MFA in Creative Writing from Brown University and has taught Creative Writing to faculty and graduate students at NYU and has been Visiting Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi and Texas A&M Universities. She was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts sponsored Japan-US Creative Artist Fellowship for 2011.

## Community Member Spotlight



Jasmin reading her work in Paris, photo credit: Sabine Dundure

Writer and poet **Jasmin Lankford** has been a consistent and dedicated supporter of Kitchen Table Literary Arts and our programs since day one. She contributes her insight and love of literature to our reading programs like *Sips and Stories*, *Year of Toni Morrison*, and our *Year of Memoirs*, and she shares her exploration of craft and commitment to writing through enthusiastic participation in our writing workshops and *Getaway* retreats. Always encouraging and fiercely devoted to her poetry, we shout out Jasmin for her unwavering support and wholehearted contributions to Kitchen Table Literary Arts and its programs.

Jasmin Lankford currently works in social media marketing and participates in the Tampa Bay poetry community. She is a lover of literature, leopard print, and the City of Light. Jasmin has managed an entertainment magazine as Editor-in-Chief and worked in marketing at the corporate global headquarters of the world's largest furniture manufacturer. She graduated from the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications at the University of South Florida. She adores alliteration and creating engaging content.

Jasmin also studied Creative Writing in France at the American University of Paris. Her poetry is rooted in healing from trauma. Jasmin uses extended metaphors to blend the ocean with blooming flowers, touching on endangered species, pollution, and scientific plant families. Her work has been published in *Honey & Lime Literary Magazine*, *Kissing Dynamite*, *Ink & Nebula*, and *Sinking City*. You can learn more about Jasmin and her work here: [www.jasminlankford.com](http://www.jasminlankford.com).

# ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Director, **Sheree L. Greer**

*Contact: [sheree@kitchen-table.org](mailto:sheree@kitchen-table.org)*

Outreach Director, **Tiffany “Slam” Anderson**

*Contact: [slam@kitchen-table.org](mailto:slam@kitchen-table.org)*

Financial Director, **Jasmine M. Smith**

*Contact: [jasmine@kitchen-table.org](mailto:jasmine@kitchen-table.org)*



## Mission

Kitchen Table Literary Arts Center builds awareness, appreciation, and support for women of color and Black women writers, poets, and their work. In addition to our outreach across communities, we also offer beginner, intermediate, and master level writing courses exclusively for Black women and women of color writers.



Kitchen Table Literary Arts Center, Inc.

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Tampa, FL 33675

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[www.kitchen-table.org](http://www.kitchen-table.org)