

ANNUAL REPORT



KITCHEN TABLE LITERARY ARTS
Annual Report: Special COVID-19 Edition 2019 - 2021
www.kitchen-table.org

Executive Summary

This special edition annual report reflects Kitchen Table Literary Art’s adaptability and commitment to our mission. When COVID-19 interrupted our 2019-2020 year, we found ourselves thrust into uncertainty and initially stunned – unsure, like everyone else, about how the pandemic would affect our families and friends, our personal and professional lives. Like most organizations, we took a moment to absorb the shock of it all. Then, we decided to pivot our organization’s programs and community presence as best we could, hopeful that 2021 would be different, better, and back to some sort of normalcy.

While the summer of 2020 met us with continued unease about the global pandemic, we also experienced one of the most active and engaged moments of social activism since the civil rights movement. Black Lives Matter protests sprung up around the world, and for a moment, we seemed on the verge of radical change. The political landscape, economic landscape, and the world health landscape rumbled and fractured in 2020, and organizations, particularly those in the arts, found themselves struggling to navigate it all.



At the start of 2021, it became increasingly clear that things would most definitely be different, but the chance for things to be “better” or “normal” remained slim. Yet, we remained hopeful and positive. We stayed encouraged and inspired by our work and our community as always. Perhaps that is what keeps us going, keeps us responsive to change rather than reactive to it.

The 2019 – 2021 years have been our most challenging to date, but our robust sense of community and dedication to flexibility served us well. With creative programming ideas, support from individual donors and foundations, and a genuine desire to serve community and sustain all that we’ve built, we are here.

We still write here.

Programming Overview

These past two years came with their challenges, but we survived. We capitalized on the high energy from our *Birthday Barbecue and Building Fundraiser* and used all the love we received from the community to fuel our work for the 2019-2020 programming year. We ran a successful *Sips and Stories*, featuring stories by Edwidge Danticat, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Tananarive Due, kicked off our *Book Club at the Woodson*, with two new reading series, “For the Love of Florida” showcasing the work of Zora Neale Hurston and “The Sunshine State,” where we read novels by Ladee Hubbard and our very own Sheree L. Greer. Our #YearofMemoirs *Community Conversation* wrapped up nicely, and even though our esteemed community partner, Blue Sage Boutique decided to close their brick-and-mortar shop, we had a great end of the year with a special guest facilitator, writer, activist, and diversity and equity professional Nikotras Perkins from Ubuntu Research in Milwaukee.

In January, we started 2020 hopeful and encouraged, our *Book Club at the Woodson* and a new year of *Community Conversations*, #YearofInternationalVoices, got off to a great start. In February, we participated in the *Third Annual Tampa Bay Publishing Conference* with Wordier Than Thou and Creative Pinellas.



When the global pandemic abruptly halted everything, we found ourselves faced with difficult decisions. We cancelled the remaining *Getaway: A Weekend for Writing* retreats and cancelled book club meetings until we could formulate a plan. As an organization that prides itself on its flexibility, responsiveness, and adaptability, we took a little time to reorganize and continued our work exclusively online, and with a bit of a learning curve from our supporters and book club members, we were able to salvage the remaining book club meetings and had our most successful year of online creative writing classes

to date. We offered *Protest Poetry*, *Where Are We: Crafting Compelling Setting in Your Work*, and *Learn ‘Em, Break ‘Em: Creative Writing Basics* with writer and facilitator Silk Jazmyne Hindus stepping up to teach multiple classes. We adapted our popular, *Weekday Writing Get Downs* for virtual participation and experienced nationwide reach with Black women and women of color writers from across the nation joining us for two and a half hours of uninterrupted writing time twice a month.

To celebrate our sixth birthday, we organized and hosted a twenty-four-hour IG-Athon on Instagram. The day long, virtual party included live performances from local poets and writers, interviews and conversations with community leaders and entrepreneurs, and throwback pictures all day long. Tired and happy, we brought in our 2020-2021 year energetic and focused. We made the difficult decision to end the *Book Club at the Woodson* and suspend our *Getaway: A Weekend for Writing* retreats indefinitely, but we

committed to making *Sips and Stories* season work as best we could virtually. Switching out “Meet for Drinks” for “Make the Drinks,” Jasmine Smith and Slam Anderson curated the series to include short stories paired with craft cocktails, recipes and stories provided! Moving our programs to virtual offerings allowed us to explore more workshops and classes in efforts to stay active and stay available to the community of writers and readers we’ve built over the years. We took our storytelling online and created a virtual “You Choose the Ending” series, featuring stories on our blog with recording readings where participants voted on the ending. Our virtual versions of *Community Conversations* (finishing up the #YearofInternationalVoices and kicking off the #YearofAfroFuturism) have been excellent. Under Jasmine Smith’s and Silk-Jazmyne’s leadership, the program featured visits from the authors and more access for readers across Tampa Bay and beyond.

Successfully transitioning and redesigning programs to deliver the quality, socially engaged literary arts-based programming on which we have built our reputation has been both challenge and opportunity. As 2020 gave way to 2021, and more communities and organizations responded to the pandemic in kind, we were able to collaborate and partner with *The ReadOut Festival* sponsored by the Gulfport LGBTQ Resource center, the Bluestockings Collective in Manhattan, and Jobsite Theatre for a safely distanced, masked-up limited performance of *Twilight* starring Andresia Mosely.

Our team’s creativity, enthusiasm, and focus are stronger than ever as we continue to navigate the world during the continuing global health crisis, and even in the virtual space, we will keep working toward our mission and staying true to our values.

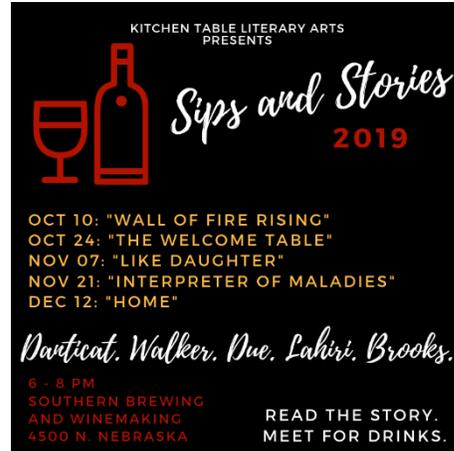
Select/Highlighted Programs

2019-2020



BIRTHDAY BARBEQUE & BUILDING FUNDRAISER

Save the Date:
SATURDAY
09.14.19



KITCHEN TABLE LITERARY ARTS PRESENTS

Sips and Stories
2019

OCT 10: "WALL OF FIRE RISING"
OCT 24: "THE WELCOME TABLE"
NOV 07: "LIKE DAUGHTER"
NOV 21: "INTERPRETER OF MALADIES"
DEC 12: "HOME"

Danticat. Walker. Dne. Lahiri. Brooks.

6 - 8 PM
SOUTHERN BREWING AND WINEMAKING
4500 N. NEBRASKA

READ THE STORY.
MEET FOR DRINKS.



Sulphur Springs LIT BLOCK PARTY

Tuesday November 26th

11 AM | Sulphur Springs Resource Center
-2PM | 8412 N 12th Street, Tampa FL 33604

Book & Turkey Giveaway
Spoken Word | Arts & Crafts
Food | Rap Performances
Raffle Prizes | Music & More!

*Giveaway limited to 50 turkeys. One per family; first come, first served.

Free event sponsored by:

SULPHUR SPRINGS INTERMEDIARIES OF PROVISION

Supported by:

TAMPA



KITCHEN TABLE Book Club

Join the Kitchen Table Literary Arts Center at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum for our **Book Club Open House!**

SATURDAY, NOV 16TH 1-4PM

2240 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg FL
(Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum)

Learn more about the book club, the museum and even PRE-REGISTER for our 2020 Book Club season!

WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG



KITCHEN TABLE Literary Arts

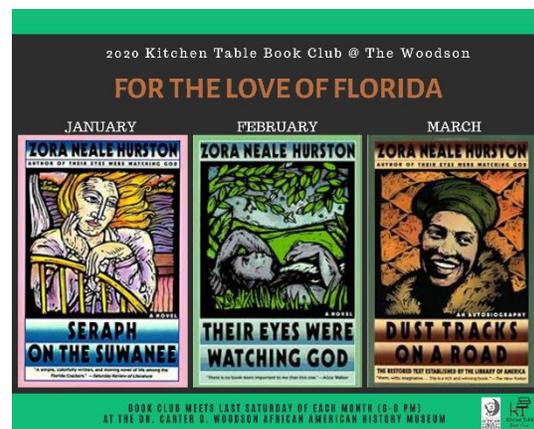
#YearofMemoirs

Hunger
by Roxane Gay

Community Conversation

Blue Sage Eco Boutique
6202 N. Central Ave
Tampa, FL

Saturday, December 21st
6 - 8 PM



2020 Kitchen Table Book Club @ The Woodson

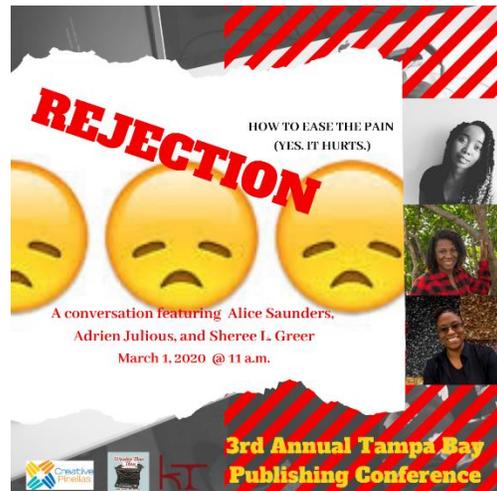
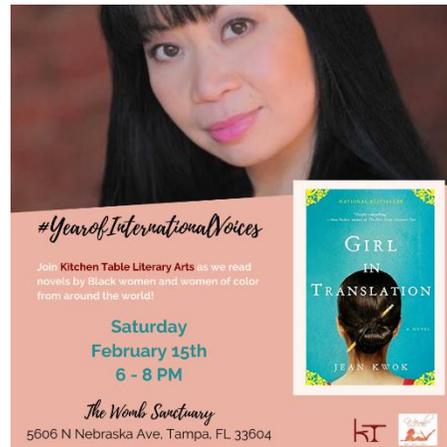
FOR THE LOVE OF FLORIDA

JANUARY: ZORA NEALE HURSTON, SERAPH ON THE SUWANEE

FEBRUARY: ZORA NEALE HURSTON, THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

MARCH: ZORA NEALE HURSTON, DUST TRACKS ON A ROAD

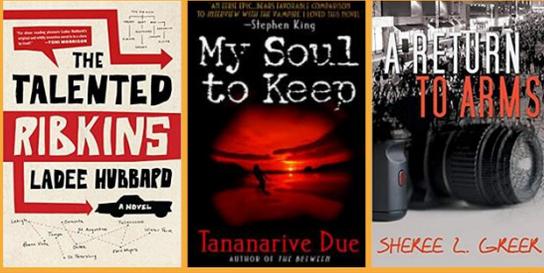
BOOK CLUB MEETS LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (6-8 PM) AT THE DR. CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM



2020 Kitchen Table Book Club @ The Woodson

THE SUNSHINE STATE

APRIL MAY JUNE



THE TALENTED AND THE BLACK
LADEE HUBBARD

An Oral Epic, Based on the True Story of a Slave Who Fought the Revolution to Inspire a War That Forever Changed the World
—Stephen King

My Soul to Keep
Tananarive Due

A RETURN TO ARMS
SHEKEE L. GREER

BOOK CLUB MEETS LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (6-8 PM)
AT THE DR. CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM



LEARN 'EM. BASIC ELEMENTS OF FICTION BREAK 'EM.

WITH TEACHING ARTIST: SILK-JAZMYNE HINDUS

Free. Online.

FOUR WEEKS (JUNE 22 - JULY 20)

FOR AND BY BLACK WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOR WRITERS



WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG/REGISTRATION 

WHERE ARE WE?

with teaching artist *Silk-Jazmyne Hindus* 

Techniques for Establishing Setting in Your Work

FREE ONLINE

FOUR WEEKS (AUGUST 10 - SEPTEMBER 1ST)

For and By Black Women and Women of Color Writers

<https://www.kitchen-table.org/registration.html>

PROTEST! POETRY

WITH TEACHING ARTIST SHEREE L. GREER

FREE ONLINE.

FOR BLACK WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOR WRITERS

FOUR WEEKS (JUNE 22 - JULY 20)

WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG/REGISTRATION.HTML 

Class is Over...

BUT THE WRITING CONTINUES...

Sip and Share with Us!

Optional Zoom Meet-up
Thursday, July 30th | 7:00 - 8:30 PM EST



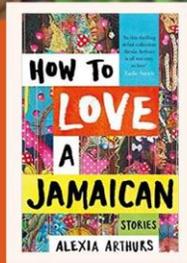
#Year of International Voices

Join Kitchen Table Literary Arts as we read novels by Black women and women of color from around the world!

Saturday
August 15th
6 - 8 PM

Join us virtually on Zoom

REGISTER at www.kitchen-table.org/conversations 



2020-2021

*Kitchen Table
Literary Arts*
**BIRTHDAY
IG-ATHON**

CELEBRATING 6 YEARS ALLLLLLL DAY!

VIRTUAL PARTY AND FUNDRAISER!

 FOR OUR SIXTH BIRTHDAY, WE'LL BE ON INSTAGRAM AND INSTAGRAM LIVE ALL DAY!

JOIN US FOR THROWBACK PICTURES, STORIES, SPECIAL GUESTS, AND PERFORMANCES! WE'RE ALSO ASKING FOR BIRTHDAY DONATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR OPERATING AND PROGRAMMING EXPENSES! ANY AMOUNT HELPS!

KITCHEN TABLE LIT CHATS

 ASHLEY BUTLER @ 7 AM
NIKOTRIS PERKINS @ 10 AM
SILK-JAZMYNE HINDUS @ 1 PM
CHRISTINA ARENAS @ 3 PM
JASMIN LANKFORD @ 6 PM
ADRIEN JULIOUS @ 8 PM
SLAM, JASMINE, AND SHEREE @ 10 PM

TAKEDOVER PERFORMANCES

 WALLY B @ 8 AM
ANDREA ASSAF @ 12:30 PM
SHEREE L. GREER @ 2 PM
NEUDY CAROLINA NUNEZ @ 4 PM
SLAM ANDERSON @ 5 PM
DENNIS AMADEUS @ 7 PM
TIFFANY VITALE @ 9 PM
YUKI JACKSON @ 11 PM

MEMORIES AND MORE!

 ALL DAY WE'LL BE POSTING PHOTOS AND STORIES REMINISCING ON OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES, GIVING YOU BEHIND-THE-SCENES PEEKS AT HOW AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO, AND SHARING PERSONAL COMMENTARY ABOUT WHAT INSPIRES AND ENCOURAGES US TO KEEP GOING!

**DONATE FOR OUR BIRTHDAY:
WWW.KITCHEN-TABLE.ORG/SIX**

Sips and Stories
2020 

**READ THE STORY.
MEET FOR DRINKS.**
Make the Drinks

SHORT STORIES X FEATURED COCKTAILS

 *Virtual Discussion*

Sips and Stories
2020 

**READ THE STORY.
MEET FOR DRINKS.**
Make the Drinks

Featured story
"THE KNOWING" BY TANANARIVE DUE

Featured cocktail
CUBA LIBRE
JUICE FROM HALF
A LIME
2 OZ RUM
4 OZ COLA
GARNISH WITH
LIME SLICE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
1:00 PM ON ZOOM *Virtual Discussion*



 Kitchen Table
Literary Arts

YOU CHOOSE THE ENDING

 *Careful*
WHAT YOU PRAY FOR

A SHORT STORY BY
ADRIEN JULIOUS-BUTLER





**WEEKDAY
WRITING
GET-DOWN**

2.5 hours of uninterrupted writing time.

Your writing is worth it.
You are worth it.

WRITE WITH US
6:00 PM TO 8:30 PM

Monday, October 12th
Thursday, October 22nd

Monday, November 9th
Thursday, November 19th

Monday, December 14th
Thursday, December 17th

VIRTUAL WRITING
VIA ZOOM

KT Kitchen Table
Literary Arts

YOU CHOOSE THE ENDING

**BUILD-A-
BABY**

A SHORT STORY BY
SILK-JAZMYNE HINDUS

KT

**QUIT
PLAYIN'** FINISH YOUR
FIRST DRAFT!
NANOWRIMO EDITION!

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30TH
ONLINE W/ZOOM CHECK-INS

Sips and Stories
2020

READ THE STORY
MEET FOR DRINKS

Make the Drinks

Featured story
"CRAZY THEY CALL ME" BY ZADIE SMITH

Featured cocktail
APPLETINI

1.5 OZ VODKA
1 OZ GREEN
APPLE SCHNAPPS
¼ OZ LEMON
JUICE
GARNISH WITH
APPLE SLICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
1:00 PM ON ZOOM *Virtual Discussion*

KT

Sips and Stories
2020

READ THE STORY.
MEET FOR DRINKS.

Make the Drinks

Featured story
"SNOW DAY" BY NALO HOPKINSON

Featured cocktail
HOT PEPPERMINT PATTY

1.5 OZ WHISKEY
1 OZ PEPPERMINT SCHNAPPS
¼ OZ DARK CRÈME DE CACAO
¼ OZ CRÈME DE MENTHE
6 OZ HOT CHOCOLATE
GARNISH WITH
WHIPPED CREAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
1:00 PM ON ZOOM *Virtual Discussion*

KT

KT Kitchen Table
Literary Arts

YOU CHOOSE THE ENDING

**ON THIS
ORBIT DAY**

A SHORT STORY BY
SLAM ANDERSON

YEAR OF AFROFUTURISM 2021

OCTAVIA BUTLER
RIVERS SOLOMON
NNEDI OKORAFOR
NALO HOPKINSON
KRYSTAL SMITH
TENEA D. JOHNSON
BRITTANY MORRIS
TANANARIVE DUE
KAREN LORD
NISI SHAWL
N.K. JEMISIN

KT

2021

WEEKDAY WRITING GET-DOWN

2.5 hours of uninterrupted writing time.

Your writing is worth it. You are worth it.

WRITE WITH US
6:00 PM TO 8:30 PM

1st Monday and 3rd Thursday EVERY month

Monday, February 1st
Thursday, February 18th

Monday, March 1st
Thursday, March 18th

Monday, April 5th
Thursday, April 15th

VIRTUAL WRITING VIA ZOOM

ReadOut
A FESTIVAL OF LESBIAN LITERATURE

Writing and Working Across Communities

Moderated by Sheree L. Greer

Featuring: Andrea Assaf, Adrien Julious-Butler, Chelsea Catherine, and Silk-Jazmyne Hindus

Sunday, February 28, 2021
@ 10:30 a.m. EST

FREE! Registration at www.readout2021.eventbrite.com

KT

#YEAR OF AFROFUTURISM

A year of speculative fiction writing from Black women writers.

JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM for a Community Conversation led by Silk-Jazmyne Hindus

SATURDAY, FEB. 20th @ 6 PM (EST)

HOW LONG TIL BLACK-FUTURE MONTH?

HOW LONG UNTIL BLACK FUTURE MONTH?

N.K. JEMISIN

STORIES BY NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
N. K. JEMISIN

KT

The Cure for WRITER'S BLOCK

Break through creative blockages with writing prompts, best practices, and more!

Virtual Workshop led by **Slam Anderson**

March 27th & July 31st
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$25 per person

KT

TRAVERSING LIGHT-YEARS:

AN INTRODUCTION TO WRITING SPECULATIVE FICTION

STARTING JUNE 2021

\$150 | FOUR WEEK COURSE
WEEKLY ZOOM DISCUSSIONS

WITH TEACHING ARTIST SILK-JAZMYNE HINDUS

KT

Celebrating

BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES

BLUESTOCKINGS cooperative
KT Kitchen Table Literary Arts



Khalisa
RAE

Ashanti
ANDERSON

Naomi
EXTRA

Amber
MCBRIDE

I.S.
JONES



KITCHEN TABLE LITERARY ARTS

IT'S LIT

REFLECTION AND JOURNALING

Using excerpts from literary work by Black women and women of color writers, Slam Anderson guides writers in reflection and journaling to unleash their creative ideas and explore their writing goals.

Join us on Zoom:
April 24th & August 28th
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$25 per person



#YEAROFAFROFUTURISM

A year of speculative fiction writing from Black women writers.

JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM for a Community Conversation led by Silk-Jazmyne Hindus

SATURDAY, JULY 17TH @ 6 PM (EST)



SLAY

Brittney Morris is joining us as our special guest!



BRITTNEY MORRIS



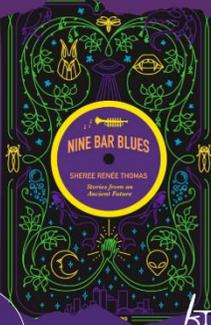
INTRO TO SPECULATIVE FICTION

FROM OUR LIPS TO THE COSMOS EARS

a literature course exploring "Nine Bar Blues" by Sherree Renee Thomas

STARTING JUNE 2021
\$150 | FOUR WEEKS
WEEKLY ZOOM DISCUSSIONS

With Teaching Artist Silk-Jazmyne Hindus



KITCHEN TABLE LITERARY ARTS

The Recipe

Come get the ingredients you need to write your story

EXPLORE FICTION BASICS IN AN ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH SLAM ANDERSON

ZOOM | MAY 29 & SEPT 25
10 AM - 1 PM
\$25 PER PERSON

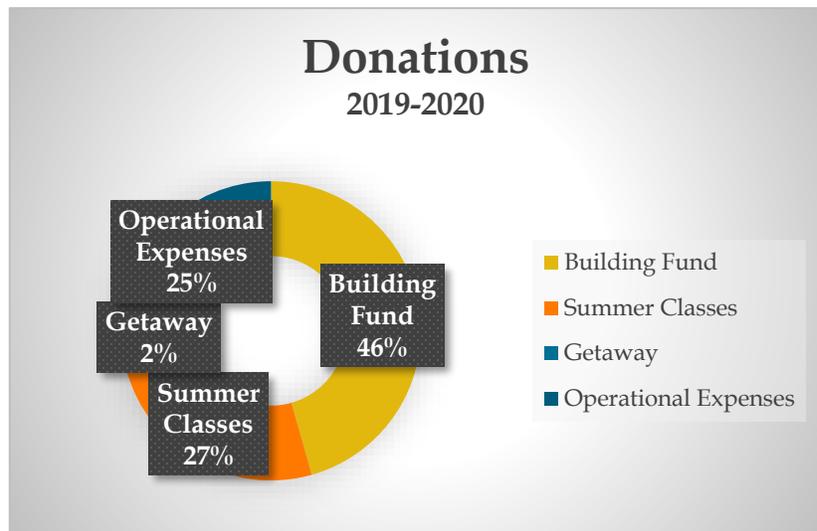


Financial Overview

What a year! When we last left off, Kitchen Table had an amazing fifth birthday fundraiser and announced the kickoff for our capital campaign to secure a brick-and-mortar space for offices, classes, and coworking. The donations were pouring in, and it was a great feeling to have our community behind us, then COVID-19 reared its ugly head and the world shut down.

With the CDC’s “Safer at Home” orders, we needed to seriously reconsider our plans for fundraising for a physical space. Additionally, unemployment skyrocketed, and the last thing people were going to spend their money on were creative writing classes.

As fundraising seized and our revenue stream dried up, we decided to suspend the capital campaign and focus on offering free creative writing classes for Black and women of color writers. With the help from the community, we raised enough funding to offer thirty-five women the opportunity to take free online creative writing classes through our Creative Writing Society.



Even with transitioning temporarily to our new normal, our 6th Birthday Fundraiser went virtual, and we were able to meet our fundraising goal. Additionally, funding from the **Gobioff Foundation**, the **Raymond James Charitable Foundation**, and the



Academy of American Poets helped shore up the revenue losses and provide for the added expenses of scaling up our technology for virtual programming.

#GivingTuesdayNow, an urgent call to support nonprofit organizations was instituted earlier than the usual November day of giving, and individual donors stepped up to help us meet our facilitator and teaching artist stipend commitments.

It is uncertain how long the pandemic will affect our organization, yet we remain hopeful that despite the economic crunch that persisted through 2021, we will always find ways to meet our financial obligations, pursue our financial goals, and grow as an organization.

Board and Community Highlights

Our board association is comprised of professionals across industries, each providing support, guidance, and encouragement as we continue 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

Dr. Adella Deacon, attorney, Sable Law Group

Adrienne Hudson Newlon, editor, activist, community advocate

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

Donald Gordon, solution consultant, Meperia



Board Member Spotlight

Our board member Dr. Albert Farr has been a consistent and valued champion of our work at Kitchen Table Literary Arts. We appreciate his support of our annual calendar initiative and fundraising drives. As an educator and higher education administrator, his insight has the potential to help us develop a more robust Creative Writing Society, as his program development experience and passion for African American Literature will undoubtedly contribute to our work in designing a literature-based creative writing certificate specifically for Black women and women of color writers.





Community Member Spotlight

One of our most successful reader-based programs, *Sips and Stories*, was inspired by community member **Alexis Sears Holley**. As an educator, Alexis recognizes the importance of reading and the value of good literary art. She encouraged us to re-envision what it meant to be inclusive of individuals who enjoyed reading but didn't necessarily have the time to read an entire book. Thus, *Sips and Stories* was born! With experience as a bartender, Alexis has also contributed to our organization as a volunteer for our *We Write*

Here: Black Women and Women of Color Writers Networking event and our virtual reimagining of Sips and Stories, joining our Zoom conversation and making curated cocktails as we shifted to "Read the Story. Make the Drinks." We are thankful for her consistent and energetic participation in the Sips and Stories programming and her support of Kitchen Table Literary Arts overall!



Advisory Board

The Kitchen Table Literary Arts advisory board includes **Valerie Boyd** (*Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence, Associate Professor, Journalism, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia*), **Sheree Renee Thomas** (*award-winning author of *Nine Bar Blues* and editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction**), and **Shay Youngblood** (*author and playwright, *Black Girl in Paris* and *Soul Kiss* (novels) and *Amazing Grace, Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* and *Talking Bones* (plays)*).



Organization Information

Director, **Sheree L. Greer**

Contact: sheree@kitchen-table.org

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

Contact: slam@kitchen-table.org

Financial Director, **Jasmine M. Smith**

Contact: 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.
PO BOX 5464
Tampa, FL 33675
info@kitchen-table.org
www.kitchen-table.org

