

THE BLACK MIDWEST INITIATIVE PRESENTS

BLACK IN THE MIDDLE: THE INAUGURAL BLACK MIDWEST SYMPOSIUM



OCTOBER 17-19, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



THEBLACKMIDWEST.COM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

04

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

05

MISSION STATEMENT

06

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
STATEMENT ON PHOTOGRAPHY

07

SCHEDULE

12

SPEAKERS

23

BOOK SALES

24

ONE HUNDRED YEARS POST-MICHEAUX

25

FILM SCREENING: SONGS FOR MY RIGHT
SIDE (2019, 26 MIN.)

26

FILM SCREENING: THEE DEBAUCHERY
BALL (2019, 71 MIN.)

27

STUDIO 400

28

ANTHOLOGY CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

29

CAMPUS MAP

30

RESTAURANTS

31

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

32

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

33

NOTES

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Fall 2019

Dear Friends,

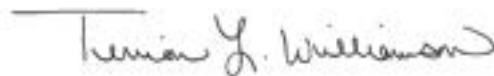
This convening has been a long time in the making, and on behalf of the Black Midwest Initiative I am so thrilled to finally be able to welcome you to our inaugural symposium at the University of Minnesota.

Many of us have been to our fair share of symposia and conferences, and we know well how to navigate the minutia of paper presentations and networking events and business interactions. For some of us, the conference is an essential element of our career trajectories—which means they are also often quite fraught and anxiety-producing. As elemental as they can be to our careers, the conference, or symposium as the case may be, too often situates us at a distance from the people who are (or should be) most critical to our scholarly, intellectual, and creative endeavors. One of the driving goals behind the establishment of the Black Midwest Symposium was to create a space where people who work across a range of institutional, organizational, and communal locations throughout the Midwest and beyond could gather together to share how our Midwestern grounding affects our lives, both personally and professionally. Moreover, we were intent on cultivating a space that unapologetically centers blackness as a critical location from which to respond to any number of sociopolitical issues that threaten our physical and social survival and, indeed, the survival of our very planet. If we've done it right, this will be the first of many such gatherings to come.

If you are interested in helping to move forward the work of the Black Midwest Initiative in any capacity—whether you're interested in being involved on a long-term basis (say, you want to help organize the next symposium), or a very short-term basis (you'd like to provide some input and guidance on a one-time basis, for instance)—I'd like to encourage you to attend the organizing meeting we'll be holding on Saturday morning. All are welcome, and we'd especially like to encourage the attendance of people without formal ties to the University of Minnesota and who come from beyond the Twin Cities area. Time and location details are available in the program schedule.

The organizing committee and other dedicated staff and volunteers have worked hard to bring you a dynamic program that we hope you will find both invigorating and generative. I am excited about the possibilities of the Black Midwest Initiative and the role we can play together in its future growth and, again, welcome to the symposium.

In solidarity,



Terrion L. Williamson
Director, Black Midwest Initiative
Associate Professor, African American & African
Studies and American Studies
University of Minnesota

#BLACKMIDWEST2019

MISSION STATEMENT

First organized in the fall of 2017, the Black Midwest Initiative is a collective of scholars, students, artists, organizers, and other community-involved people who are committed to advocating for the lives of people of African descent as they are situated throughout the Midwest and Rust Belt regions of the United States.

While the U.S. presidential election of 2016 brought renewed attention to the conditions of “Middle America,” the national discourse that accompanied the election and its aftermath largely marginalized the circumstances of black people living within the region. Yet, both research and lived experience tell us that black Americans have been among the groups hardest hit by the rapid deindustrialization and accompanying economic decline and population loss that have become so synonymous with the Midwest. At the same time, there continues to be a dearth of academic scholarship and popular writing about both the historic and contemporaneous experiences of black Midwesterners outside of a couple of major cities. Far too often it is not until a crisis forces an intervention (think Flint or Ferguson) that significant attention is paid to black Midwestern communities under duress.



The Black Midwest Initiative was started to help speak to this void. As a platform, we are interested in highlighting the ongoing work people are doing, whether academic, creative, or organizational, that speaks to the experiences of black people living within the Midwest and the larger industrial sector of the U.S. As a progressive collective of people both within and beyond the academy who are dedicated to the cause of social justice, we are deeply invested in attending to issues that affect a whole range of African-descendant people, including those who are poor and working class, women or nonbinary, Muslim, LGBTQIA, immigrant, and disabled. And, as individuals who hail from and/or currently live in the Midwest or Rust Belt (a term we use with affection), we understand that the various forms of oppression and marginalization that we struggle against are not the sum total of our

existence. Just as we have known pain and suffering and struggle, we have known joy and love and care. So we fight—because we know that we are worth fighting for.

We stand in solidarity with numerous other organizations, collectives, and movements that are committed to the cause of freedom and social justice for black people and other minoritized populations, both in the U.S. and abroad. We see our work as but a small part of a much larger push toward liberation that neither begins nor ends with us, but to which we are uniquely situated to contribute. We welcome anyone who is similarly committed to join with us.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Black in the Middle: The Inaugural Black Midwest Symposium is taking place on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary homelands of the Dakota people. “Minnesota” comes from the Dakota name for this region, Mni Sóta Maḵoce, which means “land where the waters reflect the skies.” Our commitment to struggling with and for people of African descent throughout the Midwestern United States demands that we acknowledge how dispossession and plunder have also affected Indigenous peoples throughout the region and that we stand in solidarity with their struggles for self-determination.

The following are just a few resources for learning more about the Dakota in Minnesota:

Dakota Wicohan: dakotawicohan.org

Historic Fort Snelling: mnhs.org/fortsnelling

Dakota 38: vimeo.com/45619690

STATEMENT ON PHOTOGRAPHY

The Black Midwest Initiative will be having professional photos taken throughout the symposium. These images will potentially be used to share news about the symposium and to publicize the next symposium. Images may be used to enhance printed publicity and may be published on our website or social media sites. Stickers are available at the registration table that you can place on your nametag if you'd like to opt-out of such photography.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

1:30P-2:40P PAISLEY PARK TOUR

5:00P-5:30P REGISTRATION & DOORS OPEN

5:30P-7:30P BLACK MIDWEST POETRY READING

featuring Kisha Nicole Foster, Devon Ginn, Duriel E. Harris, Tish Jones, and Jamaal May. Hosted by E. G. Bailey.

Readings will be followed by a panel discussion among the poets.

7:30P-8:30P WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00A-10:30A KEYWORD PANEL #1: HOME

This panel will explore various meanings and transformative possibilities of home in the Black Midwest. As a space of movement and transition (The Great Migration and automotive industry), we ask how our work, thought, and collectivity redefine, remap, and reimagine homeplace(s). We demonstrate how the alternative ways of knowing and being rooted in our homes (kitchen tables, porches, churches, etc.) resist dominant structures such as automation, disinvestment, and dispossession. We aim to articulate, through words and art, the task of making and designating home as a space of resistance, futurity, and social transformation.

Panelists

Jamarrea Bishop
Kidiocus Carroll
Vanessa Taylor
Yolanda Williams
Tamara Winfrey-Harris

Moderator: Ezekiel Joubert

10:30A-10:45A BREAK

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 CONT.

10:45A-12:15P KEYWORD PANEL #2: JUSTICE

This panel focuses on the importance of art, activism, and scholarship as transformative strategies for realizing a more just world. Our esteemed panelists each have strong reputations for speaking truth to power and demanding justice. We will discuss how the Black Midwest has nurtured their talents and crafts, while also acting as an impetus for remaining connected to struggles in the Midwest and beyond.

Panelists

Lena K. Gardner
David Todd Lawrence
Crystal Moten
Nayyirah Shariff
Jordan Weber

Moderator: Rahsaan Mahadeo

12:15P-1:30P LUNCH (PROVIDED)

1:30P-3:00P KEYWORD PANEL #3: FREEDOM

At the heart of the Black experience in the US is the demand for Freedom. To be free has been at the heart of the Black Freedom Movement in the US in the Midwest, across the nation, Africa, and the African diaspora. Given the current moment in Black life, what does it mean to “Get Free”? A cross section of activists, artists, and academics on this panel take on the question of what freedom means, what it means to get free, and what it means to be a freedom fighter today in the Black Midwest and beyond.

Panelists

Freda Fair
Tanisha C. Ford
Brian Lozenski
Jamala Rogers
Wylliam Smith

Moderator: Rose Brewer

SCHEDULE

3:00P-3:15P **BREAK**

3:15P-4:30P **FILM SCREENING: SONGS FOR MY RIGHT SIDE (2019, 26 MIN.)**
Director and Producer Q&A: Jeffrey C. Wray & Tama Hamilton-Wray



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM ON PAGE 25.

4:30P-6:30P **DINNER BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)**

6:30P-8:00P **FILM SCREENING: THEE DEBAUCHERY BALL (2019, 71 MIN.)**
Director Q&A: David Weathersby



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM ON PAGE 26.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:30A-9:45A **BLACK MIDWEST INITIATIVE PLANNING MEETING + BREAKFAST**
Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Room 184

This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in helping to move forward the work of the Black Midwest Initiative. We will discuss the future progress of the Initiative including mission, fundraising, and the location of the next Black Midwest Symposium. Breakfast will be served for attendees.

10:00A-11:30A **KEYWORD PANEL #4: SPACE**

This panel examines the idea of space, a boundless material and discursive plane in which the Black body situates itself in relation to other bodies, practices, and ideas. In this panel we look at Black life as it is lived in the Midwest, a place thought to be lacking or wholly absent of Blackness. We talk through a range of Black spatial politics, as produced and performed across different spaces. We examine the when and where of Blackness, and how artists, scholars, and activists are inventing new spaces of imagination outside of, but in between, East and West Coast metropolises.

Panelists

Marlon Bailey
Michelle S. Johnson
Mikael Owunna
Katherine Simóne Reynolds

Moderator: Tia-Simone Gardner



SCHEDULE

11:30A-11:45A BREAK

11:45A-1:15P KEYWORD PANEL #5: TWIN CITIES

Minnesota prides itself on its niceness wrapped into an American heartland mythology around hard work and morality that conceals its pernicious disparities in health, education and housing for Black residents. This panel will be a conversation examining what the state of Minnesota often (necessarily?) conceals in its representation of itself and how Black life in the Twin Cities is substantively more than its opposition to an anti-Black state.

Panelists

Jeremiah Ellison
Andrea Jenkins
Lissa Jones
Lucina Kayee
Keith Mayes
Davu Seru

Moderator: Chaun Webster

1:15P-1:30P CLOSING COMMENTS & FAREWELL

1:30P-6:00P PHILIPO DYALI - SELECT RECENT WORKS
Studio 400 | 1500 Jackson Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413



SPEAKERS



E.G. BAILEY

E.G. Bailey, recently named one of Filmmaker magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film; is an Ivey award-winning artist, filmmaker, director and producer. He is the recipient of a regional Emmy, LIN travel

grant, and the Hughes, Diop, Knight Poetry Award from the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Conference. His work is featured in the Target Art Connects commercial, now archived at the Museum of Modern Art (NYC). He was an editor for the film, *Petting Zoo*, which debuted at the 65th International Berlin Film Festival. Bailey has directed and assisted plays for well-known production houses, such as: *The Guthrie*, *Pillsbury House*, and *Children's Theater*. Titles include: *Othello*, Amiri Baraka's *Wise Why's*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *The Brother Size*, and Sha Cage's *N-Word and U/G/L/Y*. He is the co-founder of *Tru Ruts Endeavors*, *MN Spoken Word Association*, and the *Million Artist Movement*. Bailey's written works have been published in *Solid Ground*, the millennial issue of *Drumvoices Revue*, *Warland*, a publication by the Gwendolyn Brooks Center, and *Blues Vision: African American Writing from Minnesota*, an anthology. His latest work includes the co-curation of *America Now!*, a special film project which has taken place at the Tampere Film Festival in Finland, Latvia and others; and his film, *New Neighbors*, premiered at the 2017 Sundance film festival and has been shown at over 120 festivals world-wide.



MARLON M. BAILEY

Marlon M. Bailey is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. Marlon has served as the Benedict Distinguished

Visiting Professor in Africana Studies at Carleton College; the Distinguished Weinberg Fellow in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University, and a Visiting Professor at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at the University of California, San Francisco.

Marlon's book, *Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2013. In 2014, *Butch Queens Up in Pumps* was awarded the Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize by the GL/Q Caucus of the Modern Language Association and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Book Award in LGBT Studies. Dr. Bailey has published in *American Quarterly*, *GLQ*, *Signs*, *Feminist Studies*, *Souls*, *Gender, Place, and Culture*, *The Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, *AIDS Patient Care & STDs*, *LGBT Health*, and several book collections. Marlon's essay, "Black Gay (Raw) Sex," appears in *No Tea, No Shade: New Writings in Black Queer Studies* (Duke U Press 2016), edited by E. Patrick Johnson. Marlon is also a performing artist and recently presented his solo-performance called, "Exploring Black Gay Sex, Love, and Life," at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

Marlon is the co-editor of the *New Sexual Worlds* book series, with Jeffrey McCune, at the University of California Press.

SPEAKERS



JAMARREA BISHOP

Jamarrea Bishop is a father, self-taught artist and organic intellectual from Sumpter Township, Michigan. Drawing from the urban and rural landscapes of Southeast Michigan, he uses found and

natural materials to construct architectural models. The miniature structures he creates are speculative and utopian. They represent eco-environments, cultural buildings, and living spaces imagined for black liberation, collectivity, thought, and education in the real and imaginary past, present, and future. His work aims to transform how we imagine knowing and being in the world.



ROSE M. BREWER

Dr. Rose M. Brewer is an activist scholar and The Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor and past chairperson of the Department of African American & African Studies,

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She holds affiliated appointments in Sociology and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. Brewer publishes extensively on Black feminism, political economy, and race, class, gender. Her most recent co-edited volume is Rod Bush: Lessons from a Black Radical Scholar on Liberation, Love, and Justice. She is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, a recipient of the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Teaching award and a College of Liberal Arts Dean's Medalist.



KIDIOCUS CARROLL

Kidiocus Carroll is a Doctoral Candidate in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. His work is concerned with the meaning and making of Black Life in the Midwest with a

particular focus on Black migratory practice and lived experience in postindustrial Milwaukee.



JEREMIAH ELLISON

Minneapolis Ward 5 City Council Member, Jeremiah Ellison, was born and raised in North Minneapolis – the ward he represents. He's an artist, and painted his first mural at age 8 on the corner

of Plymouth and Dupont. As an artist and organizer, Jeremiah has dedicated himself to propping up the genius of his Northside community. He's collaborated with young people as a teaching artist and as a homeless youth counselor -- helping to equip young people with tools to create new reflections of their community and envision bold futures for themselves. Jeremiah won on a platform that includes championing workers' rights, ensuring affordable and decent housing for all residents, addressing issues of environmental justice, and building community safety solutions from the bottom up. Jeremiah chairs the Elections and Rules Committee, is the Vice Chair of both the Housing Policy & Development Committee, and the Economic Development & Regulatory Services Committee, and serves on the Zoning and Planning and Public Safety Committees.

Council Member Ellison chairs the Elections and Rules Committee, is the Vice Chair of both the Housing Policy and Development Committee, and the Economic Development and Regulatory Services Committee, and serves on the Zoning and Planning and Public Safety Committees.

SPEAKERS



FREDA FAIR

Freda Fair is assistant professor of gender studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Freda's research centers on questions of U.S. black gender and sexual difference, labor, regionality,

and queer cultural production. Their work in the academy is informed by community-based archival, library, social issue, and museum collaborations. Freda can be reached at ffair@iu.edu.



TANISHA C. FORD

Tanisha C. Ford is an award-winning writer, cultural critic, and historian. She is the author of *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul* (University of North Carolina

Press, 2015), which won the 2016 Organization of American Historians' Liberty Legacy Foundation Award; *Kwame Brathwaite: Black is Beautiful* (Aperture, 2019) and *Dressed in Dreams: A Black Girl's Love Letter to the Power of Fashion* (St. Martin's, 2019). Ford's work centers on social movement history, feminist issues, material culture, the built environment, black life in the Rust Belt, girlhood studies, and fashion, beauty, and body politics. Her scholarship has published in the *Journal of Southern History*, *NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, *the Black Scholar*, and *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*. Ford's public writing and cultural commentary have been featured in the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, *Elle*, and the *Root*. Her research has been supported by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Ford Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Ford is Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History at the University of Delaware.



KISHA NICOLE FOSTER

Kisha Nicole Foster is a mother, nationally performing poet, and teaching artist. The author of *Poems: 1999-2014* and *Blood Work*, Foster is the recipient of the 2019

Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature. Foster is also in her fourth year as Regional Coordinator for Poetry Out Loud/ Ohio Arts Council, and a two time Pink Door Fellow. She is currently the Literary Cleveland Fellow/ Cleveland Stories program coordinator, teaching artist with Lake Erie Ink and crafted the poem for the Justice Center Mural Project with muralist Katherine Chilcote. Foster uses her locution as a conduit towards healing and fostering truth within language; allowing mistakes and humility to guide her craft.



LENA K. GARDNER

Lena K. Gardner is one of the founding leaders of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective (BLUU) and the current Executive Director. She is active in the social

justice and political change communities in Minneapolis. Much of her work has been in the world of the Unitarian Universalist faith. She lives in Robbinsdale with her cat, Merlin, and loves the Boundary Waters. She graduated in 2015 with her Masters in Justice and Peace studies from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in 2006.

SPEAKERS



TIA-SIMONE GARDNER

Tia-Simone Gardner is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and Black feminist scholar. Her creative and scholarly practice are interested interdisciplinary

strategies and engage ideas of ritual, iconoclasm, and geography. Gardner received her BA in Art and Art History from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. In 2009 she received her MFA in Interdisciplinary Practices and Time-Based Media from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently working on a project on Blackness and the Mississippi River as well as a photographic/writing project with her mother that addresses questions of biopolitics, Black memory and Indigeneity by looking at the houses that the women in her family lived in the post-bellum South.



DEVON GINN

Devon Ginn (he/him/they/ them) has established long-lasting relationships by working alongside influential arts and culture hubs over the past nine years. Ginn is a curator, Americans for the

Arts 2019-2020 Arts + Culture Leaders of Color Fellow, IndyHub 1826 alum, creative placekeeper + placemaker, and poet. As a freelance teaching artist, Ginn travels from state-to-state implementing his performance poetry and creative writing lesson plans for high school & college students. Deliberately collaborating with ground-breaking institutions and creatives on the forefront of change, his work as a visual artist, writer, nonprofit administrator, and performance artist is a reflection of all his learned and unlearned experiences.



TAMA HAMILTON-WRAY

Tama Hamilton-Wray is a scholar-practitioner who holds an associate professor position at Michigan State University and works as an independent filmmaker.

Her research and teaching interests include Global African Cinema and Black feminist cultural production and theory. Her most recent essay on filmmaker Haile Gerima appears in her co-edited volume, *New Directions in the Study of the African Diaspora: Uncharted Theme and Alternative Representations* (MSU Press, 2018). With partner, Jeffrey C. Wray, Hamilton-Wray has produced a number of films; their upcoming film *Songs for My Right Side* is set for release in late 2019.



DURIEL E. HARRIS

Duriel E. Harris is a poet, performer, and sound artist. She is author of three print volumes of poetry, including her most recent award winning, *No Dictionary of a Living Tongue* (Nightboat,

2017), *Drag* (2003) and *Amnesiac: Poems* (2010), and her multi-genre one-woman theatrical performance *Thingification*. A featured resident poet/teacher at the Lynden Sculpture Garden and the transformational Naropa Capitalocene Summer Writing Program, Harris was a guest at the powerful Festival Internacional de Poesía de La Habana (Cuba). Cofounder of the avant garde poetry/performance trio The Black Took Collective, Harris is showcased in Manual Cinema's short film celebrating the Walt Whitman BiCentennial and in *Letters to the Future: Black WOMEN/Radical WRITING*. The 2018 Offen Poet, Harris is an associate professor of English in the graduate creative writing program at Illinois State University and the Editor of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*.

SPEAKERS



ANDREA JENKINS

Andrea Jenkins is a writer, performance artist, poet, and transgender activist. She is the first African American openly trans woman to be elected to office in the United States.

Jenkins moved to Minnesota

to attend the University of Minnesota in 1979 and was hired by the Hennepin County government, where she worked for a decade. Jenkins worked as a staff member on the Minneapolis City Council for 12 years before beginning work as curator of the Transgender Oral History Project at the University of Minnesota's Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.

She holds a Masters Degree in Community Development from Southern New Hampshire University, a MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University and a Bachelors Degrees in Human Services from Metropolitan State University. She is a nationally and internationally recognized writer and artist, a 2011 Bush Fellow to advance the work of transgender inclusion, and the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. In 2018 she completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University.



MICHELLE S. JOHNSON

Michelle S. Johnson, a public scholar in the fields of African American history, literature and cultural production, has produced extensive work securing and promoting

spaces where socially marginalized people express their autonomous and authentic selves. Johnson teaches and consults widely on historic interpretation of Black experiences in Michigan from the colonial era to the present. Co-founder and former Executive Director of Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative, Johnson facilitates and participates in numerous curated initiatives. Named WIDR's "most beloved DJ" Johnson has appeared as weekly host DJ Disobedience for Slip Back Soul for 13 years.



LISSA JONES

Creator and Host of 'Urban Agenda' on KMOJ Radio, and Host of 'Black Market Reads', a podcast of the Givens Foundation for African American Literature.

Public Intellectual:

'An intellectual who expresses views (especially on popular topics) intended to be accessible to a general audience.'

Oxford Dictionary, 2019

Dubbed a 'public intellectual' by Chair Emeritus of American History at Macalester College, Mahmoud El-Kati, Lissa reluctantly takes on the moniker, but readily embraces the opportunity to bring thoughtful examination of African American life and culture into the public discourse on radio, through podcasting, and for a time, through a newspaper column. A lover of reading, learning, teaching, and use of voice, Lissa is a highly sought after speaker, facilitator, and mistress of ceremonies. Lissa is the creator of 'Urban Agenda', a weekly program she has hosted on KMOJ Radio, Minnesota's oldest black radio station, for the last eleven years. Lissa is also the Host of 'Black Market Reads', a podcast of the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, amplifying the black literary canon. Lissa is a member of the Twin Cities chapter of Black Journalists, and is co-chair of the 'Women in the NAACP' committee for the Minneapolis NAACP.

SPEAKERS



TISH JONES

Founder & Executive Director of TruArtSpeaks, Tish Jones is a poet, performer, educator and organizer from Saint Paul, Minnesota. She has performed at CBGB, Kaplan Theater, The Walker Art Center, Intermedia

Arts, The Cedar Cultural Center and more. Her work can be found in the Minnesota Humanities Center's anthology entitled, *Blues Vision: African American Writing from Minnesota* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015), the 2011 and 2013 Saint Paul Almanac, and the Loft Literary Center's Nation of Immigrants audio CD.

A graduate fellow of the inaugural Intercultural Leadership Institute, Jones has always had a passion for bridging arts & culture, civic engagement and youth development. Senior Field Building Strategist for Youth Speaks and Co-Director of Brave New Voices, her work explores the ways in which art can function as a tool for social transformation, liberation and education. For more on her personal praxis in this arena, see Jones' TEDxMinneapolis Talk on Spoken Word as a Radical Practice of Freedom.



EZEKIEL JOUBERT III

Ezekiel Joubert III is an educator, community involved scholar and creative writer. He is an Assistant Professor of Educational Foundations in the Division of Advanced and Applied Studies at California

State University-Los Angeles. His work with pre-service teachers focuses on how to make social change in and out of their classrooms by engaging in historical injustices and student resistance. His research explores the educational challenges and visions of black rural communities near Metro Detroit, where he researches the ways in which black students and their families respond to and reimagine educational structures that prevent equal access to quality education and student movement. His current projects include writing on the relationship between racial capitalism and black education, gathering life histories of black elders living in rural Metro Detroit, forming an urban-rural Black Southeast Michigan collaborative and writing a collection of speculative poems and short stories on teaching in underserved schools.



LUCINA KAYEE

Lucina Kayee is a queer Liberian community organizer, foster care advocate, and co-founder of MY Generation, a youth-run organization that embraces the collaboration between young people of color

and their circle of support. Lucina is currently working on U.S. Congressman. John Lewis' Every Child Deserves a Family Act Campaign and is a Campus Ambassador for the Robert F. Kennedy Young Leaders program. She lives on the Eastside of Saint Paul with her partner and his many plants.

Pronouns: she, her, hers

SPEAKERS



DAVID TODD LAWRENCE

David Todd Lawrence is Associate Professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Mn, where he teaches African-American literature and culture, folklore

studies, and cultural studies. His research and teaching areas include James Baldwin, racial passing and ambiguity, African-American genre fiction, speculative black writing, folklore studies, and ethnographic writing. His book, *When They Blew the Levee: Race, Politics and Community in Pinhook, Mo* (2018), co-authored with Elaine Lawless, is an ethnographic project done in collaboration with residents of Pinhook, Missouri, an African American town destroyed when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intentionally breached the Birds Point-New Madrid levee during the Mississippi River Flood of 2011.



BRIAN LOZENSKI

Brian Lozenski is an assistant professor of urban and multicultural education in the Educational Studies Department at Macalester College. He received his doctorate from the University

of Minnesota where he studied the cultural contexts of teaching and learning. His scholarship explores the intersections of critical participatory action research, black intellectual traditions in education, and cultural sustainability in the education of youth of African descent.



RAHSAAN MAHADEO

Rahsaan Mahadeo is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota and contributor to the Black Midwest Initiative. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the

Department of Sociology at Georgetown University. Rahsaan's research focuses on how racialized youth in urbanized space reckon with time. He looks at how time is racialized, how race is temporalized and how race, racialization and racism condition youth's perspectives on time. He recently defended his dissertation titled "Funk the Clock: Transgressing Time while Young, Prescient and Black."



JAMAAL MAY

Jamaal May is a writer, editor, mixed-media artist, sound engineer, and member of the Organic Machine Nation. His two books are *Hum* and *The Big Book of Exit Strategies* (Alice James Books

2013,2016). Awards and honors include The Spirit of Detroit Award, the Benjamin Danks Award, American Library Association's Notable Book Award, and fellowships from Cave Canem, Bread Loaf Conference, the Lanan Foundation, and Bucknell University. From Hamtramck, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Traverse City, he collaborates with a web of creative do-gooders on the relaunch of OW! Lit, the Qualia Bridge creative and research project, and Jamtramck Beat Systems, a local grassroots musician support outfit. Jamaal's next poetry collection is a sonic chapbook appearing on vinyl with an 11x11 art/lyric book and a digital version available. He is an assistant professor at Wayne State University.

SPEAKERS



KEITH MAYES

Dr. Keith Mayes is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota; former chair of the Department of African American & African Studies; and the Horace T. Morse-

Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor. Dr. Mayes earned his Ph.D. in History from Princeton University. His teaching and research interests include the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements; education policy and history; black holiday traditions; racial equity and critical ethnic studies pedagogy; and the history of African Americans. Dr. Mayes has published one book entitled *Kwanzaa: Black Power and the Making of the African American Holiday Tradition*. He is currently working on another book entitled, *The Unteachables: Civil Rights, Disability Rights and the Origins of Black Special Education*.

Dr. Mayes established the Mayes Educational Group, LLC, which provides consultant, professional development, and training services in the areas of racial equity; curriculum development; and social studies. Some of his current and former clients include the Omaha Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools; District 279-Osseo Public schools; District 196-Apple Valley, Eagan, Rosemount Public Schools; Independent School District 194 (Lakeville, MN); District 833-South Washington County Schools; and St. Paul Public Schools; National Geographic; the History Channel; the Minnesota Humanities Center; and the Minnesota Department of Education. Dr. Mayes has lectured widely throughout the Twin Cities Metro area in K-12 schools, churches, municipal governments and corporations. He has appeared on various media outlets, such as KMOJ, KARE-11 News, WCCO Channel 4, KSTP, Minnesota Public Radio, Radio Minnesota, KFAI, and National Public Radio.



CRYSTAL M. MOTEN

Crystal M. Moten is Curator of African American History in the Division of Work and Industry at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. She researches and writes

about Black women's post-World War II civil rights activism in the urban Midwest. She has published in a number of venues including the *Journal of Civil and Human Rights*, *Souls* and in the collection *The Strange Careers of the Jim Crow North: Segregation and Struggle Outside of the South*. She is currently working on her manuscript, *We Work to Bloom: Black Women's Intellectual and Economic Activism in Postwar Milwaukee*.



MIKAEL OWUNNA

Mikael Chukwuma Owunna (b. 1990) is an award-winning queer Nigerian-Swedish artist, photographer, Fulbright Scholar and engineer born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mikael's work center around identity while bending the medium with his engineering and multidisciplinary background. His work has exhibited across Asia, Europe and North America and been featured in media ranging from the New York Times, PBS, NPR, BuzzFeed to Teen Vogue. Mikael has spoken and lectured about his work at venues including World Press Photo (Netherlands), Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Duke University, the Paris Institute of Political Studies (France) and Sveriges Radio (Sweden).

SPEAKERS



KATHERINE SIMÓNE REYNOLDS

Katherine Simóne Reynolds' practice works to physicalize emotions and experiences by constructing pieces that include portrait photography, video works,

and choreography. In the process of making subtle changes to her practice she has learned that creating an environment built on intention brings the most disarming feelings to her work. Utilizing the Black body and her own narrative as a place of departure has made her question her own navigation of ownership, inclusion, and authenticity within a contemporary gaze. She draws inspiration from Black glamour, the Black athlete, and the Church. Her practice generally deals in Blackness from my her own perspective and she continually searches for what it means to produce "Black work."

She has exhibited work within many spaces and institutions around Saint Louis, including the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, and The Luminary. She has exhibited in local, national, and international group and solo shows, has spoken at The Contemporary Art Museum of Saint Louis and The Saint Louis Art Museum, and MoMA for their Gallery Sessions where she also performed. She has recently exhibited work in the In Practice group exhibition at The Sculpture center, and has been appointed as the new curator at The Luminary a non-profit art institution in Saint Louis, MO.



JAMALA ROGERS

Jamala Rogers is a veteran organizer with deep roots in the Black Liberation Movement. Her battlefronts are wherever her people are including mass incarceration, police terrorism, reproductive

justice and youth development. Rogers is a poet and prolific writer. She has featured columns in three media platforms, BlackCommentator.com, Capital City Hues and the award-winning St. Louis American. She's the author of countless essays and several books including *Ferguson is America: Roots of Rebellion*. Rogers is faculty for the Black Feminist Organizing School. She is the recipient of numerous community service awards and was the 2017 Organizer-in-Residence at The Havens Center for Social Justice-UW Madison.



DAVU SERU

North Minneapolis native, Saint Paul transplant Davu Seru is visiting faculty in the Department of English at Hamline University. His teaching, research and writing concern 20th-century African

American literary and cultural studies. As co-author of the book *Sights, Sounds, Soul: The Twin Cities through the Lens of Charles Chamblis* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2017), Seru provides a cursory examination of the national and regional migration patterns that helped to shape the culture of the Black Twin Cities of the middle 70s to mid 1980s. In addition to his scholarly work, Davu is a drummer, improviser and composer for avant-garde "jazz" ensembles including the Chicago-based Black Praxis Sound Project.

SPEAKERS



NAYYIRAH SHARIFF

Nayyirah Shariff is a grassroots organizer based in Flint, Michigan. Nayyirah was one of the co-founders of the Flint Democracy Defense League, a grassroots group formed to confront Flint's

emergency manager in 2011. She has nearly ten years experience organizing around local, state, and national electoral and issue campaigns. She has been featured on Democracy Now!, Move to Amend podcast, Al-Jazeera and Netroots Nation speaking out about the problems with Flint's water and with Michigan's Emergency Management of local governments. She is currently the Director of Flint Rising, a coalition of Flint residents and community groups, labor, and progressive allies that formed in response to Flint's emergency declaration.



WYLLIAM SMITH

I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Currently, I attend the University of Iowa working towards a degree in English and Creative Writing. After arriving in Iowa I wrote for The Daily Iowan

Newspaper as an opinions columnist. Some of my most popular stories are Smith: The Reality of Being Black In Iowa, Smith: The Black Superhero, and Smith: I am more than just a Black man. While at the Daily Iowan I was declared the Iowa Master Columnist by the Iowa Newspaper Foundation. Currently, I work as a freelance writer, and I am writing two comic books.



VANESSA TAYLOR

Vanessa Taylor is a writer based out of Philadelphia, although the Midwest will always be home. Originally getting her start as an organizer in Minneapolis, she uses writing as an extension

of community work. Through articles, essays, fiction, and more, she focuses on exploring Black Muslim womanhood and technology. Her articles have appeared in outlets such as Teen Vogue, Al Jazeera English, and The Intercept. Her essays and fiction have appeared in Catapult, as Editor's Pick in Barren Magazine, and in Belt Magazine – where she received a Pushcart Prize nomination. She is a 2019 Echoing Ida cohort member.



DAVID WEATHERSBY

David Weathersby is a filmmaker/videographer and the founder of City Vanguard, an arts organization that helps independent filmmakers create community-based documentaries for

educational and cultural institutions. As a director, he has produced films, documentaries, music videos and video art projects. His past projects include the documentaries *Got the Love*, *Jazz Occurrence*, *The Color of Art* and *Thee Debauchery Ball*. His work has been featured on The Africa Channel, WTTW and various film festivals including Pan African Film Festival, Sand Diego Black Film Festival, Collected Voices Film Festival, Black Harvest Film Festival, Image Union Film Festival, Roxbury International Film Festival and The Chicago Short Comedy Film Festival. In 2018, he was awarded a Black Excellence award for best director by the African American Arts Alliance of Chicago.

SPEAKERS



JORDAN WEBER

Jordan Weber is a Des Moines-based multi-disciplinary artist/activist who works at the cross section of race and environmental justice. His work has been exhibited at White Box,

New York; Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha; Intersect Art Center, St. Louis; Des Moines Art Center; Macalester College, Twin Cities, Smack Mellon, New York; Manifest Justice, Los Angeles; Charlotte Street Foundation; Kansas City; Open Engagement, Chicago. Weber is best known for his deconstructed police vehicles turned community gardens/workout equipment and recontextualized abandoned structures. Awards and fellowships include Harvard LOEB candidate, A Blade of Grass fellowship NYC, Tanne Foundation fellow, Des Moines Public Art Foundation fellow and African American Leadership Fellow.



CHAUN WEBSTER

Chaun Webster is a poet and graphic designer who draws from an interest in graffiti, collage, simultaneity, and the visuality of text. Webster utilizes these methods to investigate race-

-the instability of blackness and black subjectivities, geography, memory, and the body. These investigations engage the question of absence, archiving what is missing from the landscape as a number of communities watch neighborhoods, once populated with familiar presences, dissolve in the vernacular of redevelopment and its attendant colonial logic. Webster's debut book, *Gentry!fication: or the scene of the crime*, was published by Noemi Press in 2018 and received the Minnesota Book Award for poetry.



YOLANDA Y. WILLIAMS

Yolanda Y. Williams, Ph.D., is a performer, educator, scholar, and pastor. Her performance career has taken her throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and

Africa, performing Western Art Music, Jazz, and Gospel. Yolanda has performed both soprano and mezzo-soprano repertoire with Vocalessence, the Rochester Symphony, La Choeur Symphonique de Fribourg, Lundi Sept Heures, Ensemble de Cuivres Jurassien, the Montreux Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic.

Ms. Williams serves on the faculties of the University of Minnesota and Pine Technical College where her teaching responsibilities include courses in African American music history, general music history, music theory, and performance. Yolanda's scholarly work on musical styles and genres of the African Diaspora can be found in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Folklore* (2005) and the *Encyclopedia of African American Music* (2010). Yolanda is appointed Associate Pastor at Brunswick United Methodist Church in Crystal.

SPEAKERS



TAMARA WINFREY-HARRIS

Tamara Winfrey-Harris is a writer who specializes in the ever-evolving space where current events, politics, and pop culture intersect with race and gender. Her work

has appeared in media, including Salon, The Guardian, Cosmopolitan, New York Magazine and The New York Times, where she addressed Rachel Dolezal's white privilege and the erasure of black Midwesterners. Her essays also appear in books such as *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery* and *The Lemonade Reader*. Tamara's first book is *The Sisters are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative for Black Women in America* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Summer 2015).

www.TamaraWinfreyHarris.com



JEFFREY C. WRAY

Jeffrey C. Wray is a Professor of Film Studies at Michigan State University and an independent filmmaker. Recent films include *Songs for My Right Side*, a 2019 half-hour drama, *BLAT! Pack Live*,

a 2016 music documentary, and *The Evolution of Bert*, a 2014 feature-narrative that premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival and was nominated for the Roger Ebert Award.

Wray's screenplays include *The Soul Singer*, a drama and 2018 Nicholl Academy Award Screenwriting Fellowship Quarterfinalist, and *Eclipse*, a political drama set in the turbulent summer of 1964. His 2018 essay "How Ella Mae Wray Seized the Opportunities of 1968" was published in The Atlantic.

BOOK SALES

We have arranged to have the books of a number of our symposium authors available for purchase. Please visit the book table during the following times:

Thursday, Oct 17 | 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Friday, Oct 18 | 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, Oct 19 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

FILM SCREENINGS

ONE HUNDRED YEARS POST-MICHEAUX: A Brief Statement on Black Independent Film in the Midwest

You might say that black independent film got its start in the Midwest. At the very least, the Midwest was a staging ground for one of the earliest and most prolific independent black filmmakers in US history. Oscar Micheaux was born in southern Illinois near the end of the nineteenth century and spent time working in South Dakota as a homesteader before eventually establishing the Micheaux Film and Book Company in Chicago in 1919. Micheaux would go on to produce more than forty feature-length black-cast silent and sound films, including *The Homesteader* (1919) and *Within Our Gates* (1920), his trenchant response to D.W. Griffith's racist epic *Birth of a Nation* (1915), before his death in 1951.

The two films being screened as part of the Black Midwest Symposium—*Songs for My Right Side* (2019), created by Jeff Wray and Tama Hamilton-Wray of East Lansing, Michigan, and David Weatherby's Chicago-based documentary *Thee Debauchery Ball* (2019)—continue the tradition of black Midwestern filmmaking begun by Micheaux a century ago. Micheaux produced at least one film a year between 1919 and 1940, and though the changing landscape of cinema production has made it difficult for black filmmakers to produce multiple films, to say nothing of Micheaux's rate of production, a number of significant films have explored black Midwestern life since the days of Micheaux. In Chicago, for instance, independent feature films such as *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* (Ivan Dixon, 1973), *Cooley High* (Michael Schultz, 1975), and *Love Jones* (Theodore Witcher, 1997) have helped to depict the diversity, richness, and complexity of black life in the city, while platforms like the Black Harvest Film Festival, Kartemquin Films, Impakt Studio, and Open TV have been instrumental in supporting and

disseminating the work of black filmmakers and media producers both within and beyond Chicago.

While Chicago might be thought of as something of a mecca of black Midwestern film production, many other independent films have helped to highlight the historical and contemporaneous experiences of black Midwesterners. These include *The Learning Tree* (1969), the semi-autobiographical film directed by celebrated photographer and Kansas native Gordon Parks; Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davis's *Whose Streets?* (2017), which explores the Ferguson uprising in the wake of the police shooting of Mike Brown by way of the stories of frontline activists and leaders; Pam Sporn's *Detroit 48202: Conversations Along a Postal Route* (2018), which examines the contested resurgence of Detroit through the eyes of a local mail carrier and the residents along his route; and *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement* (2018), a student-produced film that explores the history of a black community in St. Paul, Minnesota that was devastated by the construction of the I-94 freeway beginning in the late 1950s. These are but a small sampling of the films produced by and about the Black Midwest beyond Chicago, and several cities small and large, including Gary (IN), Columbus (OH), Detroit (MI), Indianapolis (IN), and the Twin Cities, now hold annual black film festivals that specifically highlight the work of regional filmmakers.

Black Midwestern filmmaking is truly a thriving enterprise and the Black Midwest Initiative is proud to support the dynamic work of independent filmmakers, studios, and collectives who are doing work in and on the region.

FILM SCREENINGS



FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 3:15P-4:30P

SONGS FOR MY RIGHT SIDE (2019, 26 MIN.)

Director and Producer Q&A: Jeffrey C. Wray & Tama Hamilton-Wray

Rodger Smith is in pain. The fate of two recently encountered young black people occupy his thoughts. An undocumented West African longing for home crosses his path. Most of all, he wants his estranged wife Josephine back. All the while, a mysterious pain takes over the right side of his body. Only music can soothe his troubled soul.

FILM SCREENINGS



FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 6:30P-8:30P

THEE DEBAUCHERY BALL (2019, 71 MIN.)

Director Q&A: David Weathersby

The story of Chicago's Afro-Futuristic, BDSM, fetish-themed House music party and how it has reshaped the Black social scene and challenged the narratives of Black sexuality.

Thee Debauchery Ball, tells the story of a single house music event that was intended to pay reverence to the original intention of House Music culture of Chicago and grew to become the only fetish-themed, BDSM friendly, body positive, house party in the city. It has helped redefine Black music, community, art, and sexuality. All topics that are often maligned in the Black community. The documentary tells the personal story of the founder, the DJ and the participants who look upon this event as a bastion of freedom and an escape from precon- ceived notions.

The documentary covers the time period from The Debauchery Ball of 2017 to The Debauchery Ball of 2018. The stories are structured around three individuals instrumental to the conception and growth of the event, Khari B, the founder, William Dunn, the DJ and Erika Jarvis, the longest running patron, and dancer. The founder of the event, Khari B's experiences

through the decades reflect the struggles of putting this event together despite Chicago having the strongest House Music community in the world. William Dunn (Big Will) has created the soundtrack for The Debauchery Ball. The original DJ from the first Debauchery Ball, William has crafted a sound that pays homage to classic or "deep" house while intermingling a contemporary feel. This is a microcosm of the balance that house seeks in the city at large. A way of walking the line between long-standing fans of the genre while inviting a younger generation that is essential for the future of the music. William's struggle with a playlist is a sample of the meta struggle that Thee Debauchery Ball has to contend with itself.

Erika Jarvis (Miss Behaven), a patron from the first Debauchery Ball and everyone that has followed. We pick up with Erika as she selects her outfit with a nearly spiritual mindset that goes into preparation. Her outfit and accessories reflect not only the "all black" color theme of the event but also the fetish and BDSM elements that encompass a sense of Black sexuality. A sense that evokes agency as well as freedom rarely seen in public.

STUDIO 400 - EXHIBIT

Studio 400 presents

Philipo Dyauli - Select Recent Works

Saturday, October 19, 2019

Open 1:30pm-6:00pm to guests of the
Black Midwest Symposium

Studio 400 | 1500 Jackson Street NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Located on the 4th floor of the
Northrop King Building



Mother and Son

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Philipo Dyauli is a painter, illustrator, and draftsman from Tanzania and currently resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He works from the Northrup King Building as a part of the Studio 400 program. His work is inspired by pop art, film, illustration and graphic design creating a body of work that reflects his life between his two homes in the United States and East Africa. The support he receives from his family and the Twin Cities' vibrant community drives him to new creations every time he paints.

ABOUT STUDIO 400

Organized by Public Functionary and artist Leslie Barlow, Studio 400 supports artists in building community, practice, and collaboration. Studio 400 is multi-disciplinary, with an open interpretation of art and artists. The program includes painters, graphic designers, fashion designers and more. Self-taught artists and artists who are traditionally educated are equally valued. A safe and supportive culture for the development of new ideas, aesthetics and artistic approaches is important in this intersectional space. Studio 400 prioritizes space for artists of color and historically underserved artists, with a focus on young emerging artists under the age of 30.

www.publicfunctionary.org/studio400

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

THE BLACK MIDWEST ANTHOLOGY: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submission Deadline: DECEMBER 1, 2019

Belt Publishing, in conjunction with the Black Midwest Initiative, is developing an anthology of essays, poems, and artwork to be published in 2020. Submissions are encouraged by participants of the inaugural Black Midwest Symposium being held at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities from October 17-19, 2019, as well as members of the wider public.

This anthology is meant to explore the various meanings and experiences of blackness throughout the greater Midwest and Rust Belt regions of the United States. We're looking for compelling narratives, thought-provoking analyses, and impactful commentaries that are able to render the complexities of the region meaningfully to a broad audience and will be relevant for years to come. While we anticipate the stories of major cities like Detroit and Chicago will be represented, we're also looking to represent the stories of people living in smaller cities and rural areas where the lives of black residents have more often gone unacknowledged by traditional news and media outlets. We also especially encourage submissions that explore issues around immigration, queerness and sexuality, religious difference, and disability.

We will consider nonfiction personal essays and critical commentaries between 300 and 2000 words, as well as poetry and artwork that is directly related to the region. We are not accepting fiction.

Authors can submit multiple pieces. Original pieces will be given priority, but we will consider previously published pieces if the author has the rights to the piece and provides the original publication information. Accepted submissions will be edited in coordination with the author. Contributors will each receive a small honorarium.

The anthology will be edited by Peoria-native Terrion Williamson. She is author of *Scandalize My Name: Black Feminist Practice and the Making of Black Social Life*, associate professor of African American & African Studies at the University of Minnesota, and director of the Black Midwest Initiative.

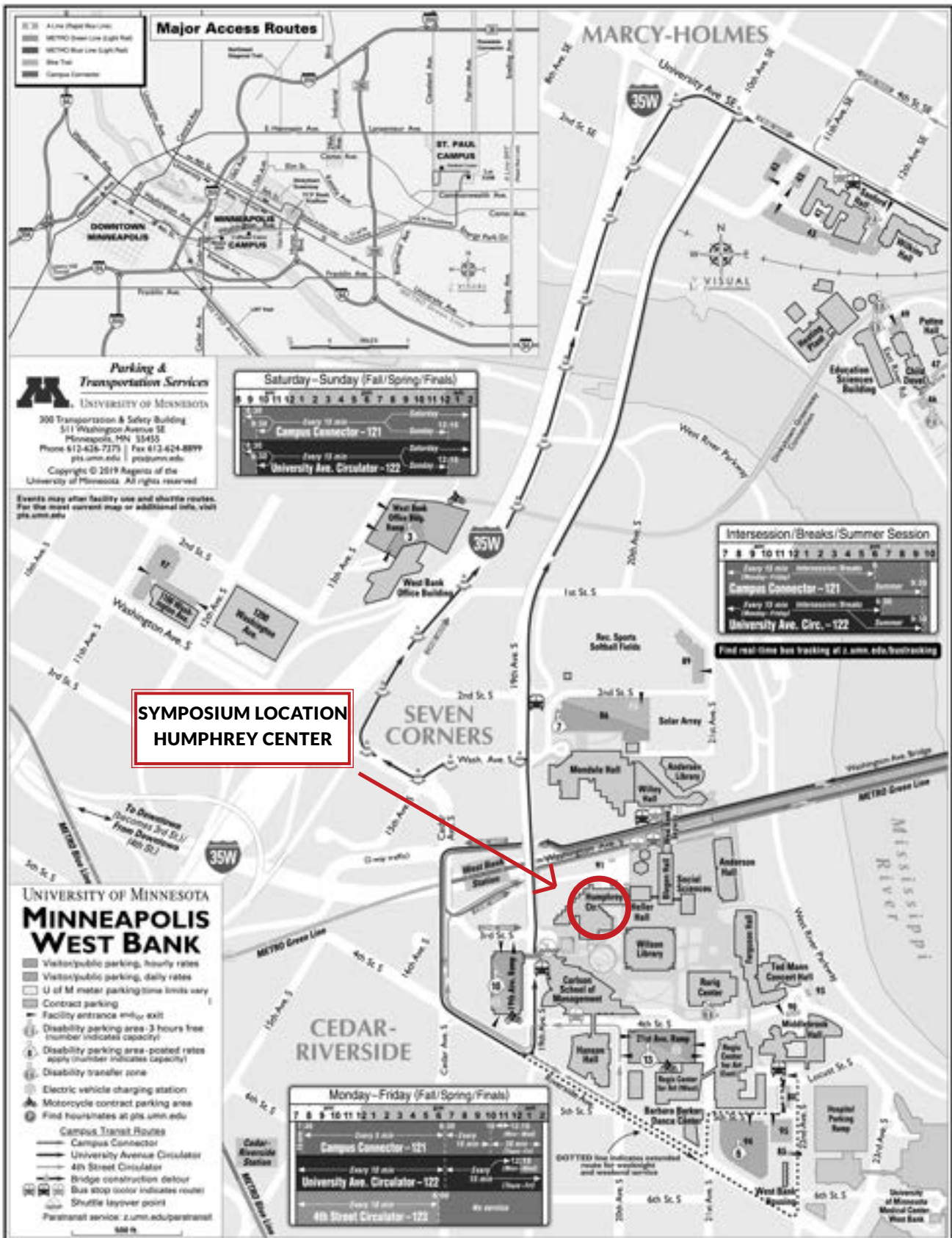
To submit a piece for consideration, please:

- Include the author's full name, contact information (email, phone number, and address), and a short bio of 50-100 words in the body of the submission email.
- Provide a short abstract or explanation of the piece of 50-100 words.
- Write "Submission" in the subject line of the email.
- Attach your piece to your submission email, preferably as a Word document.

Submit contributions and questions to: blackmidwestanthology@gmail.com

For more information about Belt: beltpublishing.com

CAMPUS MAP



RESTAURANTS

NEARBY RESTAURANTS

Dilla's Ethiopian Restaurant -- .3 miles from Cowles Auditorium
dillasethiopeanrestaurant.com
1813 Riverside Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Chipotle Mexican Grill -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
chipotle.com
229 Cedar Avenue S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

The Corner Bar -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
thecorner.bar
1501 Washington Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Flamin Thai -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
flaminthai.com
233 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Keefe Court Bakery and Café -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
keefercourt.com
326 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Malabari Kitchen Restaurant -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
malabarikitchen.com
414 1/2 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

The Red Sea Restaurant & Bar -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
theredseampls.com
320 Cedar Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Republic -- .4 miles from Cowles Auditorium
republicmn.com
221 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Acadia -- .5 miles from Cowles Auditorium
acadiapub.com
329 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454

AFRICAN DIASPORIC CUISINE & BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANTS IN THE TWIN CITIES

Afro Deli
afrodeli.com
720 Washington Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Bolé Ethiopian Cuisine
bolethiopiancuisine.com
490 N. Syndicate Street
St. Paul, MN 55104

Cajun Twist
eatcajuntwist.com
1221 Theodore Wirth Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Fasika Ethiopian Restaurant
fasika.com
510 N. Snelling Ave
St. Paul, MN 55104

Funky Grits
funkygrits.com
805 East 38th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Handsome Hog
handsomehog.com
203 6th St E
St. Paul, MN 55101

Heritage Tea House & Café
360 University Ave W #103
St. Paul, MN 55103

Jambo Africa Restaurant
jamboafricarestaurant.com
1601 Freeway Blvd 55430
Brooklyn Center, MN

Mama Sheila's Soul Food Kitchen
mamasheilashos.com
3744 Bloomington Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Pimento Jamaican Kitchen
pimentokitchen.com
2524 Nicollet Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Safari Restaurant
safarirestaurant.net
3010 4th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Sammy's Avenue Eatery
sammysavenueeatery.com
1101 W. Broadway Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Smoke in the Pit
smokeinthepit.com
3733 Chicago Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Soul Bowl
soulbowlmn.com
520 4th Street N #202
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Trio - Plant-Based
610 W. Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Wendy's House of SOUL
1021 W. Broadway Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

LOCAL EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

17th Annual Twin Cities Black Film Festival

October 16-20, 2019

tcbff.org

Soul Friday

A dance party created by and for Queer Women of Color. We celebrate all of our Trans, non-binary, and genderqueer siblings!

Friday, October 18 | 9PM – 2AM

Icehouse Minneapolis | 2528 Nicollet Ave,
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Givens Collection of African American Literature

lib.umn.edu/givens

University of Minnesota

Elmer L. Anderson Library

222 21st Street South, Suite 213

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Juxtaposition Arts

juxtapositionarts.org

2007 N. Emerson Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Midtown Global Market

midtownglobalmarket.org

920 E. Lake Street

Minneapolis, MN 55407

Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery

maahmg.org

1256 Penn Ave N, Fourth Floor

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Paisley Park

officialpaisleypark.com

7801 Audubon Road

Chanhassen, MN 55317

Penumbra Theatre

penumbratheatre.org

270 North Kent Street

St. Paul, MN 55102

The Somali Museum of Minnesota

somalimuseum.org

1516 E. Lake Street

Suite 011 (Lower Level)

Minneapolis, MN 55407



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This inaugural convening could not have happened if not for the generous financial support, hard work, and commitment of the people and organizations named below. We thank them for believing in the mission of the Black Midwest Initiative and for all they have done to make our work possible.

University of Minnesota Institutional Sponsors

College of Liberal Arts
Interdisciplinary Collaborative Workshop Program
Department of African American & African Studies
Race, Indigeneity, Gender & Sexuality Studies Initiative
CREATE Initiative
Institute for Advanced Study
Cinema in the Cities
Department of American Studies
Department of Sociology

Community Partners

Black Table Arts
Studio 400
Urban Agenda with Lissa Jones (KMOJ)

Support Personnel & Volunteers

Leslie Barlow
Catherine Carle
Sara Cronquist
Agnes Malika
Christine Powell
Bella Rolland
Vanessa Steele
Devona Thomas

Black Midwest Initiative Organizing Committee

Rose Brewer
Kidocus Carroll
Lauren Eldridge
Tia-Simone Gardner
Jane Henderson
Ezekiel Joubert
Rahsaan Mahadeo
Denise Pike
Chaun Webster
Terrion Williamson

Graphics & Design

Denise Pike

Photography

Adja Gildersleve

Catering

1851 Heritage Catering
Afro Deli
Breaking Bread Café & Catering
Soul Bowl

#BLACKMIDWEST2019

