



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10, 2022 (Updated)

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KEVIN POWELL, KAREN HUNTER, MARK ANTHONY NEAL CONFIRMED FOR THE 16th NATIONAL BLACK WRITERS CONFERENCE: MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2022
These And Other New Confirmations Make the Already Popular Conference the Black Literature Event of the Year!

Brooklyn, NY --- The Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York (CBL) announce that the 16th National Black Writers Conference (NBWC2022) will be held, virtually, from **Wednesday, March 30 to Saturday, April 2, 2022**. This year's theme, *The Beautiful Struggle: Black Writers Lighting the Way*, will examine the ways that texts by Black writers document struggle and persistence *and* light the ways for overcoming obstacles and surviving in a racially constructed society.

Other confirmed participants include **EDWIDGE DANTICAT, BRITTNEY COOPER, JELANI COBB, TRACY K. SMITH, MARC LAMONT HILL, MARITA GOLDEN, IBRAM X. KENDI, NIKKY FINNEY, BERNICE L. MCFADDEN, KIESE LAYMON, MARLON JAMES, SHEREE RENEE THOMAS, TONY MEDINA**, and more! See full list on page

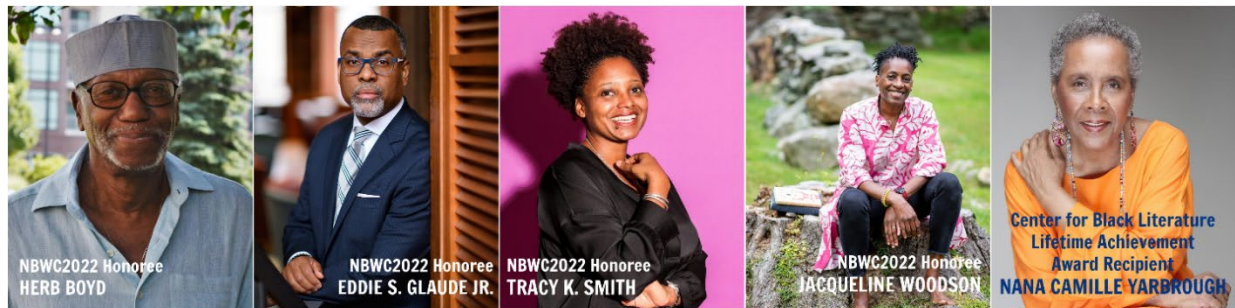
For more information, visit www.CenterForBlackLiterature.org. Conference inquiries are directed to info@CenterForBlackLiterature.org; to (718) 804-8883; or to the communications and marketing office at (718) 756-8501.

Established at Medgar Evers College in 1986 by novelist John Oliver Killens, the National Black Writers Conference is a public gathering of literature lovers from all walks of life in the United States, as well as from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and Australia. The Conference has attracted some of today’s most celebrated writers and scholars across several genres and generations, including recipients of the NAACP Image Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur “Genius” Fellows, New York Times best-sellers; Poet Laureates; and other distinguished guests.

NBWC2022 HIGHLIGHTS

(Pre-Conference and Main Conference Events)

This year’s honorees are award-winning writer **Herb Boyd**, esteemed scholar **Eddie S. Glaude Jr.**, 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States **Tracy K. Smith**, and award-winning writer **Jacqueline Woodson**. The Center for Black Literature’s Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient is the legendary **Nana Camille Yarbrough**.



The Award Program is Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Other Conference highlights include:

- a tribute to the late poet **KAMILAH AISHA MOON**
- roundtable conversations
- a presentation of scholarly papers
- film screenings
- five talkshops
- a poetry slam, and much more.

FROM THE FOUNDER and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the CENTER FOR BLACK LITERATURE

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“ Dr. Brenda M. Greene (pictured), shares that “Over the past twenty years, the landscape of Black literature has changed dramatically. World events ranging from the 9/11 attacks, the election of the first African American United States president, and the emergence of the #MeTooMovement to the empowered voices of the LGBTQIA+ communities, pervasive gentrification and displacement, and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic have all transformed the ways in which Black writers see the world and their place in it. There has been a fundamental shift in what we focus on and how we express that focus.” She adds: “Through countless challenges, the Center has never wavered on its mission: To broaden the public’s understanding and appreciation of Black literature and the writers who create it. Throughout some of our darkest moments, Black writers have always been our North Star. They have been lighting the way in every genre for centuries. So, we urge everyone to join us this Spring for the 16th National Black Writers Conference. In addition to being intellectually stimulating, the gathering is known for its deeply inspirational sessions. NBWC2022 is the kickoff major event for our twentieth anniversary season, and it promises to be a historic conference thanks to the brilliant writers and artists who have graciously confirmed to share their time and talents.”



#FACTS TO KNOW

- ☑ This year’s Conference is part of the Center’s 20th anniversary.
- ☑ NBWC is All Virtual in 2022.
- ☑ City University of New York (CUNY) students and Medgar Evers College students always attend the Conferences for **FREE!**

NBWC2022 AWARDEES, WRITERS, POETS, SPEAKERS, MODERATORS, HOSTS, and EMCEES (as of March 10, 2022)

Ama Codjoe
Aracelis Girmay
Bernice McFadden
Brenda M. Greene
Brian W. Smith
Brittney Cooper
Carolyn Butts
Chief Baba Neil Clarke
Courtia Newland
Diane Richards
Dolen Perkins-Valdez
Donna Hill
Eddie S. Glaude Jr
Edwidge Danticat
Elle Johnson
Emily Bernard
Erica Buddington
Farah Jasmine Griffin
Haki Madhubuti
Herb Boyd
Ibram X. Kendi
Jacqueline Woodson
Jelani Cobb
Jervette Ward
Jewelle Gomez
Joanne Gabbin
John Murillo
Kareen Odate
Karen Hunter
Keisha-Gaye Anderson
Keith Gilyard
Kevin Powell
Khalil Gibran Muhammad
Kia Corthron
Kiese Laymon
Ladee Hubbard
Lindamichelle Baron
Louis Edwards
Lurie Daniel Favors

Maaza Mengiste
Malik Brizan-Reed
Malik Windsor
Marc Lamont Hill
Marita Golden
Mark Anthony Neal
Marlon James
Martha Southgate
Maurice Carlos Ruffin
Mo Beasley
Moikgantsi Kgama
Monica A. Coleman
Monique Patterson
Morgan Jerkins
Nana Camille Yarbrough
Nana Nkweti
Natanya Duncan
Natashia Deón
Nicole Dennis-Benn
Nikky Finney
Nina Angela Mercer
Novella Ford
Obery M. Hendricks Jr.
Patrick Oliver
Peniel E. Joseph
Rachel Eliza Griffiths
Sheree Renée Thomas
Stacey Barney
Steven Barnes
Tananarive Due
Thabiti Lewis
Tony Medina
Tracy K. Smith
Tyehimba Jess
Victor McGlothlin
Wallace L. Ford

**Program Subject to Change.
Check for weekly updates at
www.CenterForBlackLiterature.org**



MAIN CONFERENCE EVENTS-AT-A-GLANCE

DAY ONE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

- **Opening Keynote:** Haki R. Madhubuti in Conversation with Keith Gilyard
- **Moderator:** Joanne Gabbin

DAY TWO: Thursday, March 31, 2022

- Reading: Reflections from Members of the Dr. Edith Rock Writing Workshop for Elders
- Poetry Café | Co-Presented with Brooklyn Public Library

DAY THREE: Friday, April 1, 2022

- **Roundtable:** "Between the World & Me: The Social Responsibility of the Black Writer"
- **Roundtable:** "The Souls of Black Folk: Telling Our Stories"
- **Roundtable:** "Afrofuturism: Octavia Tried to Tell Us"
- **Summit Keynote:** Herb Boyd, Jacqueline Woodson, and Tracy K. Smith

DAY FOUR: Saturday, April 2, 2022

- **Writing Talks:** Publishing, Fiction, Poetry, Memoir, and Young Adult
- **Roundtable:** "Nobody Knows My Name: Race Relations in Black Literature"
- **Roundtable:** "Making a Way Out of No Way: Healing the Community"
- **Roundtable:** "From the Margin to the Center: Gender, Sexuality, and Feminism in Black Literature"
- **Awards and Tribute Program**

For the latest updates, participants bios, and more,
visit www.centerforblackliterature.org.

CONTACT US

■ General Information

For general information about the Center for Black Literature, please email to: info@centerforblackliterature.org.

■ NBWC2022 Registration Inquiries

Please email info@centerforblackliterature.org.

■ All Publicity, Media Relations, and Event Marketing Inquiries

All inquiries for NBWC or CBL-related press interviews, media events, and event marketing initiatives, are directed to:

- **Lea Byrd** (Communications and Marketing Associate):
byrd@centerforblackliterature.org or
- **April R. Silver** (Director of Communications and Marketing):
pr@akilaworksongs.com
- For phone inquiries, call (718) 756-8501 (office)
- Twitter: @Center4BlackLit (DMs Welcome)

■ NBWC2022 Commemorative Journal or Sponsorship Inquiries

All inquiries related to the NBWC2022 commemorative journal are directed to **Clarence V. Reynolds** (Director of Literary Programs) at reynolds@centerforblackliterature.org.

All inquiries related to year-round sponsorship or partnership opportunities are directed to **Amber Magruder** (Project Manager) at magruder@centerforblackliterature.org

■ CBL DIGITAL MARKETING DIRECTORY

- Website: www.centerforblackliterature.org
- CBL Facebook: [@CenterForBlackLiterature](https://www.facebook.com/CenterForBlackLiterature)
- NBWC Facebook: [@NationalBlackWritersConference](https://www.facebook.com/NationalBlackWritersConference)
- Twitter: [@Center4BlackLit](https://twitter.com/Center4BlackLit)
- Instagram: [@Center4BlackLit](https://www.instagram.com/Center4BlackLit)
- YouTube: [@CenterForBlackLiteratureMedgarEversCollege](https://www.youtube.com/CenterForBlackLiteratureMedgarEversCollege)

Photo Credits: Dr. Brenda M. Greene (by Chester Higgins for *The New York Times*); Herb Boyd (courtesy of NPR); Eddie S. Glaud Jr. (by Sameer A. Khan); Tracy K. Smith (by Krista Schlueter for *The New York Times*); Jacqueline Woodson (courtesy of John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation); Nana Camille Yarbrough (by Michael Scott Jones)

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