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**A WRITING RENAISSANCE:**  
EMBRACING DIVERSITY, TECHNOLOGY, AND CREATIVITY

**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Nashville Public Library, Southeast Branch**

# Welcome

## Welcome to the 10th Annual Carnegie Writers Conference!

Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of Carnegie Writers, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Annual Carnegie Writers Conference, A Writing Renaissance: Embracing Diversity, Technology, and Creativity. We are honored to have you with us today at the Southeast Branch Library in collaboration with the Nashville Public Library and its Adult Literacy department. This year marks an incredible milestone for us, celebrating a decade of connecting, inspiring, and supporting a diverse community of individuals and creatives.

Our theme this year reflects our commitment to diversity, technology, and creativity, and today's program has been crafted to inspire and equip individuals of all backgrounds to bring their unique stories to life. Whether you are here to gain new insights, network with like-minded individuals, or explore your creative potential, we hope you find today's sessions enriching and transformative.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration of writing, diversity, and creativity. Your presence contributes to the vibrant community we continue to build and grow. I look forward to connecting with each of you and sharing this meaningful day together.

Warm regards,



**Dr. Kemi Elufiede**

# Today's Schedule

**10:00-10:30am...Registration**

**10:50-11:15am...Keynote**

The Rise and Power of Civic Storytelling  
*Amanda Little*

**11:20am-12:20pm...Creativity**

History of an HCBU's  
Art Department and Collection  
*Ms. Courtney Adair Johnson*

Connecting with Comics  
*Dr. Leslie LaChance & Mr. Zachary Jones*

**12:20-1:20pm...Lunch & Networking Break**

**1:25-2:25pm...Diversity**

Navigating Diversity in Book Publishing  
*Mr. Kelly Cole*

**2:30-3:30pm...Technology**

Continuous Learning with AI  
and Other Public Library Tools  
*Ms. Cassandra Taylor*

The Importance of Studying the Humanities  
in the Digital Age  
*Ms. Jordan Barriger*

**3:35-4:15pm...Closing**

Closing Remarks & Teen Performance

# A Word from Our Partners



10/28/24

The Carnegie Writers, Inc.

Dear Dr. Elufiede and Conference Participants,

As you celebrate your 10th Anniversary with the inspiring theme, "A Writing Renaissance – Diversity, Technology, and Creativity," on behalf of Nashville After Zone Alliance I am thrilled to extend my support to you and your beneficiaries. I want to commend your dedication to advancing literacy and creative expression among young people, particularly in afterschool programs.

Writing is an important skill that NAZA focuses on as part of Nashville's Vision for Holistic Youth Development. Writing and overall literacy are essential skills for personal and academic growth, and this conference is a valuable opportunity to empower young writers to explore their voices. Your focus on integrating diversity, technology, and creativity aligns perfectly with our shared mission of fostering a generation of confident and capable communicators.

I encourage all participants to immerse themselves in the workshops, discussions, and creative sessions that the conference offers. The skills and inspiration gained here will not only enhance your own writing abilities but also contribute to the enrichment of our communities. As we look to the future, it is vital that we equip our youth with the tools they need to navigate a complex and evolving world, and this conference plays a significant role in that effort.

Congratulations on a decade of dedication to youth development through literacy, and best wishes for a successful and impactful conference. We look forward to seeing the positive influence that "A Writing Renaissance" will have on young minds and their futures.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Harutyunyan".

Anna Harutyunyan

NAZA Chief Executive

Nashville After Zone Alliance at Nashville Public Library

# A Word from Our Partners

FREDDIE O'CONNELL  
MAYOR

TERRI LUKE  
INTERIM DIRECTOR



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Welcome to the Southeast Branch of the Nashville Public Library!

We are honored to host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Carnegie Writer's Conference during our 10<sup>th</sup> year at this location, the former home of the Global Mall.

It's appropriate that the theme for this conference is "A Writing Renaissance – Diversity, Technology, and Creativity" and that it is being held at this location. The Global Mall welcomed everyone and celebrated diversity. The library continues to celebrate this diverse community that we serve.

The library strives to inspire and support Diversity, Technology, and Creativity every time you visit! Whether you are interested in our robust programming for all ages, the services that we provide (such as notary service or passport application processing), or the technology (computers, laptops, and free WiFi) available to all who visit, we want you to feel welcome. Visit our website at: <https://library.nashville.gov/> to explore all the services that we offer.

Please, visit us often, and celebrate our dedication to diversity, technology, and creativity!

Again, Welcome. Have a wonderful conference!

**Angela Brady** | Regional Library Manager

**Nashville Public Library** | Southeast Branch  
5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy, #201 | Antioch, TN | 37013  
615-862-5871  
[Angela.Brady@Nashville](mailto:Angela.Brady@Nashville)

# A Word from Our Partners



Nashville Airport

Welcome Carnegie Writers Guests,

We are excited to welcome you to the Hampton Inn & Suites Nashville Airport! Our team is honored to be the host hotel for your conference. We will do our very best to make sure you enjoy each moment of your stay. Our property has many amenities you may enjoy. Each room is equipped with a mini fridge, coffee maker and 42" Smart TV for your convenience. We also offer:

- A complimentary hotel shuttle to the airport from 4AM-11PM. You may schedule your trip with the front desk.
- Complimentary High Speed Wi-Fi. Choose the Hilton Honors network, and use the promotional code: FreeLobby on the log in page.
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast from 7AM-10AM on Saturday and Sunday. Located in the lobby.
- 24 Hour Treat Shop with a microwave where you can purchase snacks, candy, frozen treats, quick meals, or items you may have left behind. Located adjacent to the Front Desk.
- 24 Hour Fitness Center w/ a Peloton for all guests. Located on the first floor.
- 24 Hour guest laundry, operated by coin or card for your convenience. Located on first floor.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, or any member of the team.

Best Wishes,

Theresa C. Phillips

General Manager

Theresa.Phillips@Hilton.com

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[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

# Keynote Speaker



**Amanda Little**

Amanda Little is a professor of journalism and opinion writing at Vanderbilt University and a columnist for Bloomberg News. She is the founder and director of Kidizenship, a non-partisan media platform for students interested in civics and politics, which publishes the national youth civics magazine, Watch Us Rise. Amanda has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, TIME, and The New Yorker. She has interviewed figures across the political spectrum, from Joe Biden, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton to John McCain, Lamar Alexander, and Lindsey Graham. She has appeared on Fresh Air with Terry Gross, MSNBC's Morning Joe, Amanpour & Co., and CNN with Fareed Zakaria. Her TED Talk has more than 1 million views.

# Meet Our Presenters

## **Ms. Jordan Barriger**

Jordan Barriger is a sophomore English and History double major at Belmont University. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in Library Science and a PhD in History. A Nashville native, Jordan has been passionate about reading, writing, and language from a young age. Growing up, she always had a book close by and multiple stories in various stages of completion on her computer. Jordan loves to encourage young readers and authors to follow their passions.

## **Mr. Kelly Cole**

Known to many as "The Publisher," Mr. Kelly Cole is a 2x #1 Best Selling Author, Speaker, and Entrepreneur. Born in Cabrini Green, Chicago, IL, one of the most notorious housing projects in the world, he went from working at Walmart and Blockbuster to owning one of the fastest-growing book publishing companies in the U.S. Kelly has authored and published over 50 paperback, audio, and e-books. He has been featured on NBC, FOX, ABC, The CW, Gospel Updates Magazine, and more. In 2014, he was inducted into the GrindMoves Hall of Fame. Renowned as a business guru, he uses his marketing wisdom to help people worldwide. He is a husband and the proud father of three—one boy and two girls.

## **Ms. Courtney Adair Johnson**

Courtney Adair Johnson is an artist and curator based in Nashville, TN. Her art practice seeks to create sustainable communities through reuse awareness. She is passionate about creating new ideas with art to raise awareness about waste and consumption habits. Courtney has led reuse projects with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Tennessee



# Meet Our Presenters

Craft, and Springboard for the Arts (Fergus Falls). She is currently the Gallery Director of the Tennessee State University Art Department and Co-Builder of the McGruder Social Practice Artist Residency (M-SPAR).

## **Dr. Leslie LaChance**

Leslie LaChance is a teaching artist and writer working in New York and Nashville. She has published poems and essays in literary journals, magazines, anthologies, and chapbook collections. Her photographs have appeared in literary journals, and her mixed media pieces have been showcased at Art & Soul Nashville. Leslie has taught in universities, schools, and community settings for over 25 years. She currently offers community-based writing and creative arts workshops and provides manuscript and portfolio consulting for writers. She received her PhD in English from the University of Tennessee and an MA in English from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

## **Ms. Cassandra Taylor**

Cassandra Taylor is a library professional and creative writer with over five years of experience in public and higher education libraries. She is committed to removing all barriers related to learning, literacy, and technology for all library community members. Cassandra also serves as the DEI Committee Chair for the Tennessee Library Association. She is currently the Adult Literacy Program Specialist at the Nashville Public Library, where she enriches the lives of adult learners by promoting library resources for lifelong learning.

# About Carnegie Writers

Carnegie Writers, Inc. (CW) is a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to serving a diverse group of individuals. It draws inspiration from The Carnegie Writers' Group, which was established in August 2013.

CW's mission focuses on encouraging children, adolescents, and adults by offering positive and productive support in writing and literacy education, tailored to their personal goals. The organization's vision is to advance education, foster collaboration, stimulate creativity, and provide comprehensive resources for writing and literacy instruction.

## Our Motto

We EDUCATE through workshops, tutorials, guest presentations, professional development training, and conferences.

We WRITE through power writing, progressive writing, and publications.

We COLLABORATE through group meetings, events, partnerships, and community-based programs.

## Our Beliefs and Values

**INCLUSIVENESS** - We respect humankind, value diversity and are committed to equality.

**COLLABORATION** - We strive to create a culture of teamwork and cooperation.

**COMMUNITY**- We are committed to building cohesive communities within larger communities.

**INTEGRITY** - We practice honesty, transparency, and attention to the needs of participants and the community.

**CREATIVITY** - We honor, support and encourage individual creativity an expression in staff, volunteers, and participants.

# Connect With Us



Visit Our Website



## Save the Date

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnegie Writers

Conference Series

Watch Our Website for More Information!

# Our Programs

## Carnegie Writers Groups

The Carnegie Writers Groups give new and experienced writers a space to practice power writing, share their work, and get valuable feedback. Groups are available both in-person and virtual, and you can find a list of dates and information for each group on our website.



# Our Programs

## Author Workshops

The Authors Workshops are writing workshops for teens and adults who love to write or are interested in learning more about writing. During the workshop, writers will be introduced to various writing styles, including poetry, article writing, short stories, and playwriting.

Sessions include icebreaker activities, free writing, progressive stories, team-building, read-alouds, group discussions, and a guest speaker presentation. At the end of the workshop, participants will contribute their work to a published anthology. After the anthology is published, participants will be invited to participate in a public reading and book signing.



# Our Programs

## Carnegie Kids Club

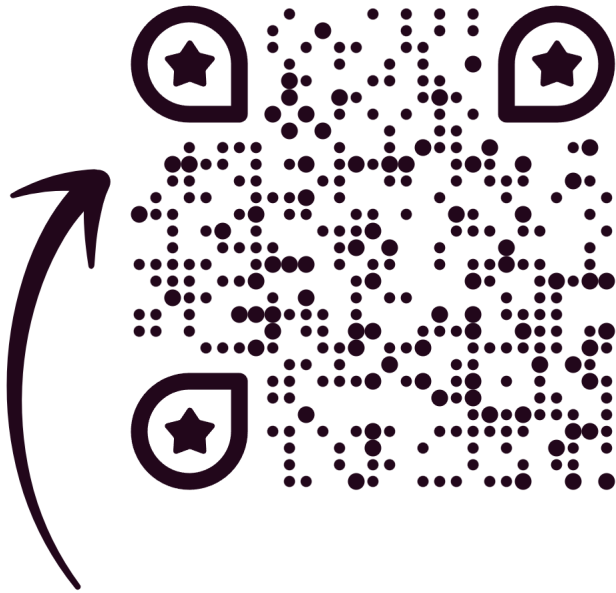
Carnegie Kids Club is a community-based program focused on improving children's literacy skills through reading, writing, and creativity. Sessions, led by trained Literacy Facilitators, are adaptable to various settings and cater to participants recruited from schools and the community. Each session includes guided comprehension activities, related movement exercises, and collaborative creative writing, culminating in a collective anthology that celebrates the participants' growth and creativity.



# Our Programs

## After-School Program

We are excited to offer an exclusive After-School Program for Goodlettsville Middle School students in grades 6th-8th, funded by the Nashville After-School Zone Alliance (NAZA). The program started on September 3, 2024, and will run through the entire '24-'25 school year; the program will run Monday through Thursday from 4 PM to 6 PM. It features writing workshops, creative projects, collaborative publications, and field trips, providing a unique opportunity for students to enhance their skills and creativity. We hope to expand this program to more locations in the future, so keep your ears open for new locations!



## Share with Us

Did you enjoy this year's conference? Is there something specific you loved, or do you have suggestions for future conference projects? Please share your feedback with us through this quick survey!