Black Women Leading

Description
Black women are authoring change as new and founding leaders of literary arts organizations throughout the country. Hear from the leaders of the Loft in Minneapolis, Cave Canem in New York, CityLit Project in Baltimore, Hedgebrook in Freeland, and TruArtSpeaks in Saint Paul and more about how their identities inform their values, their perspectives, and their approach to leadership within their organizations and communities. Participating panelists are leading literary arts organizations that are in different life phases, exist in different geographic locations, and vary from being culturally and genre-specific to being multicultural and multidisciplinary. This panel will explore the challenges and opportunities encountered by black women leading literary organizations in these times and will reveal similarities and differences in the experiences and perspectives of Black women leaders that will enrich the field.

Category
Writers Conferences and Centers

Event Organizer and Moderator
Arleta Little currently serves as the Executive & Artistic Director for the Loft Literary Center. Arleta is a writer and culture worker with nearly 25 years working with nonprofits and in philanthropy. Her recent literary work has appeared in multiple journals and publications including We Are Meant to Rise; Calyx; Blues Vision; and Water-Stone Review. alittle@loft.org

Event Participants
Lisa Willis is a passionate artistic administrator with 20 years of experience managing multi-disciplinary projects in the non-profit and commercial arts sectors. Lisa holds a B.A. in Music Composition and Theory from New York University and a background of training in ballet and modern dance. Lisa currently serves as the Executive Director of Cave Canem. lwillis@ccpoets.org
Carla Du Pree's work appears in literary journals, Callaloo, The Pierian Literary Journal, among others. She is CityLit Project's executive director, a recipient of fiction fellowships from Hedgebrook, Baldwin for the Arts, VCCA, Rhode Island Writers Colony for Writers of Color, & Deutsch Foundation. carla@citylitproject.org

Tish Jones is a poet, emcee, and Hip Hop Theater artist from Saint Paul, MN. Her work explores themes of Black love, liberation, politics, and Afro-Futurism. Jerome Hill Artist Fellow and an Arts Matters Artist2Artist Fellow, Tish also serves as the Founder & Executive Director of TruArtSpeaks. tjones@trualartspeaks.org

Other contributors to this content of this panel include:
Kimberly A.C. Wilson, twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in the explanatory journalism and breaking news categories, is the executive director at Hedgebrook. An avid reader, she is currently writing a work of speculative fiction. kimberlyw@hedgebrook.org

Samiya Bashir is a Harlem-based writer, performer, librettist, and multimedia poetry maker. Author of three poetry collections, most recently the Oregon Book Award-winning Field Theories, Bashir recently served as Executive Director of Lambda Literary, a nationwide LGBTQ+ literary arts advocacy organization. samiyabashir@gmail.com

Welcome & Participant Reminders
Welcome to Black When Leading. A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (identify moderator), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
- Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
- Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
- Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
• Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.

**Panel Discussion**
Panelists will briefly introduce themselves and provide brief context for their leadership, organizations, and the communities that they serve.

Subsequent panel discussion will explore themes at the intersections of culture, changemaking, and sustainability and root in the following questions:

• What values guide us and our work as black women leaders?
• What roles do gender and culture play in how we approach leading our organizations?
• What have changemaking and sustainability looked like in our work?
• What challenges have we experienced and are we experiencing related to being black women leaders in these times?
• What opportunities do we see and are we advancing related to being a black women leaders in these times?

Panel discussion will be followed by 10-15 minutes of Q&A with attendees.