



GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM 2009-2010 WRITER APPLICATION INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

For more than 20 years, the Givens Foundation for African American Literature has been the only organization in the Twin Cities exclusively dedicated to advancing and celebrating black literature and writers. At the Givens Foundation, we understand that African American writers are the future of African American literature. This is one reason that we developed the Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program to promote the “writing life,” to support the crafting of excellence in African American literature, and to provide opportunities for the creation of literary collaboration, community, and the sacred space within which art is born.

Collaborative Retreat Program Quick Facts

What: A program for 10 emerging and established black writers living in Minnesota that includes a four-day retreat, writing workshops, one-on-one mentoring, peer support, and a literary performance.

Retreat Dates: Nov. 12-15, 2009 (4 days, 3 nights)

Retreat Location: The Dwelling in the Woods, McGrath, MN (www.thedwellinginthewoods.org)

Mentoring Writers: Ishmael Reed (National) & Laurie Carlos (State)

Mentoring Workshops: November 2009 to April 2010

Literary Performance: April 2010

Cost: Free (sponsored by the Jerome Foundation)

Eligibility Criteria

In November of 2009, 10 black writers will be selected to participate in the collaborative retreat program. For this program, we will strive to have participants represent a balanced distribution of ages, genders, and geographic residence within the state of Minnesota. Applications will be subject to blind review by a panel of three local African American writers.

Selected participants will:

- Be aged 18 and older
- Be identified as emerging artists (6 applicants who exhibit significant potential yet are not recognized as established creators by fellow artists and other arts professionals; not yet or only recently published or produced)
- Be identified as established writers (4 applicants, multiple works have been published or produced)
- Not be enrolled in an academic literary arts program
- Not be past participants in the Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat.

Application Instructions

To apply for the 2009-2010 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program, complete and return the following in English. **Failure to adhere to the guidelines below will render your application ineligible.** See Next Page for detailed instructions.

Check out www.givens.org for more information about the
2009-2010 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program. Application forms also available online.

GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Detailed Application Instructions

To apply for the 2009-2010 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program, complete and return the following in English. ***Failure to adhere to the guidelines below will render your application ineligible.***

- ❑ **The Writer Application Form (1 copy)**

- ❑ **Artistic Goal Statement (1 copy):** In no more than **one typed page**, provide a compelling Artistic Goal Statement, an explanation of how the retreat and related activities would support your transition at a critical juncture in your artistic development. Your statement should answer the following questions:
 1. What are your goals as a writer for the next year?
 2. How would you measure your progress toward your goals?
 3. What specific obstacles are you facing in your development as a writer?
 4. How would participation in the collaborative retreat program support the accomplishment of your goals and the overcoming of your obstacles? Provide specific examples.
 5. How would participation in a writing collaborative/community support your artistic goals? Provide specific examples.

- ❑ **Artistic Bio (1 copy):** In no more than **one typed page**, provide a listing of projects, works in progress, publications, performances, and/or produced recordings. Please include names, organizations, and dates of the above.

- ❑ **Writing samples (5 copies):** Writing samples will be read by the Collaborative Retreat Program Application Review Panel and the mentoring authors. Writing samples should demonstrate a voice committed to advancing the African American literary tradition. Please note that submitted writing samples may be the focus of your one-on-one sessions with mentoring writers. Please submit your writing samples according to the following instructions:
 1. **Send 5 copies.** Preferably, double-sided, stapled.
 2. Total writing samples should be **no more than 10 pages.**
 3. **Submit clean copy** – no names, addresses, phone numbers or identifying information on writing sample pages.
 4. Include the work title and page number in upper right corner of each writing sample page.

Application Checklist

- ❑ The Writing Application Form (provided) – 1 copy
- ❑ Artistic Goal Statement: 1 page, (1 copy)
- ❑ Artistic Bio: 1 page (1 copy)
- ❑ Writing Samples: Maximum 10 Pages (**5 copies**)

***Completed Applications Must Be Received at the Givens Foundation Office by
5:00pm on October 21, 2009.***

Please direct application questions to Ellena Schoop, 651-895-5603 or email retreat@givens.org
Selected applicants will be notified by October 30, 2009.

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2009-2010 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program. Application forms also available online.



2009-2010 GIVENS BLACK WRITERS COLLABORATIVE RETREAT PROGRAM

Writer Application Form

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____ **City, State, Zip:** _____

Preferred Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Select the literary genre that will be the focus of your work at the retreat:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Word <input type="checkbox"/> Plays (theatrical & film)	<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Non-Fiction* (essay, memoir) <small>* academic & journalistic writing will not considered for the purposes of this application</small>
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Select the category that best describes your artistic development:

<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Writers who exhibit significant potential yet are not recognized as established creators by fellow writers and other arts professionals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Career/Established Writers who have produced and/or published literary works and are recognized as established creators by fellow writers, publishers, and other arts professionals.
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Please complete the following optional demographic information to assist with retreat planning and logistics:

Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> 18 -- 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26 – 35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 -- 45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46 – 64 <input type="checkbox"/> 65+	Geographic Residence: <input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis/St. Paul <input type="checkbox"/> Duluth <input type="checkbox"/> Rural/Out State Minnesota
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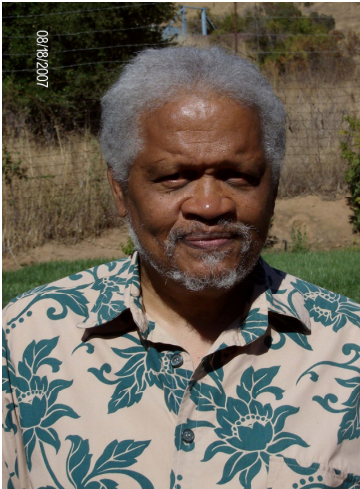
Send Applications To:

The Givens Foundation for African American Literature
 2009-2010 Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat Program
 7151 York Ave. S.
 Minneapolis, MN 55435

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NATIONAL MENTORING WRITER: ISHMAEL REED

Author of twenty-five published books and six plays to date, Ishmael Reed is a novelist, poet, playwright, and essayist. He is also a publisher, editor of numerous anthologies and magazines, television producer, radio and television commentator, teacher and lecturer. *New and Collected Poems, 1964-2006* (Carroll & Graf, 2006), which was recently released in a paperback edition, *New and Collected Poems, 1964-2007* (Thunder's Mouth Press, 2007), was listed as one of the four best books of poetry published in 2006 by *The New York Times Book Review*, and in June, 2007, was awarded the California Gold Medal in Poetry by the Commonwealth Club. In February, 2008, Da Capo Press published *Mixing It Up: Taking On The Media Bullies & Other Reflections*, a new collection of Reed's own essays, and *Powwow: American Short Fiction from Then to Now*, edited by Reed, is forthcoming from Da Capo in July, 2008.

Also in 2008, his non-fiction work on Muhammad Ali, *Bigger Than Boxing*, is forthcoming from Random House. Three books written or edited by Reed were published in 2003: Thunder's Mouth Press published *From Totems to Hip-Hop: A Multicultural Anthology of Poetry Across the Americas, 1900-2002*; the Perseus division of Basic Books published a collection of Reed's essays, *Another Day at the Front*; and The Crown Publishing Group published his non-fiction travel book, *Blues City: A Walk in Oakland*. In 2000, Basic Books published *The Reed Reader*, a collection of his writing including excerpts from his nine published novels, selected essays, published and previously unpublished poetry, and two plays, *Hubba City* and *The Preacher and the Rapper*.

Popular anthologies he has edited are *MultiAmerica: Essays in Cultural War and Cultural Peace* (Viking, 1997), and the four-volume *Literary Mosaic Series* (HarperCollinsCollege, 1995-96). Other books by Reed include the novels *Japanese By Spring*, *The Terrible Twos*, *The Terrible Threes*, *Reckless Eyeballing*, *Mumbo Jumbo*, *The Last Days of Louisiana Red*, *Flight to Canada*, *Yellow-Back Radio Broke-Down*, and *The Free-Lance Pallbearers*. Ishmael Reed is a founder of the Before Columbus Foundation, which annually presents the American Book Awards; the Oakland chapter of PEN; and There City Cinema, an organization that furthers the distribution and discussion of films from throughout the world. Two of his books have been nominated for National Book Awards, and a book of poetry, *Conjure*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Ishmael Reed was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and grew up in working class neighborhoods in Buffalo, New York. He attended Buffalo public schools, and from 1956 to 1959 was enrolled at the University of Buffalo, which awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Letters in 1995. In 1998 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Johnson C. Smith University at Charlotte, North Carolina. For over thirty years, he taught creative writing courses in the English Department at the University of California, at Berkeley, retiring as of January, 2005. During the 2005 Spring semester, he was a Visiting Artist/Scholar at San Jose State University, holding the Lurie Chair in Creative Writing. He has also taught at Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and the University of the Antilles in Martinique. In 1989 he received a University of California Humanities Fellowship to complete his novel, *Japanese By Spring*, and received two fellowships from the African Studies Center to continue his studies of the Yoruba language. In 1991, he received an American Cultures Fellowship from U.C., Berkeley to produce an original television drama. He has also studied Japanese for ten years, under private tutors. In 1993, he was one of two Americans to receive the Hanayagi Award, bestowed upon international artists by the Osaka Community Foundation.

Since the early 1970s, Ishmael Reed has championed the work of other writers, founding and serving as editor and publisher of various small presses and journals. His current publishing imprint, Ishmael Reed Publishing Company, published two anthologies of Nigerian writing: *25 New Nigerian Poets* (2000) edited by Toyin Adewale, and *Short Stories by 16 Nigerian Women* (2005) edited by Toyin Adewale-Gabriel. In 2004 he published *Un Poco Low Coup* by Amiri Baraka. In 2003 he published *Black Girl from Tannery Flats*, the memoirs of his mother, *Thelma V. Reed*, and *New and Collected Poems* by Kathryn Takara. The press has recently released four other poetry collections by four women poets who are based in northern California: *Under Burning White Sky* (2005) by Boadiba, *Swallowing Watermelons* by Karla Brundage (2006), *City Beautiful* by Tennessee Reed (2006), and *After Altamira* by Neli Moody (2006), and has just released *Maggie 3*, a novel by Alison Mills Newman, in December, 2007. In 2008 the press will continue to build its list of new African writing with two anthologies by authors from Kenya: Mukoma Wa Ngugi will edit the short fiction volume; and Binyavanga Wainaina will edit the poetry volume.

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STATE MENTORING WRITER: LAURIE CARLOS

Laurie Carlos is a seminal American theatre artist. An original player in the New York Avant-Garde Performance scene, Laurie has developed new characters and new aesthetics for the stage for over thirty years. She is a gifted writer, whose oft-anthologized pieces, including *White Chocolate*, *The Cooking Show* and *Organdy Falsetto* represent daring and successful forays into abstract aesthetics within late-twentieth century American Theatre.

Laurie Carlos - a dynamic, OBIE Award-winning actress, who created the role of Lady In Blue in Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*; an inventive, two-time Bessie Award-winning choreographer (for *White Chocolate* and *Heat*) whose work with the Urban Bush Women is the stuff of performance legend; and a unique director, who has helmed the premieres of new work by award-winning writers Sharon Bridgforth, Carl Hancock Rux, Luis Alfaro, Rebecca Rice and Daniel Alexander Jones.

Laurie, Robbie McCauley and Jessica Hagedorn formed the performance group Thought Music in the mid-1980's producing the revolutionary performance work, *Teenytown*. Laurie is the co-artistic director, with Marlies Yearby, of *Movin' Spirits Dance Theater Company*. For six years Laurie served as Artistic Fellow at *Penumbra Theatre Company* in St. Paul, Minnesota, the U.S.'s largest, longest-running African American Theatre where she curated the celebrated performance series *Non-English Speaking Spoken Here* and where she was literary manager for the *Cornerstone Play Development Project*

Laurie Carlos has received numerous grants and awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Theater Communications Group The McKnight Foundation.