

17TH ANNUAL BLACK NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE



I, Too, Sing:

Art, Music, and Writing in
Our BIPOC Communities

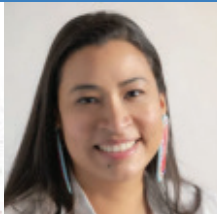
PRESENTED BY
BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY AND THE RECKONINGS PROJECT

October 20-21, 2023

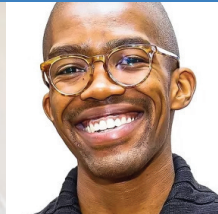
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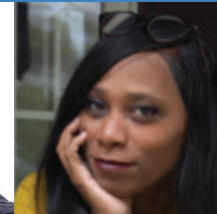
Robin S



Silvermoon LaRose



McKinley Wallace



Kirsten Greenidge



Theo Wilson



**Big hearts
deserve a
big hand.**

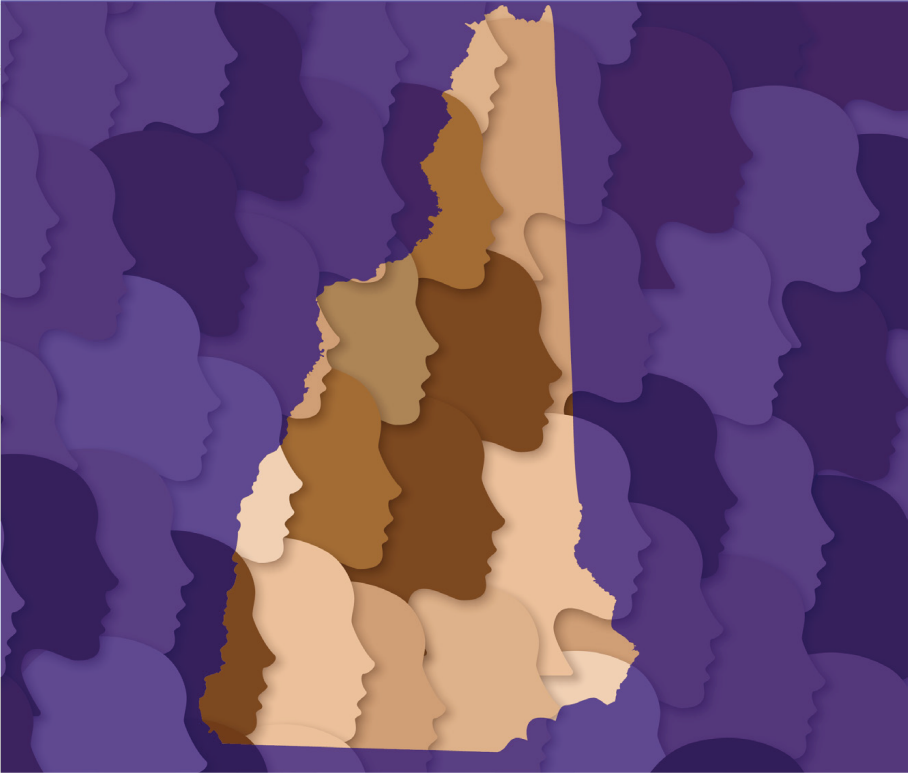
Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

We applaud you for all the truly meaningful work you do in our community.

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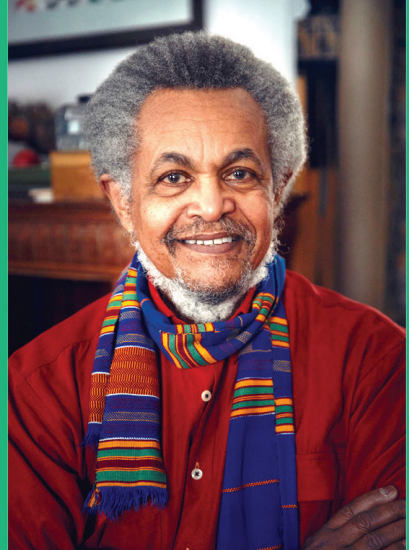
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Congratulations Napoleon Jones-Henderson on being named Citizen of the Year!

We are so grateful for
your vision and your art,
and for sharing it at the
ICA for all of Boston to see.



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Welcome

On behalf of the Black Heritage Trail conference directors, organizers, staff, and volunteers, we welcome you to the 17th Annual Black New England Conference. We look forward to robust discussions, thought-provoking presentations, engaging keynote programs, and to celebrating our 2023 Citizen of the Year award recipient, Napoleon Jones-Henderson.

For centuries, art has not only served as a vehicle for Black communities, Indigenous populations, and People of Color to express themselves and share their stories, but it has also shaped the evolution of American culture. However, in this society where the voices of People of Color are silenced and their presence rendered invisible, the immense contributions of BIPOC artists are yet to be fully recognized as essential aspects of American culture. The presence of People of Color in the arts—both as artist and as audience—shatters the notion that the Western perspective is the standard for quality in art, music, and writing.

This conference—**I, Too, Sing: Art, Music, and Writing in Our BIPOC Communities**—focuses on the ways that BIPOC artists create art, music, and writing to empower themselves and others. Their self-expression raises awareness of social and political issues and creates a vision for change. Exploring how BIPOC artists signify on each other, the conference aims to understand the complex ways in which they represent their own communities and dialogue with other communities of color, whether to affirm, inform, or to create anew. *I, Too, Sing* will also celebrate the success of artists, scholars, and institutions that serve as beacons of hope for future generations.

The Black New England Conference merges academic scholarship with a serious exploration of historical and contemporary issues and a joyful celebration of BIPOC lives, culture, and history. Our six panels are designed to promote dialogue around these topics. We hope that our format will encourage the continuation of community engagement that is the hallmark of our conference.

We are grateful to each of you for being with us and for bringing your voice, your experience, and your expertise to this gathering. Throughout the conference, we encourage you to be active, engaged participants, to join the discussions, and to offer your opinions and insights.

Thank you for attending, whether in person or virtually. We are happy to offer both formats and to create future occasions that allow for a wider participation. We want to express our appreciation to our partner, Northeastern University, for assistance in planning and hosting this year's conference.

BHTNH Executive Director JerriAnne Boggis

Introducing Lunchtime Keynote Speakers



Uta Poiger



Lavette Coney

Awards Dinner & Keynote Address Participants



Kabria Baumgartner



JerriAnne Boggis



Dwight Davis



Jay Williams



Rev. Robert Thompson



Amara Ifeji



Ronald Mitchell



Tanisha Johnson

Awards Event Program

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | In-Person, Friday, October 20, 2023

MEET & GREET

Entertainment: Students from Berkeley School of Music

WELCOME

JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director, BHTNH
Dwight Davis, President Board of Directors, BHTNH

BOSTON WELCOME

Ronald Mitchell, Publisher, Bay State Banner

REMARKS ON THE PARTNERSHIP

Kabria Baumgartner,
Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies,
Northeastern University

REMARKS FROM BOSTON MAYOR

Mayor Michelle Wu

BHTNH CITIZEN of the YEAR AWARD

Jay Williams, President and CEO, The Hartford Foundation

Award Recipient: Napoleon Jones Henderson

TABLE BLESSING

Rev. Robert Thompson, Board Member, BHTNH

DINNER SERVICE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Amara Ifeji, Political Science Student, 2023 Truman Scholar,
Northeastern University

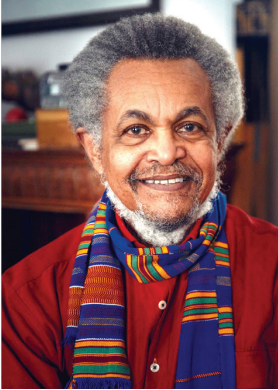
KEYNOTE ADDRESS and Q&A

Robin S. and Ronald Mitchell

CLOSING REMARKS

Tanisha Johnson, Board Member, BHTNH

2023 Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Citizen of the Year



BHTNH chose **Napoleon Jones-Henderson** as this year's Citizen of the Year because of his decades-long commitment to promoting the arts in the Black Community. A Roxbury resident since 1974, he served as member of the Board of Incorporation for the Roxbury Cultural District and its first president (2018-2021). Since 1999, he has participated in organizing the annual Roxbury Open Studios. He has conducted workshops and mentored students of all ages, led tours and discussions for public school students, the Girls' and Boys' Clubs of Roxbury, Girl Scouts

of America, and many other organizations and churches. For 20 years, he has convened Juneteenth celebrations at his home studio. He has also visited many orrectional institutions to present his work and conduct workshops for inmates and staff. Currently, he serves as Executive Director of the Research Institute of African and African Diaspora Arts, Inc. and of BENNU Arts, LLC, in Roxbury.

At the apex of the Chicago Black Arts Movement, Jones-Henderson became a member of the Chicago collective AfriCOBRA (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists) and created large pictorial woven tapestries that were showcased at the group's series of exhibitions. He has held many academic and artist-in-residence positions including Malcolm X College in Chicago, Massachusetts College of Art, and Emerson College. He has received over 50 awards for his artwork championing Black Art, among them the 2015 Boston Foundation's Brother Thomas Fellowship, and the 2022 Artadia Boston Award. In addition to many distinguished private collections and public art commissions, his work has been shown at prestigious institutes and museums including the Dusable Museum of African American History, the Shomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. More recently, Jones-Henderson mounted his most comprehensive solo museum exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, entitled, I AM AS I AM—A MAN. As "image maker", educator, mentor, collaborator, Napoleon Jones-Henderson has actively devoted over 50 years to highlighting, empowering, and celebrating the humanity of African people in works that reflect their beauty and majesty.

We are proud to present our Citizen of the Year, Napoleon Jones-Henderson

2023 Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire AWARDS DINNER & KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

A house diva whose productions use live instrumentation just as much as electronics, **Robin S.** debuted on the scene with the top ten hit Show Me Love. The Queens, New York native was signed by big beat records in 1993, and debuted with the hot single, which climbed the charts during 1994, and spurred her first album, also titled Show Me Love. After working on her songwriting for several years, she began recruiting producers such as Eric “E-Smoove” Miller and Todd Terry to work on her second album. Released in 1997 on Atlantic, From Now On reflected broader interests for Robin S., encompassing gospel



and ballads in addition to HI- NRG dance floor material. Recently the center of an international media storm following the release of Beyoncé’s newest single Break My Soul which samples her iconic 90’s anthem Show Me Love. The wave of influence has greatly impacted the house music veteran in terms of licensing, special projects, and collaboration requests.

Red bull recently licensed the smash hit Show Me Love for their dance your style competitions around the world, and recent collaborations include DJ Icon and Carl Cox; a few of the largest names in electronic music.

Robin S. is currently getting ready for the 30th Anniversary Show Me Love Tour across America and Europe

Lunchtime Keynote Speaker Friday, Oct. 20



MCKINLEY WALLACE III, a mixed-media painter and art educator, received his Master of Arts in Teaching and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). His studio work has been shown in solo exhibitions at 3S Artspace, MICA, York College, Waller Gallery, and Creative Alliance, as well as group shows at Goucher College, African American Museum of Dallas, Band of Vices, Carroll Mansion, Washington Project for the Arts, Arlington Art Center, Main Line Art Center, Towson University, and Terrault Gallery. In recognition of his craft, he has received many awards, including the Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award, the Bethesda Painting Award, and the Baker Artist Award.

Lunchtime Keynote Speaker Saturday, Oct. 21



THEO WILSON began his speaking career in the N.A.A.C.P. at the age of 15, and has always had a passion for social justice. He attended Florida A&M University, where he obtained his B.A. in Theater Performance. Theo returned to Denver and is now the Executive Director of Shop Talk Live, inc. The organization uses the barber shop as a staging ground for community dialogue and healing. After viral video success beginning in 2015, Theo grew his social media following to well over 70,000 people. Due to audience demand, he published his first book in 2017, *The Law of Action*. The book addresses some of the misconceptions about the law of attraction, and the role direct action plays into manifestation. It can be found on Amazon.com, or his website, TheoWilson.net. In 2017, his TED Talk entitled, *A Black Man Goes Undercover in the Alt Right*, was seen world wide, amassing a total of over 17 million views.

Theo is the host of The History Channel's hit series, *I Was There*. He has been featured on Good Morning America, BuzzFeed, CNN, Good Day Canada, and TV One.

2023 Black New England Conference Schedule

PRECONFERENCE TOURS

The World Through African-American Eyes

Oct. 19 | noon | AAMARP Artists

Lead Artist: L’Merchie Frazier

Created in 1974 by Dana Chandler the African American Master Artists in Residency Program (AAMARP) is a collective of artists, writers, and photographers under the African American Studies Program at Northeastern University. Many of the artists in the program have participated in exhibitions around the world and have been published in various books and periodicals.



For this tour, participants will visit the AAMARP studios and see the work of the fourteen master artists in residence. Participants will also get to meet some of the artists.

Boston Jazz History Tour

Oct. 19 | 4:00 PM

Guide: Laurel Schlegel

There was a time when the South End of Boston was home to a vibrant Jazz scene with a variety of jazz clubs lining its streets. These clubs fostered community, welcomed some of America’s jazz greats, and nurtured prominent Boston jazz musicians. Yet there is almost no trace of these spots today and little knowledge of this significant part of the city’s history. Out of the many jazz clubs started in the mid-twentieth century only Wally’s Cafe remains standing, a lone testament to the lively jazz scene that once was.



Join the “Boston Jazz History Walking Tour” to stand at the place of Boston’s once-prominent jazz clubs and learn how they contributed to Boston’s rich but little-remembered jazz history. The tour was created by a group of public history graduate students at Northeastern University.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 PANELS

10:30 AM

WEBINAR WAITING ROOM OPENS (VIDEO & OPEN REMARKS)

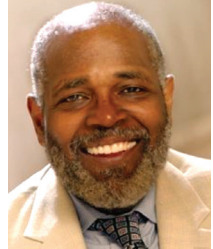
10:50 - 11:00 AM

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Song

The Hero's Journey is an archetypal story pattern, common in ancient myths as well as modern-day adventures. The journey can be boiled down to three stages: first, travelers leave the familiar world behind, then they learn to navigate the unfamiliar world of their adventure, and finally, they return to the familiar world transformed.

This ceremony is the beginning of our journey as we travel through this learning experience.

Rev. Robert Thompson



Rev. Robert Thompson

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PANEL 1: GENERATIONS RISING: RECOVERING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Forced assimilation and the violence of settler colonialism were cataclysmic to the use and preservation of Indigenous languages. Concerted efforts were directly aimed at severing the sacred thread of interconnectedness between spoken word and culture. Nevertheless, Indigenous languages have persevered, but not without significant challenges.

This presentation explores the continuance, recovery, and celebration of ancestral languages and the creative ways Indigenous artists are keeping these cultural traditions alive.

PRESENTER

- **Silvermoon LaRose**, Assitant Director, Tomaquag Museum, Exeter, RI
- **Host: Dottie Morris**, Associate Vice President for Diveristy and Inclusion, Keene State College, Keene, NH



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 PANELS (continued)

12:10 PM - 1:10 PM - LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING MCKINLEY WALLACE III

McKinley Wallace III, a mixed-media painter and art educator, paints, draws, and collages to tell stories of power manifested in resilient peoples. Exploring race, history, and intersectionality, Wallace's artistic ideas are often expressed in a graphic style that incorporates realism, minimalism, and hard-edge painting. "Strengthened by my role as a Black educator, I capture moments of atmospheric and direct tension and rebellion to rattle America's exclusionary ideals and legacies – choices enacted by the impact of deferring Black joy for centuries."



McKinley Wallace III

1:20 PM - 2:30 PM

PANEL 2: THE PEOPLE COULD FLY: MYTHS, LEGENDS, FOLKTALES, AND SONG

Folklore is universal. It is the cornerstone of all cultures. It affirms and informs religious beliefs, the arts, and daily life. It reveals the moral truths that connect us. In our complex modern world, this form of storytelling rooted in oral traditions is taking on new significance. In this panel, presenters share stories that will demonstrate how the BIPOC community uses folktales and folksongs to create meaning and understand the world in which we live.



PANELISTS

- **Akeia De Barros Gomes**, Senior Curator, Mystic Seaport Museum *"Crossing Waters: Reclaiming Ancestry and Returning Home"*
- **Mintzi Martinez-Rivera**, Assistant Professor of English (Folklore) and Latinx Studies, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. *"La Llorona, the Wailing Woman, and Her Continued Relevance for Latinx Communities in the United States"*
- **Cliff Notez**, Assistant Professor and Multi-media Artist, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA, *"Voodoo: Surrealism Explored in Black Music"*
- **Moderator: Pierre Morton** Chief Diversity Officer, Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 PANELS (continued)

2:40 PM - 4:00 PM

PANEL 3: IN LIVING COLOR: RECONSTRUCTING THE CANON

White culture is so pervasive that marginalized communities have had no choice but to use the white canon as a touchstone for their work. The systematic use of the white canon and its impact on the thinking and behavior of BIPOC people is a legacy that cannot be ignored. But this homogeneous view also creates a space for BIPOC artists to decolonize the dominant cultural expression, shape-shifting into a vision that is more inclusive and compelling.

IN HONOR OF ERROL HILL



Panelists will explore how BIPOC artists are dismantling the white gaze.

PANELISTS

- **Melina Hill Walker**, Program Director at New Hampshire Endowment for Health, Concord, NH *“From Monochromatic to Vibrant: Theater as an Expression of a People’s Culture, Heritage and History”*
- **Denise Khor**, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Visual Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, MA *“On Asian American Film and Media Matters”*
- **Omarthan Clarke**, Visual artist, Educator, and Advocate, *“Cacophonous - Finding Inspiration Behind and Beyond the Western Canon”*
- **Alison Rollins**, 2023–2024 Mary I. Bunting Institute Fellow, Harvard Radcliffe Institute, *“Poetry, Imagination, and Black Creative Expression”*
- **Moderator: Karen Dade**, CEO and founder of the Multicultural International Development Company, LLC.



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 PANELS

8:15 AM

WEBINAR WAITING ROOM OPENS (VIDEO & OPEN REMARKS)

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

PANEL 4: A CONVERSATION WITH PLAYWRIGHT KIRSTEN GREENIDGE

Kirsten Greenidge is an American playwright whose work is known for employing realistic language to focus on social issues such as the intersectionality of race, gender, and class.

IN HONOR OF ANGELINA GRIMKE



PRESENTER

- **Kirsten Greenidge**, Associate Professor of Theatre, Boston University, Boston
- **Host: Jovanna Jones**, Assistant Professor of English & African Diaspora Studies, Boston College, Boston

10:15-11:45 AM

PANEL 5: RE-FRAMING THE MUSIC: HIP HOP AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE BIPOC COMMUNITY

K-Pop has become one of the most popular genres in the US, but there is one perception that it has not been able to shake -- that of cultural appropriation. Panelists will explore what we mean by appreciation, appropriation, and what happens when we cross those streams. This panel will also explore who profits from Black culture. We know what it looks like when white performers appropriate Black culture, but what does it look like when the imitation and appropriation is coming from other BIPOC cultures?

IN HONOR OF LORENZO TURNER



PANELISTS

- **Frank Waln**, Sicangu Lakota Hip Hop artist, Rosebud Sioux Reservation, SD "*Mitakuye Oyasin: An Indigenous Perspective On Hip Hop*"
- **Lai Frances**, Multimedia Journalist & Producer, Jersey City "*Appropriating and Appreciating in K-Pop*"
- **Mr. Goodbarz**, Hip-Hop Musician and Producer, Boston "*B.O.P Bringing Out Playfulness*"
- **Moderator: Dart Adams** Journalist & Historian, Boston Globe & Boston Globe Magazine, Boston, MA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 PANELS (continued)

12:00 NOON

LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING THEO WILSON

Theo E.J. Wilson's groundbreaking talk analyzes the dollars and cents behind anti-Blackness in America. He began his speaking career in the N.A.A.C.P. at the age of 15 and has always had a passion for social justice. He is the Executive Director of Shop Talk Live, Inc., an organization that uses the barbershop as a staging ground for community dialogue and healing. In 2017, his TED Talk entitled, *A Black Man Goes Undercover in the Alt-Right*, was seen worldwide, amassing a total of over 17 million views. Theo is the host of The History Channel's hit series, *I Was There*. He has been featured on Good Morning America, BuzzFeed, CNN, Good Day Canada, and TV One.

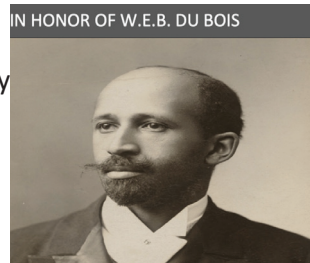


Theo Wilson

1:15-2:45 PM

PANEL 6: I AM THE FUTURE: INNOVATION IN THE ARTS AMONG BIPOC GROUPS

Artists of color have been historically under-represented in the arts. This panel will explore innovative ways that the BIPOC arts community presents material for deeper engagement for learning, self-expression, activism, and social justice. Emerging artists and scholars are mainstreaming the dialogue about race and its place in our society in their work. Panelists will come together to exchange ideas about the process that creates radical forms of art-making to educate and empower the next generation.



PANELISTS

- **C. Rose Smith**, Visual Artist, Boston, MA, *"Talking Back to Power in Photography and Self-Portraiture"*
- **Dzidzor Azaglo**, African Folklore Performance Poet, Boston, MA *Invitation of the Trickster: Prayers, Proverbs and Poems on Living, Imagining, and World-building"*
- **Samuel Hyun**, Co-Founder of the 1587 Sneakers,
- **Moderator: Bithiah Carter**, President and Chief Executive Officer, New England Blacks in Philanthropy

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 PANELS (continued)

3:00 PM

CLOSING EVENT

CLOSING REMARKS & A PERFORMANCE BY ADRIENNE MACK DAVIS

Adrienne Mack-Davis is a classically trained soul/hip-hop artist. Her sound is compiled of her struggles and triumphs weaving together gut-wrenching melodies and poignant positive hard-hitting lyrics.

She believes in each person being the change in their own lives and writes music to inspire that belief.



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The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire promotes awareness and appreciation of New Hampshire's African American history and life to build more inclusive communities today. We are committed to the accurate telling of African American history and life throughout the State of New Hampshire. By fostering dialogues about race, diversity, and inclusion, and sharing these corrective narratives, we believe it is possible to promote understanding and overcome racial division. A more equitable and just view of our shared history, once free of historical stereotypes, can change the way we understand human dignity.

BHTNH offers a series of educational programs, including guided tours, virtual tours, hybrid, in-person, and live public programs, as well as educational materials, school tours, and teacher workshops. This year's Tea Talk series "Bringing It Back: Conversations We Still Need," revisited significant themes from past conversations. We dug deeper into complex issues that often divide in order to build communities in which we can all strive.

We work with a statewide network of historical societies and volunteers to support rigorous research and establish locations for historical plaques throughout New Hampshire. We unveiled five new Black Heritage Trail markers this year in Milford, Nashua, Dover and Jaffrey. Another six markers are planned before the end of 2024. The unveiling events have been amazing, bringing together people from different backgrounds to do what we do best—present new corrective narratives of our history that challenge stereotypes and build a better and truer understanding of our diverse community. We know it works!

As we go forward into 2024, we face continuing challenges to the teaching of the uncomfortable truths of our local, state, and national histories. Aspects of our past that deal with racism have often been downplayed, ignored, or erased, and so we persevere in our efforts to develop programs that promote awareness and appreciation of African American history and life. We continue to create safe spaces for the difficult discussions needed to build community and overcome misunderstanding and divisiveness.

We hope you enjoy this year's Conference. We are proud to present to you a roster of extraordinary scholars, artists, and public figures to explore how BIPOC artists signify on each other, understand the complex ways that these creators talk about their own communities and talk with other communities of color. We are pleased to gather in-person for a performance and conversation with Robin S., and to honor Napoleon Jones-Henderson for his artistic vision and relentless devotion to uplift and inspire communities, advocate for the greater good and mentor a new generation of artists

Special Thanks to Our Conference Volunteers

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire & Volunteers

Valerie Cunningham, Jeannine Jacques, Grace Peirce, Sonya Martino, Suzanne Paquin, Cathy Wolff, Anne Romney, Valerie Fagin, Sue Hubbard

BHTNH Staff & BNEC Program Planning Committee

Gina Bowker, Rita Weathersby, Jeannine Jacques, Barbara Ward, Anne Romney, Judy Posner, Terry Robinson, Yulia Rothenberg, Dariya Steele

Northeastern University and Reckonings Project Staff, Faculty, & Volunteers

Kabria Baumgartner, Uta Poiger, Jennifer Grieve, Laurel Schlegel

2024 BHTNH Schedule of Events

Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks: *A New Deal for a Great Society*, Sundays in February, 2024

Juneteenth Celebration, *Dreaming Black Art: Gateways to a New Awareness*, June 13-19, 2024

Frederick Douglass Community Reading: Saturday, June 29, 2024

Black New England Conference: October 18-19, 2024

BHTNH Guided Tours available throughout the year

Visit

www.blackheritagetrailnh.org for updates and details



2023 BLACK NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

GUIDED TOURS

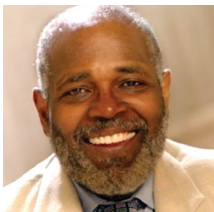


L'Merchie Frazier is a Boston-based visual artist, performing artist, educator, consultant, activist, and philanthropist. She is currently the Director of Education at the Museum of African American History in Boston. Her work has been exhibited at numerous institutions including the University of Vermont; the American Museum of Art and Design, New York; and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC.



Laurel Schlegel is a Public History M.A. student at Northeastern University. She graduated from the University of Denver in 2021 with a bachelor's in History and minors in Spanish and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Her research interests include oral history and community activism.

OPENING CEREMONY



Rev. Robert Thompson is an experienced minister (Itinerant Elder, AME Church) with a history of working in primary/secondary education. Particular skills are in connecting people and organizations from diverse spiritual and religious traditions and history. Strong community and social services professional with a B.S. focused on African history from Wesleyan University and an MDiv from Payne Theological Seminary.

Panel #1: GENERATIONS RISING: RECOVERING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



Silvermoon Mars LaRose is a member of the Narragansett Tribe and the Assistant Director of the Tomaquag Museum. She has worked in tribal communities for over 20 years, serving in the areas of health and human services, education, and humanities. Silvermoon serves on the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts, and as the secretary for the Charlestown Conservation Commission. Additionally, she is the vice chair for the Avenue Concept supporting local public art ecosystems. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, a minor in Justice Law and Society from the University of Rhode Island, and a partially completed Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from Western Washington University



Dr. Dottie Morris (host) is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity and a member of the College President's Cabinet at Keene State College. Prior to her position as Associate Vice President of Institutional Equity and Diversity at KSC, she served as the Associate Dean for Student Learning at World Learning School for International Training Institute (SIT) in Brattleboro, VT, the Director of Student Affairs for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at Antioch University New England in Keene and staff counselor at the Colorado State University Counseling Center and the Coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program.

Panel #2: THE PEOPLE COULD FLY: MYTHS, LEGENDS, FOLKTALES, AND SONG



Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes is currently the Senior Curator of Maritime Social Histories at Mystic Seaport Museum. She is also the Director of the Frank C. Munson Institute of American Justice. Akeia earned her MA and PhD in Anthropology/ Archaeology at the University of Connecticut and her BA at Salve Regina University. Akeia works on curatorial projects on race, Indigenous histories, ethnicity, and diversity in New England's Maritime activities. She is currently the lead curator for the 2024 Mystic Seaport exhibition, *Entwined: The Sea, Sovereignty and Freedom*. Dr. de Barros Gomes has engaged in archaeological fieldwork on the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Reservation in Mashantucket, CT; in the US Virgin Islands and in Newport, RI.



Mintzi Martínez-Rivera is an Anthropologist and Folklorist whose research and teaching focuses on Latin American indigenous youth culture, indigenous popular culture, expressive cultural practices, and Critical Indigenous and Anti-Oppressive research methodologies. In June 2021, her co-edited volume with Dr. Solimar Otero, *Theorizing Folklore from the Margins: Critical and Ethical Approaches* was published by Indiana University Press. She spent time as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Providence College and as a member of the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society. Recently, she was awarded a 6-month Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty from the Institute for Scholars and Citizens that will allow her to conduct a year-long research project in Mexico.



Cliff Notez is a multi–digital media artist, musician, entrepreneur, and filmmaker from Boston, Massachusetts. While attending graduate school in 2015, he simultaneously took a position at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston as the teen new media programs associate. As an educator and administrator for digital media programs and events, Notez began his own digital media company, HipStory. Rooted in hip-hop, his art tackles the political and the personal, exploring the intimate consequences of a society where black bodies are easily ignored, forgotten, or disregarded. Notez’s art is also a continuous exploration of the black mind. He is known for albums such as “Why the Wild Things Are,” produced in 2019. His films have been official selections for 20+ film festivals.



Dr. Pierre Morton (moderator) serves as Chief Diversity Officer and Adjunct Professor at Franklin Pierce University. Pierre is currently Chair of the Monadnock Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Coalition, a board member of the Manchester NAACP Education Committee, a board member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers; a board member on the Keene Family YMCA; a committee member on the City of Keene Racial Justice & Safety Committee and is a member of their social justice committee. Pierre also serves on the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation Steering Committee. His work has been featured in the New England Journal of Higher Education, USA Today and the Keene Sentinel.

LUNCHTIME ADDRESS



McKinley Wallace III, a mixed-media painter and art educator, received his M.A. in Teaching and B.A. from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). His studio work has been shown in solo exhibitions at 3S Artspace, MICA, York College, Waller Gallery, and Creative Alliance, as well as group shows at Goucher College, African American Museum of Dallas, Band of Vices, Carroll Mansion, Washington Project for the Arts, Arlington Art Center, Main Line Art Center, Towson University, and Terrault Gallery. In recognition of his craft, he has received many awards, including the Maryland State Arts Council’s Individual Artist Award, the Bethesda Painting Award, and the Baker Artist Award.



Uta G. Poiger (host), in her role as Special Advisor to the Provost on Humanics, works with colleagues, students, and partners across Northeastern’s global campus system to foster signature educational initiatives in the context of Northeastern’s experiential learning model and the University’s New Academic Plan. Poiger previously served as

Dean of the College of Social Science and Humanities at Northeastern University. She worked with the college’s faculty, staff, and students to enhance leadership in the Experiential Liberal Arts. Under her guidance, the college developed three areas of strategic focus: the intersections of resilience and sustainability; cultural transformations, governance, and globalization; and network science, digital humanities, and information ethics. Together with Richard Daynard, she led the committee that formulated Northeastern’s new general education curriculum NUPath, implemented in 2016. Together with Angel Nieves, Kabria Baumgartner and Dan Cohen, Poiger leads the Mellon-funded initiative Reckonings: A Local History Platform for the Community Archivist.

PANEL #3: IN LIVING COLOR: RECONSTRUCTING THE CANON



Melina Hill Walker, is a program director at the Endowment for Health. She has worked for Dartmouth’s Aging Resource Center, as a grants coordinator for Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire, as a senior community health planner in New York City and as a public health volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Walker holds a master’s in health policy and management from Harvard and a bachelor’s from Brown University. She has also served in volunteer and board roles for several academic and nonprofit organizations, including Dartmouth Hitchcock and the Upper Valley Hostel.

Walker’s father, **Errol Gaston Hill** was an expert on Caribbean and African American theater. A proud son of Trinidad & Tobago, Hill was the first tenured Black Professor at Dartmouth College. He taught at Dartmouth College from 1968 until his retirement in 1989. Hill studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London before attending Yale University, where he graduated in 1962. He subsequently earned both a master’s degree and a doctorate in theater history at Yale’s School of Drama. Hill directed more than 120 plays and pageants and was the author of several award-winning books, including *Shakespeare in Sable: a History of Black Shakespearean Actors*.



Dr. Denise Khor is a media historian working on early cinema history, film preservation, and Asian American film and media culture. Denise received her Ph.D. at the University of California. In 2019-2020, she was a faculty fellow at Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. Denise is currently a professor

at Northeastern University, where she is jointly appointed in the Department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies (CSSH) and the Department of Art + Design (CAMD), with a courtesy appointment in History. She is the author of *Transpacific Convergences: Race, Migration and Japanese American Film Culture before World War II*, which explores the historical experiences of Japanese Americans at the cinema and traces an alternative network of film production, circulation, and exhibition. She is working on her next book project *The Invisible Hand: A History of Asian Americans in the Animation Industry*.



Alison C. Rollins is a 2023-2024 Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellow and was named a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellow in 2019. In 2021, her essay "Dispatch from the Racial Mountain" was selected by contest judge Kiese Laymon as the winner of the Gulf Coast Prize in Nonfiction. A Cave Canem and Callaloo fellow, she was a 2016 recipient of the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly and Dorothy

Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship. In 2018, she was a recipient of the Rona Jaffe Writers' Award and in 2020, the winner of a Pushcart Prize. Her debut poetry collection, *Library of Small Catastrophes* (Copper Canyon Press, 2019) was a 2020 Hurston/Wright Foundation Legacy Award nominee. Rollins holds an M.F.A from Brown University and is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Omarthan Clarke, is the Assistant Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity at Worcester State University and an Instructor of Art Education at Ohio State University. He holds a Master's Degree in Arts Policy and Administration from Ohio State University where he completed a hybrid program that focuses on critical discussions of Aesthetic Theory, Pedagogical Theory, and Public

Policy. He has exhibited in several galleries in California, Ohio, and Massachusetts. His portfolio may be viewed at www.omarthan.com.



Karen Dade (moderator) received her doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1994 with a specialization in cultural diversity and curriculum reform. She is currently a professor emerita at Western Washington University. She is also the CEO and founder of the Multicultural International Development Company, LLC., a cross-cultural education network and consulting agency. Dr. Dade is a visual and performing artist and educator. Her area of research for more than 30 years has been social justice arts education and combating racism in schools. She has authored such books as, *Through Students' Eyes: Combating Racism in United States Schools*, *Shattering the Denial: Protocols for the Classroom and Beyond*, and *Divine N Promise: A Difficult Journey*, and throughout her career has contributed numerous chapters to books and articles to refereed journal publications. Her recent research, as principal investigator, focused on anti-Blackness and wellbeing in predominantly White spaces. Out of this work, she continues to produce publications, give scholarly presentations and mentor up and coming scholars in this field. Dr. Dade has been the recipient of many recognition awards during her career, including, the Humanitarian Award, Women of Color Award, Equity and Justice Award, International Scholar Award, as well as numerous teaching excellence awards.

PANEL #4: A CONVERSATION WITH PLAYWRIGHT KIRSTEN GREENIDGE



Kirsten Greenidge is a playwright from Boston, Massachusetts. She attended Wesleyan University where she studied playwriting and won her first playwriting award. Kirsten then received her MFA from the University of Iowa. Kirsten's work explores the intersections of race, class, and gender as she seeks to create more multidimensional roles for underrepresented actors of color, more roles for

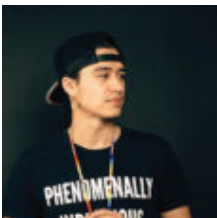
women, and plays that challenge mainstream audiences and provoke change. She is known for such works as *The Luck of the Irish*, *Baltimore*, and *Milk Like Sugar*. For her play *Milk Like Sugar*, Kirsten received the Village Voice Obie Award, a Lucille Lortel nomination, an AUDELCO nomination, and an Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Award. Kirsten is currently a playwright in residence at Company One Theatre in Boston, Massachusetts, as part of the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program. She is also an Associate Professor of Theatre at the School of Theatre at Boston University.



Jovanna Jones (Host) is an Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Culture at Boston College, teaching 20th and 21st-century African-American cultural production. She specializes in visual studies and photography, space and place, and Black feminist criticism. Jovanna holds her Ph.D. and MA from Harvard University and BA from Emory

University. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, and the Provost’s Fellows Program at Dartmouth College. Jovanna’s current project, “The Last Thanksgiving at West Rutland Square,” blends family history, spatial study, and visual archives to honor Black life in Boston’s South End in the wake of displacement. She is also at work on “Haven,” a visual and architectural study of Black women’s rooming houses, exploring how these sites emerge as early examples of Black feminist world-building in the twentieth century.

PANEL#5: RE-FRAMING THE MUSIC: HIP HOP AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE BIPOC COMMUNITY



Frank Waln represents the Lakota Nation and is a multi-genre music artist, public speaker, and curator from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He received a BA in Audio Arts & Acoustics from Columbia College Chicago where he was given the Mayor’s Award for Civic Engagement at graduation. As a curator, Frank designed a music interactive

space in the new Native American Exhibition Hall at the Field Museum in Chicago. He was recently commissioned by Harvard University’s Committee on the Arts to curate a living memorial on campus to honor his great-grandmother who was a survivor of Indian boarding schools. His music is available on all streaming platforms.



Lai Frances is a multimedia journalist and producer that focuses on music, pop culture, and entertainment. Graduating from Rutgers University-Newark in 2015, Lai carries degrees in Video Production and Journalism. She is currently a Managing Producer at CNET by day and a Contributing Writer/Host by night focusing on music and K-pop. You can find some of Lai’s bylines on

UPROXX, Teen Vogue, PopCrush, NME, and MTV News while being a host for KCON and NME’s In Conversation. To date, Lai has written special features on K-pop acts such as TWICE, TAEYANG, ITZY, BTS’ Jin, Stray Kids, aespa, KAI, and many more.



Mr. Goodbarz is a Massachusetts-based hip-hop musician and producer. He is the owner of Toybox Studios, a keyboardist, an audio engineer and an educator. Mr. Goodbarz is also a battle rapper and juggalo artist. He was the former keyboardist of Sepsiss.



Dart Adams (moderator) is a native Bostonian journalist, historian, lecturer, researcher, and author. His work has appeared in various online and print publications including Complex, NPR, Mass Appeal, Okayplayer, Ebony, LEVEL, the Bay State Banner, Boston Globe Magazine, and Boston Magazine. He's also the host of Dart Against Humanity and the Boston Legends Podcast that produces the Boston Legends line of apparel. Dart's books include *The Book Of Dart*, *Instead We Became Evil: A True Story Of Survival & Perseverance* and the upcoming *On Track: The Adventures Of DJ Amir*

LUNCHTIME ADDRESS



Theo Wilson began his speaking career in the NAACP at the age of 15 and has always had a passion for social justice. He attended Florida A&M University, where he obtained his B.A. in Theater Performance. Theo returned to Denver and is now the Executive Director of Shop Talk Live, Inc. The organization uses the barbershop as a staging ground for community dialogue and healing. After viral video success beginning in 2015, Theo grew his social media following to well over 70,000 people. Due to audience demand, he published his first book in 2017, *The Law of Action*. The book addresses some of the misconceptions about the law of attraction, and the role direct action plays in manifestation. In 2017, his TED Talk entitled, "A Black Man Goes Undercover in the Alt-Right," was seen worldwide, amassing a total of over 17 million views. Theo is the host of The History Channel's hit series, "I Was There." He has been featured on Good Morning America, BuzzFeed, CNN, Good Day Canada, and TV One.

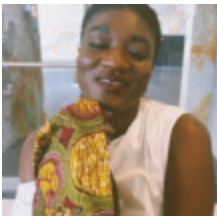


Lavette Coney (host) is an African American woman from Roxbury, MA - a predominantly Black and Brown neighborhood of Boston created by redlining, “urban renewal” and economic divesting. As the neighborhood association president, she recognizes how the trauma of Black people continues through living with hazardous contaminants, gentrification after decades of decay, and political disenfranchisement. Lavette has been a co-facilitator since 2016 and is the current leader of WPCR. After years of anti-racist work, she recognized that racism is a White problem and a burden on our society.

PANEL #6: I AM THE FUTURE: INNOVATION IN THE ARTS AMONG BIPOC GROUPS



C. Rose Smith (she/them) is a Boston-based visual artist. In her work, Smith examines the role of photography in constructing identity and individuality. Smith’s recent achievements include the 2023 Prix Picto De La Mode Top 10 Finalists with Picto Foundation Paris, France, 2023 Coup de Coeur Award with Leica Camera Paris, France, and 2022 Inaugural Silver List of Emerging Photographers. Smith was a 2021 finalist for the Aperture Magazine Portfolio Review Prize. Smith’s work has been featured in group exhibitions at Hangar Arts Center in Brussels, Belgium; Fotofest Biennial, Houston, TX; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX; SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; and Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta.



Dzidzor (Jee-Jaw) Azaglo is a Boston-based African folklore performing artist, author, entrepreneur and curator. Dzidzor is the founder of Black Cotton Club and partners with Grubstreet, ICA Boston, and Boston Public Schools to teach creative empowerment workshops in Boston.

Dzidzor was born in Italy to Ghanaian parents and raised in North Carolina. She’s immersed herself in merging cultures from the South to Ghanaian culture. Her debut poetry collection, “For Girls Who Cry in Yellow,” explores the healing process through the perspective of African women. Dzidzor uses a style of call and response to combine traditional storytelling in Afro-folklore and Poetry Slam through a sonic experience. She has reimagined poetry and storytelling as a way to include the audience and to challenge, inspire and encourage self beyond traditional forms. Dzidzor has been nominated twice for a Boston Music Award.



Sam Hyun was named one of The Boston Globe's 2021 Bostonians of the Year. He's been featured in various publications including Forbes, Good Morning America, and on the front page of the Boston Globe. He received his Master's in Public Policy and Business Administration from Brandeis University's Heller School. Hyun was also named among the Top 50 Unsung Heroes by the Asian Hustle Network and 40 Under 40 by

the National Association of Asian Pacifics in Politics and Public Affairs. He was Co-Founder of the 1587 Sneakers, and Director of Federal Relations for Michelle Wu, Hyun believes that anti-racism must include eradicating anti-Asian hate in order to truly create an equitable and loving community. By amplifying the voices and perspectives of the AAPI Community he strives to create understanding, social impact, and change.



Bithiah Carter (moderator) is the President at New England Blacks in Philanthropy, a membership driven organization. She is focusing on informing, reforming and transforming the practice of philanthropic giving. Formerly, she was executive director of Grand Circle Foundation, senior director in the division of Community Impact at United Way of Massachusetts

Bay and Merrimack Valley, and program director at the Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston. She has also served as a consultant in the philanthropic sector, focusing on the needs of children and families in the Greater Boston and surrounding areas. Before entering the non-profit sector, she worked for nearly ten years in the financial services industry in New York and Boston. In addition, she serves on the boards of several local and national non-profit organizations.

Edward Jones

I, Too

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow,

I'll be at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

Say to me,

"Eat in the kitchen,"

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

2023 Black New England Conference Hosts



JerriAnne Boggis is the executive director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, an organization that preserves, celebrates, and honors African-American history in the state. She is a writer, educator, and community activist whose work corrects the historical record on the racial complexity and richness of New Hampshire's diverse past. Through the development of community programs, exhibits, and tours, Boggis has raised the awareness of New Hampshire's people of color and increased

the visibility of Black history in the state. Boggis was named in 2015 by the New Hampshire Humanities Council as one of the 40 most influential New Hampshireites who have vastly enriched human understanding and whose original works and passion for excellence have put New Hampshire on the cultural map.



Kabria Baumgartner is an award-winning public historian who researches and writes about the hidden, forgotten, and erased lived experiences of African-descended people in New England and the Atlantic world.

She is the Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies at Northeastern University where she also serves as Associate Director of Public History. She teaches classes on African American history, the history of New England, public history, and digital storytelling.



Stanford Cross brings over 20 years of banking experience to his role as Mortgage Loan Officer at Bangor Savings Bank. Stanford attended the University of Michigan, where he received his B.A. in Economics and minored in Sociology. Stanford has financed homes across the U.S. and has closed on over 5,000 loans. He is active in his community, serving as a member of the Portsmouth Rotary Club and both the Greater

Portsmouth and Exeter Area Chambers of Commerce.



Tanisha Johnson is the Child and Family Services Director for Community Action Partnership of Strafford County. In July 2020, Tanisha co founded the Black Lives Matter Seacoast Chapter. BLM’s mission is to dismantle anti-Blackness, fight against racial injustices and police brutality. Tanisha serves on various community organizations boards along the Seacoast, she is a DEIJ trainer, advocate, and speaker. Tanisha is the Co-Host of the podcast *The Conversations We Should Be Having*. This podcast is with the Chief of Police of Eliot Maine and discusses new approaches to talk about race and justice.



Ronald Mitchell is a veteran broadcast television production professional, with more than twenty years’ experience in all aspects of commercial broadcast television production. Body of work includes numerous live and live-to-tape network news and special events broadcast productions, as well as television commercials and corporate and educational video products. Ronald is currently

publisher at the Bay State Banner.

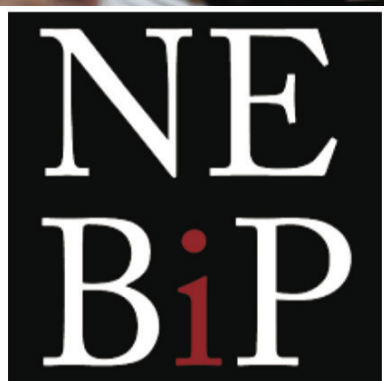


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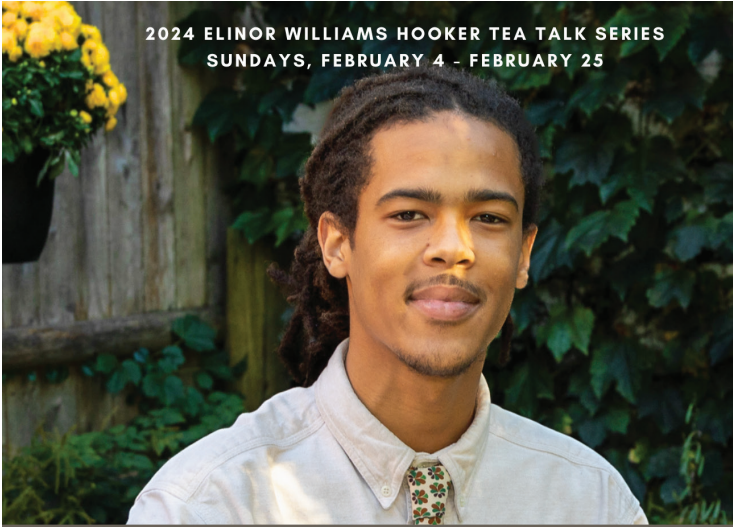


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