

THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE SUMMIT: SATELLITE EVENT



BLACK THEATRE FOREVER

(with funding from The Black Seed)

JULY 23 - 24, 2023

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
HYATT REGENCY ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH

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WELCOME TO THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE SUMMIT 2023: SATELLITE EVENT BLACK THEATRE FOREVER

The International Black Theatre Summit Mission: To convene scholars and practitioners in theatre, film and television, and related media to strategize the future of Black storytelling across platforms.

The 2023 Satellite Event Goal: To work collaboratively with the field to organize nationally by coordinating localized and regional efforts that can help stabilize and secure the future of Black Theatre globally, with a special emphasis on the interests in St. Louis, MO and the surrounding region in relation to the national landscape.

About the Original Black Theatre Summit

In June 1996, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson delivered the keynote address for the annual gathering of the Theatre Communications Group, the nation's preeminent organization of non-profit professional theaters. Wilson's speech, "The Ground on Which I Stand," the speech has since become "a critical black theatre manifesto, studied alongside W.E.B. Du Bois's Four Principles of Negro Theater and Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones' The Revolutionary Theatre." The now-landmark speech immediately ignited a contentious public discussion about racial inequity within the theatrical world, encompassing conversations about casting, funding, audiences, and much more. Subsequent events included a public debate with American Repertory Theater Artistic Director Robert Brustein, moderated by Anna Deveare Smith at the Town Hall in NYC.

Following the speech and the subsequent firestorm of publicity and debate, Wilson was approached by Dartmouth Professors of Theater, Victor Leo Walker II and William Cook, at the recommendation of Paul Carter Harrison, who suggested setting up a major conference for Black theatre artists and professionals on campus. The resulting event took place at Dartmouth in March of 1998, with participants that included Ntozake Shange, Clinton Turner Davis, Robbie McCauley, Ricardo Khan, Thulani Davis, Ed Bullins and Woodie King Jr.

Learn more and interact
with excerpts here



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 23

4:30pm - 5pm

Registration

5pm to 6:30pm

IBTS/BTN “Every Ending is a New Beginning” Welcome Mixer

A meet and greet celebrating the end of BTN and the beginning of IBTS enjoying drinks and light refreshments. Includes an introduction to IBTS and the goals for the next day’s activities.



MONDAY, JULY 24

8am to 9am

Registration (Regency AB Foyer)

8:15am to 8:30am

Ancestors & Meditation(s) (Sterling 6)

A morning gathering to welcome the day and harness the energy acknowledging those who have paved the way for the present and future.

8:45am to 9:45am

Breakfast (Regency B)

Mingle and enjoy a meal in community with IBTS participants.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 24

10am to 12:15pm

Our VALUES, OUR Value (in Sterling 6)

Facilitators: **Dr. Monica White Ndounou** and **Dr. Eve Graves**

An interactive strategy session on the financial future of Black Theatre. Topics include institutional wealth-building for Black Theatre institutions and the financial health and wellbeing of Black theatre community members. Framed by brainstorming strategy sessions with participants who will also be provided access to financial health resources through The CRAFT Institute.

This session also includes a virtual funder conversation with:
Olivia Malabuyo Tablante, Administrative Director and Program Manager, Gerbode Foundation
Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council
Caroline Taiwo, Program Officer, Arts & Culture, McKnight Foundation



12:30pm to 1:30pm

Lunch (Regency B)

Mingle and enjoy a meal in community with IBTS participants.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 24

1:45pm to 2:35pm

The Vitality of Black Theatre

Facilitator: **Dr. Monica White Ndounou**

Opens a series of interactive sessions with a focus on emphasizing the vitality of Black theatre. This session embraces the importance of Black theatre legacies and ongoing fieldwide initiatives with the potential to help stabilize and secure the future of Black theatre institutions. Participants will learn more about how to participate in Black Theatre Day, the African American Museum of the Performing Arts, and other Initiatives and effective strategies that build upon Black theatre's strengths. Sponsored by CreateEnsemble.com.



2:35pm to 3:25pm

New Work NOW!

Facilitators: **Dr. Monica White Ndounou** and **Dr. Eve Graves**

An interactive strategy session focusing on the rewards and challenges of developing and getting new work at Black theatres. Participants identify and explore existing and emerging pathways that can potentially serve as cornerstones for the infrastructure of a collective effort. Sponsored by the African Diasporic Network



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 24

3:25pm to 4:15pm

We Out Here...

Facilitators: **Ciara Diane, Joshua Robinson,** and
Deen Rawlins-Harris

This interactive session will encourage participants to value intergenerational leadership and allocate the resources necessary to invest in the professional growth of young Black theatremakers. In this “think tank,” you’ll have the opportunity to discuss some of the barriers young Black artists currently face and ideate on ways to support them and their work to build a more robust Black theatre community. Sponsored by The CRAFT Institute.



4:30pm to 6:00pm

“Black Theatre Forever” Mixer

Closing Presentation of Findings & Next Steps

Special Thanks to ADDITIONAL THE IBTS SUPPORT

Mauricio Tafur Salgado
Emily Anne Goes
Ashley McKinnies

MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Dr. Monica White Ndounou (she/her) is an Associate Professor of Theater at Dartmouth College and the founding Executive Director of The CRAFT Institute and the founding President and CEO of The International Black Theatre Summit. She is also the past President of the Black Theatre Association (BTA) (2016-2018), immediate past Vice President of Advocacy for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) (2019-2021) and served on the inaugural executive board of The August Wilson Society. She was a founding member of the National Advisory Committee

of The Black Seed, a national strategic plan to create impact and thriving for Black theater institutions and initiatives. Dr. Ndounou's interdisciplinary research projects span a broad range of topics. She is the author of several publications as well as an actor, director, and alumnus of Spelman College and The Black Arts Institute. She frequently writes for popular audiences and presents the findings of her work at national and international conferences. Her award-winning book, Shaping the Future of African American Film: Color-coded Economics and the Story Behind the Numbers (Rutgers University Press), serves as the foundation of The International Black Theatre Summit's mission and programming. She is a creator and co-curator of *Echoes of Us*, produced by the African Diasporic Network a special initiative of The CRAFT Institute in collaboration with the African-American Shakespeare Company and Support Black Theatre. She is also a co-founder of CreateEnsemble.com, a digital platform for creative artists of color. Professor Ndounou is currently working on several projects including but not limited to a book, *Acting Your Color: The CRAFT, Power and Paradox of Acting for Black Americans* which includes a multi-media project exploring black American contributions to developing acting theories and practices.

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Dr. Eve Graves (she/her) is a graduate of Spelman College. She began her professional academic career at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA., where she received several awards, published several articles, and was elected to head a national professional organization. Dr. Graves was awarded a Teaching Fellowship from the Carnegie Center for Teaching and Learning at Stanford University. At the end of her final residency at the Carnegie Foundation, Dr. Graves decided to pursue work as an intercultural pedagogue by accepting a teaching position at the prestigious Xiamen

University in China. She lived and successfully taught Western Theatre History and Literature in China for four and a half years.



Ciara Diane (she/they) is a New York-based writer, performer, dramaturg, and facilitator. She is currently The CRAFT Institute's Emerging Creative Fellow and a facilitator for Equity Quotient, a national training and organizational development firm dedicated to supporting arts and culture nonprofits interested in becoming more just and equitable community partners. She was previously an editor at HowlRound Theatre Commons and her journalistic work has been featured in American Theatre Magazine (AT), including serving as contributing editor for their September 2020

issue. She works with an array of nonprofit and theatre organizations across the country and strives to create brave spaces where people of color, particularly Black people, can feel included, joyful, supported, and above all, like they're not alone.

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Joshua Lee Robinson (he/his) is a Black Boston-based artist, actor, producer, and theatre maker. He is currently HowlRound Theatre Commons' Fellow and as an artist, he's producing a comic strip and a correlating animated short film. As a writer and producer, Joshua recently wrote, recorded and produced his own mini album, detailing his life growing up in a white suburban neighborhood. He was last seen as Tramarion in *Black Superhero Magic Mama* by Inda Craig-Galván in a co-production between Company One Theatre, the A.R.T at Harvard University and Boston Public

Library. His main artistic focus is to highlight the lesser known stories of Black and minority groups in America through multiple forms of media and entertainment. He strives to build bridges and inspire empathy within and between marginalized communities through gathering, performance, and comedy. Joshua is thrilled to continue his work chronicling and strengthening the relationships among these communities in the States and beyond.



Deen Rawlins-Harris (they/them) is a theatremaker, teacher, and organizer from Boston, MA. They received their bachelor's degree from Bucknell University majoring in education and political science. Currently, Rawlins-Harris is a MFA student at The University of Texas at Austin in the Theatre and Dance Department, specializing in Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities. In their work, Rawlins-Harris regularly designs and implements dynamic art and culture events with the support of youth leaders. They are the current co-chair of American Alliance for Theatre and

Education's Research Network Committee and board member for TC Squared Theatre Company (Cambridge, MA). A few of Rawlins-Harris' recent awards include the Point Foundation BIPOC Scholar Award (2022-2023), Texas Educational Theatre Association Founders Scholar Award (2022-2023), and

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM

Planet Texas 2050 Artist Fellowship Award (2022-2023). Their professional experience includes creating Company One's BosTEEN Artist Nights (Boston, MA), programming the 2019 Arts & Culture Apprentice & Intern Fair with Shakespeare Theatre Company and Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.), and organizing Philadelphia's 2018 Youth Pride hosted by the Mazzone Center. Deen is currently creating and facilitating the Youth Producer Program with Fusebox Festival (Austin, TX), an immersive youth leadership training program in which youth program a city-wide festival for youth by youth. To connect with them and learn more about their work please visit www.deenrawlinsharris.com.



Olivia Malabuyo Tablante, began her tenure in 2006 and is currently the Gerbode Foundation's Administrative Manager and Program Director of the Special Awards in the Arts Program. The Special Awards Program has funded arts Bay Area presenting organizations to commission the works of individual artists since 1989. The Special Awards in the Arts Program currently supports the creation of new works in dance, theater production, and music composition. These nationally respected awards recognize the creative excellence of innovative California artists and support

projects that represent the Bay Area's diverse communities and neighborhoods. Prior to joining the Gerbode Foundation, Olivia served as Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center's Administrative Manager as well as Post Production Manager and Production Manager for its PBS-series Cultures of Mexico in California. Olivia also served as San Francisco's Filipinx American Bindlestiff Studio's Managing Director and Project Manager for the construction of the new blackbox theater from 2001-2004. Olivia holds a B.A. in Ethnic Studies and Documentary Film from UC Berkeley.

MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Michael J. Bobbitt is a theater director, choreographer, and playwright who has dedicated his professional career to arts leadership. He joined Mass Cultural Council as Executive Director in February 2021, and is the highest-ranking cultural official in Massachusetts state government. Upon joining the Agency, he was invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' (NASAA). As Executive Director Michael has led Mass Cultural Council through the development of its first-ever Racial Equity Plan;

worked with staff, Council Members, and cultural sector advocates to secure and distribute a historic \$60.1M in state pandemic relief funding; and overseen the drafting and adoption of the Agency's FY24-FY26 strategic plan. He previously served as Artistic Director of the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, MA; immediately prior he held the same position at the Adventure Theatre-MTC in Maryland for twelve years.

Michael gained experience in arts management by training at Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, The National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, and Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion Certification Program. In July 2022 he completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has served as an Associate Professor of Theatre at Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Howard University and volunteered on numerous nonprofit boards in Maryland and Massachusetts. In February 2023 Michael received the prestigious Kennedy Center Gold Medallion and was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey to serve on her Advisory Council on Black Empowerment. In April 2023, he was recognized by Get Konnected! as one of Boston's Most Influential Men of Color and invested into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. He is also the recipient of MassOpera's Action Bearing Award and was recognized by Speak Out. More at www.michaelbobbitt.com

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Caroline Taiwo joined McKnight Foundation in August 2022 as Arts & Culture program officer. In this role she maintains and develops relationships with grantee partners and intermediary funders, manages significant grant portfolios, and actively collaborates with McKnight programs, investments, and operations teams to advance and strengthen the creativity, power, and leadership of Minnesota’s working artists and culture bearers.

Caroline comes to McKnight from Springboard for the Arts, where she was the Director of Economic Opportunity. Before Springboard, Caroline was an Arts and Culture Editor with Twin Cities Daily Planet and Twin Cities Media Alliance, where she produced special coverage pieces, media arts projects, collaborations, and events centering the narratives of artists from historically marginalized communities.

Alongside her leadership roles, Caroline has been an active speaker, writer, and volunteer. She presented on building local creative economies at the Americans for the Arts Convention, Grantmakers in the Arts Conference, and the Midwest Asset Building Conference. She has contributed arts and culture features to Minnesota Public Radio, MinnPost, and Pollen Midwest. Caroline has also advised on several workgroups and committees, such as The Alliance’s Business Resources Collective and the City of Saint Paul’s Financial Empowerment Community Council, where she is currently vice chair.

Caroline attended Howard University and completed her Bachelor of Arts in political science and philosophy at Hamline University. She was a Salzburg Global Fellow for Young Cultural Innovators in 2018 and a Sustainable Progress through Engaging Active Citizens (SPEAC) fellow in 2016. She is a first-generation Nigerian-American. More at www.mcknight.org/person/caroline-taiwo.

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



My name is **Mauricio Tafur Salgado** and in this moment I am mestizo+first gen born to proudly subversive Colombians with graduate degrees + brown skinned + aspiring bio-regionalist + cis-hetero + married + father + artist pursuing justice and healing through a decolonial framework. I come from the everglades watershed, my antepasados and a solid plate of my grandma's arepas and buñuelos. My educational background begins in the public schools and community centers of South Florida among migrant farm workers. It was among those folks that I learned the power of the theatre to break through patriarchal and generational chasms.

I then continued my training as a mischief-maker at the Juilliard School; in pedagogies of resistance at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, and in radical breathing at Brown University/Trinity Rep's MFA.

And somewhere at the soft center of all of that is this continuous dance that I am joyously fumbling through with my beloveds and the divine.

I am currently an Assistant Arts Professor, the Director of Applied Theatre, and the Associate Chair in Undergraduate Drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. I am also a co-founder of Arts Ignite (formerly Artists Striving to End Poverty), A Core Faculty member with [artEquity](#), a Co-Producer of [CRAFT Courses Programming with the CRAFT Institute](#), a Co-Creative Producer with the [Remember2019 Collective](#). and a Faculty Fellow with [The Arts and Health Lab@NYU](#).

I live with my beloveds, Cynthia and Eliseo Esperanza, about a stones throw from Yankee Stadium in the South Bronx, the occupied territory of the Wappinger Lenape.

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MEET THE IBTS 2023 TEAM



Emily Anne Goes (she/her), born and raised in East Side San Jose, is a Filipino New York-based performer and pathfinder. She currently co-conspires with The CRAFT Institute as the Director of Marketing and Communications and supports the marketing of [CreateEnsemble.com](https://www.createensemble.com) and #BlackTheatreDay. Previously, she proudly served as the Operations Manager for Broadway Advocacy Coalition, and now works as a consultant for their annual Arts in Action Festival. Emily attended New York University Tisch School of the Arts and completed her BFA in Drama in 2020. Emily love to perform

and is an Artist Company Member of Kinding Sindaw, learning to assert and preserve Filipino indigenous traditions and reflect on the resilience and resistance of the Moro people against centuries of colonization under Spanish rule. Gratefully standing on the shoulders of those before her, Emily sees and feels her family with each breath.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FROM



We invite you to have you participate in **Black Theatre Day!**

The International Black Theatre Summit launched the inaugural Black Theatre Day on Sept. 17, 2021 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the African Grove Theatre, the first known Black professional theatre company in the United States. Black Theatre Day increases visibility, amplifies Black theatre

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institutions, and encourages year-round support for Black theatres. To participate in Black Theatre Day celebrations on Sept. 17, 2023, head to www.thecraftinstitute.org for more information and follow @blacktheatreday.

Over the past two years the Black Theatre Day campaign has been led by The International Black Theatre Summit and The CRAFT Institute. With additional support from WACO Theatre Center, Project1Voice, and Plowshares. Over the years, additional participants have included: Black Theatre Network, National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts, National Association of Black Theatre Building Owners, and more!

Fill out Black Theatre Day
Form to participate



Follow **Create Ensemble** on all social media platforms (@createensemble)!



Create Ensemble is a nurturing and inspiring ethos-driven platform for emerging and established creatives of color and organizations to support one another by coming together to create artistic projects for the love of the craft and our communities. It features many tools to strengthen your art and connect with other global artists, such as fundraising, job postings, circles, blogs, and so much more. You will want to join this platform as soon as it launches.

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE
INTERNATIONAL BLACK THEATRE SUMMIT
2023: SATELLITE EVENT
*BLACK THEATRE FOREVER***



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