

Write Now – A Writing Circle for Women and Girls

Project Directors: Kim B Miller and Shaquetta Nelson/REIL

Produced with support from the Cornelia T Bailey Foundation, with additional support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Write Now - A Writing Circle for Women and Girls is designed to provide a supportive, creative space for female writers to create and grow. The program has two core components geared toward high school students: monthly club meetings, and a one week writing camp. The goal of the project is to support and expand writing by women and girls. Toward achieving that goal, the project directors will curate a book of writing by participants to be published by Day Eight Fall, 2022. Over the course of the program participants will enhance their networks and progress as writers.

The monthly sessions will begin in May and occur on the third Sunday of each month. High school students participating in the activities and field trips will be accompanied by the project directors and invited guest professional female writers. A finalized schedule will be provided following enrollment and the locations and activities planned include:

Sunday, May 15 Welcome reception and writing workshop at the National League of American Pen Women 10am to 2pm in Washington, D.C. Friends, Parents and caregivers welcome, light lunch provided.

Sunday, June 19 Field trip to visit the African American Museum (upper floors) 10am-11:30 followed by provided lunch and writing on the mall or indoors at the museum in case inclement weather 11:30-2:00pm.

Sunday, July 17 The group will meet at Dave and Busters in Springfield, Virginia 10am-2pm to play games followed by provided lunch and a writing session.

Sunday, August 21 The group will meet at noon, starting with a writing session and provided lunch on the roof of the Kennedy Center followed a performance of *Hamilton* at The Kennedy Center. The session on this date expected to be 12-5pm.

Sunday, September 18 The group will meet at 10am for Brunch at Teatism in Penn Quarter in Washington, D.C followed by a group reading/graduation ceremony at the MLK Library for graduation 1-2pm. Friends and family are encouraged to attend the graduation reading and ceremony.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I can't attend every session?

While we hope all participants will attend every session, attendance at all sessions is not required.

Do I have to be vaccinated, or wear a mask indoors?

Proof of vaccination is required for enrollment and masks are required to attend indoor Write Now sessions.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, email project director Kim B Miller at: kim@kimbmiller.com .

If I want to attend the monthly meetings do I have to attend the writing camp?

No! We expect some people who are part of the monthly sessions will want to attend the camp, and vice versa, but you are welcome to attend only one or the other.

The writing camp will occur July 25-29, Monday through Friday, from 10 AM-4 PM, at the Shepherd Park Juanita Thornton Public Library located at 7420 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

My daughter is planning to attend. Can I attend also, or chaperone?

We welcome participation from parents, guardians, and caregivers. If you would like to attend a particular session, or all sessions, please let us know. Some of the monthly sessions require tickets to be purchased in advance and for those sessions we may have to limit the total number attending with the group.

What is the organization or entity producing Write Now?

The Write Now project is produced by the non-profit organization Day Eight. Based in Washington, D.C. and founded by Robert Bettmann, Day Eight's mission is to empower individuals and communities to participate in the arts through the production, publication, and promotion of creative projects. Day Eight's programming includes an

arts magazine, *Bourgeon*, a literary program including poetry events, an annual college student arts writing competition, an arts writing fellowship, exhibitions and performances, education programming for children and youth, and book publication. To learn more about Day Eight please visit DayEight.org.

Project Leadership



Project Director Kim B Miller is the Poet Laureate of Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park, Virginia: October 2020-October 2022. She is the First African American Poet Laureate for this region. Kim was recently featured on Voice of America-VOA. Voice of America is a state-owned international radio broadcaster. It is the largest and oldest US funded international broadcaster. They did a documentary on her work as PWC Poet Laureate. She was featured on the air and on their website. Kim was featured on WTOP, 103.5 FM, both on the air and on their website. Her poems have been published in African Voices magazine, an international haiku anthology, a DC newspaper, an interfaith anthology and several websites and books. Her latest powerful poetry book is called: [My Poetry Is The Beauty You Overlook](#).



Project Director R.E.I.L. / Shaquetta Nelson is a poet and poet-educator. She is author of the book [Ashes to Justice](#) (published February 2022.) About her book Joseph Ross wrote, "The sorrow of abuse pulses under these poems. But so does the joy of double-dutch, a grandmother's love, and the truth of rebirth." R.E.I.L. started her poetry career at open mics in the D.C. area and at 16 competed in the Brave New Voices slam in New York City.

The project leadership includes a circle of journalists, educators, and poets, convened by the project directors to support the Circle, including: Dr. Casey Catherine Moore, Dine Watson, Holly Karapetkova, Thea Joselow, Norah Vawter, Liana Conyers, and Cecilia Mencia.