



NOVEMBER 9TH-12TH, 2023

Griot & Grey Owl

BLACK SOUTHERN
WRITER'S CONFERENCE

FROM

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Festival Chair

CONTACT

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ABOUT US



Like the resilient juniper it is named for, The Griot and Grey Owl Black Southern Writers Conference plants itself in the rich soil of Durham, NC as a 3-day culturally immersive conference from November 3rd - 5th, 2023. We've learned via polling that 90% of Black southern writers were in desperate need of true sodality after the pandemic left us isolated, depleted, and uninspired. Heeding the call, G&G was formed to revitalize the untended soil in our minds without the assistance of competition and othering. Here at G&G, we know that while we may write alone, when we create together, we truly blossom.

MISSION

Our mission is trifold: we aim to build stewards of the literary craft throughout the South by intentionally sowing the seeds of comradery, indispensability, and cultural significance. By utilizing the creative mecca that Durham has become, we aim to breathe new life into the next generation of Black Southern writers.

OUR TEAM

KHALISA RAE
Festival Chair

ERIC THOMPSON
Festival Co-Chair





OUR CONFERENCE

Far too often Black narratives are omitted from literary and academic spaces. G & G believes the time to change that is now. Our conference seeks to create a sense of sodality among writers of color throughout the South by fostering a space for cultural immersion and literary collaborations.

The Griot & Grey Owl experience will be three days packed with world-class Southern facilitators, workshops stationed at historical locations, panels with renowned southern authors, field trips tethered to the thriving Black Wall Street scene, and more! Our goal is that after a weekend of writing in Durham, attendees will leave our conference energized, empowered, and inspired to take the seeds learned at Griot & Grey Owl back to their own communities.



THE STATS

Did you know that

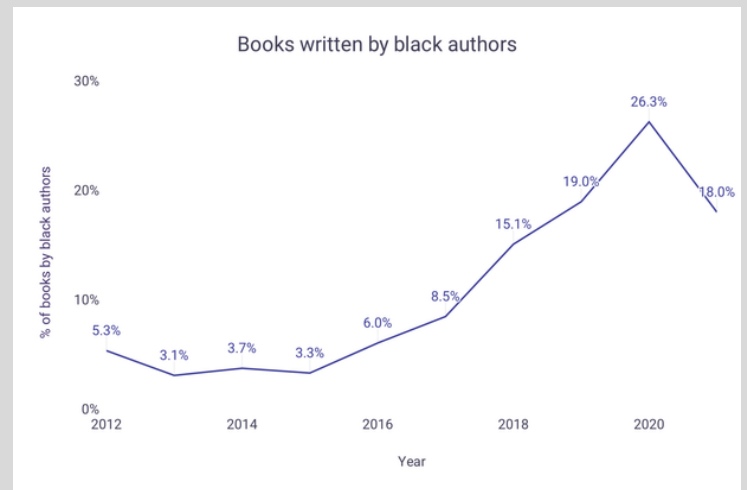
20.4%

Of all writers in the US are Black/People of Color?

However, only

5%

Of books written by Black people in the US, since 1950, have been published.



In 2020, we saw a record 26.3% of bestsellers written by black authors. In 2021, this fell by almost a third down to 18.0%, below even 2019 levels.

Why are these numbers so vastly different?
Where are the opportunities to change?

IN CASE YOU NEEDED MORE INSIGHT,

[Click here to listen to our Festival Chair, Khalisa Rae, speak to Morgan Stanley Bank on the disparities in the publishing industry.](#)

[For the full podcast, click here](#)



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$250 
SPROUT

- Name and logo linked in pre and post event newsletters
- Option for physical product in gift bags
- Product in post event digital swag bag

\$500 
SEEDLING

Sprout Level +

- Name and logo linked on digital materials and website (including brochure and programs)
- Complimentary sponsor exclusive swag bag

\$750 
BUDDING

Seedling Level +

- Name and logo on all printed materials for the conference
- Social media acknowledgments prior and post conference

Note: All sponsors enjoy benefits listed in their category, as well as, benefits offered to sponsors below their category

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$1000 FLOWERING

Budding Level +

- Name listed on conference wearables
- Name and logo on all banners
- 1 VIP access ticket (includes early access, keynote meet & greet, and special book signing + more!)
- 10% off additional general admission tickets for staff members

\$2500 BLOOMING

Flowering Level +

- Sponsor dedicated newsletters
- Vending Table at final event (if applicable)
- 2 VIP access tickets
- Verbal shoutout during conference events

\$5000 GARDEN

Blooming Level +

- Name and logo appear on all materials as the Presenting Sponsor
- 3 VIP access tickets
- Acknowledgement in all media and press related promotional efforts
- Sponsorship materials distributed at registration (sponsor provides materials, G&G responsible for distribution)

Note: All sponsors enjoy benefits listed in their category, as well as, benefits offered to sponsors below their category

*All sponsors receive discounts off host hotel accommodations at the 21C Durham

IN-KIND OPPORTUNITIES

\$1000+
HARVEST

- Name listed on conference wearables
 - Name and logo on all banners
 - 1 VIP complimentary VIP access ticket
 - 10% off general admission tickets for staff members
-

\$500-\$1000
GROW

- Name and logo on all printed materials
 - Complementary Sponsor exclusive swag bag
-

\$300-\$500
FERTILIZE

- Name and logo linked on website
 - Social media acknowledgments prior and post conference
-

\$100-\$300
WATER

- Name and logo linked in post event email blast
 - Product in post event digital swag bag
-

\$100
SOW

- Name and logo linked in digital program
 - Option for physical product in swag bag
-

Customs or A la carte options?

Let's talk! We're committed to finding an option that works for you.

GROW WITH US?

By joining us as premiere partner or sponsor on the ground floor, you have the opportunity to be a catalyst for change. Our conference is all about community and we'd like to offer you the chance to be a part of that building right from the start. With your help, we can make Griot & Grey Owl the premiere location for writers to thrive as autonomous members of a writing community in Durham and across the South.

The opportunities for partnership and sponsorship, both monetary and in-kind, are endless. We look forward to finetuning what those collaborations look like, together.

Contact Us:

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