Celebrating 31 Years

31st Annual

Zora Neale Hurston™ Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Friday - Sunday, January 31 - February 2

Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville
Friday - Sunday, January 31 - February 2

Admission: 17 & Under - Free
Adult admission at the gate: Saturday, $20; Sunday, $10

website: www.zorafestival.org

Presented by the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.) • Eatonville, Florida
ROCK CHALK, JAYHAWK

13 schools. Five campuses. One chant.

Learn more: ku.edu
What’s Inside?

20-31 Festival Presenters

32-46 Program Schedule

48-49 Locator Map for the Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville

50-53 Sponsors & Collaborative Partners

Official Guide Credits

Editor: N. Y. Nathiri
Design: Rupert Deleveau
Editorial Assistance: Wendy Vandenbrock
Map Design: Trent Tomengo
Copy Editor: Alice Morgan Grant

Staff: Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)

N.Y. Nathiri, Executive Director
Prof. Lonnie Graham, Resident Curator
Rajkumarie (Raj) Bergalowski, Bookkeeper

Excellence Without Excuse (E-WE)
Community Computer Lab & Learning Center

Alice Morgan Grant, Manager
Candace Finley, Lead Teacher
Eddis Dexter, Administrative Assistance

Copyright 2019 The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. Use of content herein must be acknowledged as property of the organization.
ZORA! Festival 2020
is funded in part by
Orange County Government
through the
Arts & Cultural Affairs Program
January 7, 2020

Greetings Neighbors and Friends!

On behalf of all of us here at the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.), I want to welcome you to the 31st Annual Zora Neale Hurston™ Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA!™ Festival).

I must admit to you that I was a little concerned about how P.E.C. would be able to “come back” from the brilliance of ZORA! Festival 2019, a milestone event, which marked our 30th Anniversary. However, as I have observed the dedication of the volunteers -- the ZORA! Festival National Planners, the Academics Committee, the Key Persons Management Team comprised of the consultants, the executive staff, and the volunteer managers -- I have come to understand even more why it is that this event continues to attract such a devotion from those near and far.

As we begin a new cycle of festivals, our Seventh, I am particularly interested that Afrofuturism will be our topic. Perhaps, you are like me -- I will have a lot to learn; yet as I look over the 2020 programming which includes the Afrofuturism Conference, an Afrofuturism Pavilion at the Outdoor Festival of the Arts; and a Beyond Black Panther: Up Close and Personal Masquerade Party, I see I have plenty of opportunity to become better informed while I am also having a good time.

Before I close, I want to extend a special hand of fellowship to those who will be attending the Inaugural Africa - America Women’s Economic Forum and Trade Expo. Our organization’s collaboration with The Door of Our Return Foundation, Inc. marks a meaningful beginning, one which recognizes the global need for the economic advancement of women.

May all who participate during ZORA! Festival 2020 enjoy themselves, thoroughly.

God Bless,

Chad McKendrick
P.E.C. Board of Directors

Our Governing Board (Officers)

Winfred (Chad) McKendrick
President

Tadayuki (Tad) Hara, Ph.D.
Vice President

Joshua Smith-Benson, PharmD.
Treasurer

Rasheeda Garricks, MBA
Secretary

Marie-Jose´ François, M.D.
Immediate Past President
Our Governing Board (Members)

John W. Beacham

Ava K. Doppelt, Esq.

Harietta Finley White

Thomas S. Kornegay

Reginald Lewis

Reginald B. McGill

Jenneil Ross
ZORA! Festival National Planners
Known affectionately as “The Brain Trust,” this distinguished group of scholars, cultural and civic leaders is responsible for the stature of ZORA! Festival as an award-winning, internationally recognized event.

N. Y. Nathiri, Chair, Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)
Julian C. Chambliss, Ph.D., Michigan State University, Lansing
Deidre Helen Crumbley, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
Jose B. Fernandez, Ph.D., Dean Emeritus, University of Central Florida, Orlando
The Honorable Johnny Ford, President, Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, Inc., Tuskegee
Lois Hurston Gaston, Ph.D., Zora Neale Hurston Trust
Lonnie Graham, Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Maryemma Graham, Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence
Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Ph.D., Spelman College, Atlanta
Eleanor Traylor, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Stephen Caldwell Wright, Ph.D. (Retired), Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford

ZORA! Festival Academics Committee
The members of this committee serve as the management for the humanities conference programming and logistics.

Scot French, Ph.D., Committee Chair - Department of History, University of Central Florida, Orlando
Julian C. Chambliss, Ph.D., Department of English, Michigan State University, Lansing
Anna Lillios, Ph.D., Department of English, University of Central Florida, Orlando
Trent Tomengo, MFA, Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford
Clarissa West-White, Ph.D., Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach
Kimberly Williams, Associate Member; University of Florida
Event Staffing

Key Persons Management Team
These members support the pre-planning, implementation, and post-event evaluation of the ZORA! Festival.

Consultants:
- **Terri Vismale-Morris**, Director of Public Relations & Marketing
- **T K Walker**, Head, Digital Marketing & Technology
- **Rhea Posey**, Lead, Social Media
- **Keith Longmore**, Social Media
- **Vivian Geary**, Volunteer Management Team
- **Bill Campbell**, ZORA! Writers Space
- **Kevin James Findlay**, “Education Day” Coordinator

Executive Staff:
- **Gwen Covington**, Executive Assistant & Sponsor Relations Executive
- **Cynthia Haywood**, Festival Support
- **Robinson M. Sondashi**, Vendor & Volunteer Portfolio Management (Community Solutions Program, United States - State Department)
- **Ruford Shepherd**, Physical Plant, Outdoor Festival of the Arts
- **Coolidge Hargrett**, Security/Public Safety Liaison with Eatonville Police Department
- **Christopher Peace & Tyler Allen**, Graduate Interns, History of Black Writing, University of Kansas

Volunteer Managers:
- **Davita Bonner**, Coordinator of Student Volunteers, Bethune-Cookman University, Coordinator for Student Volunteers
- **Diane Reed, Ph.D.**, Manager-at-Large
- **Robert Boston**, Outdoor Festival of the Arts – Center Stage Concert Stage
- **Louise Franklin & Wanda Randolph**, Traditional Sunday Morning Worship Service
- **Rasheeda Garricks**, Representing Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- **Holly Tanyhill, Cynthia Stewart, & Hilde Jones**, Volunteer Management Team
Greetings!

On behalf of the constituents of the 10th Congressional District, it is my honor to welcome you to the Historic Town of Eatonville for the 31st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities.

Zora Neale Hurston wrote, “There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside you.” She knew better than anyone the power of stories. She also knew that our stories matter. “She was the world and the heavens boiled down to a drop.”

When each of us recognizes the self-worth and dignity of our own story—of both its hardships and its triumphs—we gain the power to move mountains.

I know that this incredible event will stir your soul, inspire your passions, and open your mind. There is an untold story inside of you, and I hope that the ZORA!™ Festival helps you find it.

I am proud to support the Historic Town of Eatonville and this incredible event. Again, welcome, take care, and be safe.

Sincerely,

Val Demings
Member of Congress
January 6, 2020

Greetings!

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the 31st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities!

Your diligence and commitment to continue the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston through arts and cultural affairs is commendable. This event has brought countless talents to the City of Eatonville for numerous years. Various poets, theatrical productions, museum exhibitors and musicians have honored the rich heritage and tradition of this historical community.

This annual celebration also aligns with my vision to create a community culture of innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness. Orange County is a top destination for more than 75 million visitors from around the world, and home to the second-largest convention center, finest hospitality venues, exciting theme parks, arts, sports, and cultural attractions. I hope you set aside some time to explore our excellent hospitality and entertainment amenities.

Once again, welcome and I wish you all the best for a successful event!

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor
PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor

HEREAS, The Town of Eatonville has been designated by the National Register of Historic Places as our ion’s Oldest Incorporated African American Municipality, having been incorporated on August 18, 1887; and

HEREAS, The Town of Eatonville has become a literary destination for people around the world because of works of Zora Neale Hurston; and

HEREAS, The Town of Eatonville is proud of its history, its heritage, and its considerable cultural sources; and

HEREAS, The Town of Eatonville recognizes it is privileged to possess the distinctions that it does, and as its destiny serving as an example for economic development through this use of its cultural and site resources; and

HEREAS, The Town of Eatonville recognizes that The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, (P.E.C.) has as its mission to enhance the resources of Eatonville, Florida, which is “the oldest incorporated African American Municipality in the United States” and the hometown of writer, folklorist, and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston; to educate the public about Eatonville’s historic and cultural significance; I to use the community’s heritage and cultural vibrancy for its economic development; and

HEREAS, The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community has diligently and consistently endeavored promote Historic Eatonville as a cultural destination; and

HEREAS, The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community determined that its 31st Annual ZORAI tival, January 25- February 2, 2020 will “Salute Historic Eatonville and its 133rd Anniversary”;

IW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, I the Honorable Eddie Cole by virtue of the authority ted in me as Mayor of the Town of Eatonville, Florida do hereby proclaim;

uary 25 – February 2, 2020 as Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities Days’. behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Eatonville, I urge all citizens to avail themselves of the splendid xtrumity to enjoy and support our community’s special event.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I here unto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Eatonville to affixed this __7th__ day of __January__ 2020.

TEST:

hlene Williams, Town Clerk
Horable Eddie Cole, Mayor
Town of Eatonville: Elected Officials/Administrative Staff/Town Employees

**Elected Officials**
Edward “Eddie” Cole, Mayor  
Rodney Daniels, Vice Mayor  
Marilyn Davis-Sconions, Councilwoman  
Tarus Mack, Councilman  
Theodore Washington, Councilman

**Administrative Staff & Town Employees**

**Administrative Department**
Cathlene Williams  
James Benderson  
Veronica King

**Finance Department**
Katrina Gibson  
Juashebia Battle  
Elaine Chua  
Karin Dunn

**Public Works Department**
Rhonda Anderson  
Jessie Pugh  
Mark Haynes  
Sydney Silas  
Dominique Taylor  
Richard Hodges

**Police Department**
Marcedus Collins  
Eric McIntyre  
Robert Jones  
Roy Smith  
Lucas Kennedy  
Marcelo Amaral  
Robert Hall  
Michelle Rozefort  
Felicia Hernandez  
Joseph Jenkins  
Broderick Lampkin  
Fletcher Boone  
LaRhonda Gordon  
Elijah Shabazz

**CRA Department**
Jasynme Reese

**Recreation Department**
Perisha Johnson  
Emmitt Tompkins  
Denton Johnson Center  
Annie Spivey- Police Department-School Crossing Guard  
Arianna Givens; Denton Johnson Center  
Adrianna Johnson- Denton Johnson Center

---

Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities
Greetings:

As Founder of The World Conference of Mayors, Inc. (WCM), and President of the Historic Black Towns And Settlements Alliance, Inc. (HBTSA), together with our WCM President, and HBTSA Co-Founder, The Honorable Mayor Ed Jones, we express our congratulations, and full support, to the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (PEC), presenters of the internationally recognized, award-winning Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities. We are once again, very honored and pleased that our collaboration with the 31st Annual Zora Festival from January 25-Feb 3, 2020 makes it possible for our delegates from across America, and from throughout the world, to experience firsthand, the excitement, and the culturally rich experience of the Zora Festival.

Again, we wish you well, and may I take this opportunity to join our Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama, The Honorable Lawrence “ERRY” Hargrove, in inviting all of you to join us in Tuskegee for the George Washington Carver Festival weekend, April 30-May 3rd, 2020, and the HBTSA Cultural Heritage Tourism Conference, scheduled for October 11-13, 2020. Again, Happy 31st Zora Festival, and we look forward to seeing you in Tuskegee/Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, the home of Tuskegee University, “The Pride of the Swift Growing South”.

The Honorable Johnny Ford, Founder, The World Conference of Mayors, Inc. Founding President Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, Inc. Former Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama and Alabama State Legislator

January, 2020
January 25, 2020

Dear friends:

On behalf of the University of Central Florida and the College of Arts and Humanities, welcome to the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA™ Festival).

UCF has had a decades-long partnership with the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.), the historic preservation and cultural arts organization that presents the ZORA™ Festival, an award-winning and internationally recognized arts and humanities event. Last year the university was proud to participate in the year-long celebration of Zora Neale Hurston and the Eatonville community with initiatives and events that we hope will resonate into the future.

This year, as part of the Multiverse 2020 festival theme, UCF is pleased to co-host a two-day academic conference on Afrofuturism at UCF Downtown. During that time, we will use the humanities as a lens to explore how different frameworks can be used in forming and operating societal constructs, and how this might affect our imagined future. The two days of round-table discussions, keynote addresses, paper presentations, and more will offer a thoughtful and critical perspective for our UCF students, faculty, and staff, as well as the wider community to consider.

UCF is also hosting an exhibit entitled “Zora Neale Hurston’s ‘Native Village’: Historic Eatonville Remembered” in the John C. Hitt Library through the end of February and hosting a session reviewing editions of ZORA! Magazine from the past thirty years.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference, the library, and all the other exciting programming throughout the festival, where our Central Florida community can connect, engage, and be inspired.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Moore, Dean
OUC—THE RELIABLE ONE IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ZORA NEALE HURSTON FESTIVAL

Behind what we do is who we are. A trusted employer. A valued community partner. An acknowledged industry leader. A company with core values that are grounded, simply, in doing the right thing. We are acting in the best interest of all of our stakeholders – to create a better company, a better community and a better world.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT OUC IS DOING IN THE COMMUNITY, VISIT OUC.COM/CONNECTED.
It is with great excitement and honor to welcome you to this inaugural Africa-America Women’s Economic Forum and Trade Show. We are especially grateful that you made the journey, especially all the way from Africa, to be part of this historic event here in Orlando, Florida.

The DOOR of Our Return has partnered with the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community to host the Inaugural Africa-America Women’s Economic Forum during ZORA! Festival 2020. This Forum is aimed at building the economic bridge for women between Africa and America, in honor of our sister Zora Neale Hurston. Being part of this Forum makes us all history makers in building this economic bridge.

REFLECTIONS

- Zora Neale Hurston indicated that “there are years that ask questions and years that answer.”
- Nelson Mandela highlighted that “overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice; like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is manmade and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.”
- Martin Luther King Jr left us with a big question: “where do we go from here?” He concluded that all Americans must unite in order to fight poverty and create an equality of opportunity.

Where do we go from here as women?
This is a critical question for us women today that requires unity of purpose, focus, insight and collective wisdom to co-create a sustainable plan of action that will contribute to women’s economic empowerment, including bilateral trade and capacity building.

Our plan of action will be informed by the following strategic pillars:

- Correct – heal from the past; rise up whilst helping each other rise to build and create jobs
- Connect and establish mutually beneficial networks and business linkages
- Commerce – share business opportunities and collaborate for mutual business growth including bilateral trade
- Cultural exchange – share culture through arts, food and entertainment

Let’s all purpose to leave a legacy just like our sister Zora Neale Hurston. Together we can do it, and no one will be left behind! It’s possible!

Zienzi Dillon
Global Advisor, The DOOR of Our Return
African Union Development Agency NEPAD Goodwill Ambassador to the USA
Robinson Musenge Sondashi, from Mufumbwe, Zambia, is the Executive Director of the Transformation Community Development Initiatives, a non-governmental agency which focuses on working with marginalized people in rural areas. He became a Fellow of the Community Solutions Program (CSP) after undergoing a highly competitive process, sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs ECA. The CSP is a “professional development program for the best and brightest global community leaders working on environmental issues, tolerance and conflict resolution, transparency and accountability, and women and gender issues.”

Sarah Gal joined the World Affairs Council of Central Florida as Executive Director in June 2015. She brings nearly 20 years of experience in program and grants management, fundraising and organizational leadership. In addition to her role with the Council, Sarah is also a REALTOR® at Keller Williams at the Parks. Her previous positions include management roles at a startup electric vehicle charging services provider, a non-profit workforce development center founded by civil rights leader Leon Sullivan, a non-profit environmental conservation organization, a community development grant-writing and administration firm, and the largest public research university in the country. Sarah is an Orlando native, born and raised in Florida, and lives here with her husband and two children.

This program is free and open to the public and will take place on Sunday, January 26, 3:00 and 4:00 PM, at the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts (The Hurston™), 344 East Kennedy Boulevard in Eatonville 32751.
Festival Supporters

ORLANDO
DODGE • CHRYSLER • JEEP • RAM

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ZORA Festival

4101 W. Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32808
(407) 299-1120 www.orlandododge.com
**Day 3 Presenters**

**Monday, January 27, 6:00 - 8:30 PM**
**Full STEAM Ahead: B.O.T. Modern Afrofuturism Panel**

**Ayesha Benjamin**, Jamaican-born, is an advocate for pushing past the boundaries within tech, from engineering cyber security solutions to recruiting under-represented groups into the STEM fields.

As Electronic Arts’ (EA) Security Product Manager, Ms. Benjamin does more than strategize the what’s next in security. With more than 10-years of IT and Cyber Security experiences, she’s enthusiastic about creating creative and stable security solutions for EA’s fast paced environment. She’s able to accomplish this by immersing herself within multiple security areas from red team activities to engineering Ideas for Identity and access management to cementing her footprint within cloud computing platforms such as Azure and AWS. When she is not working nor at the gym, you’ll find her volunteering in the community; especially for technology driven programs centered with helping children and prisoner reentry into communities. She serves on the board of the Love Over All Foundation and is a lead within the Black EA Team employee resource group. Yes, she is a gamer. While her Xbox has gotten a lot of usage with various video games, she confesses that her vice is playing EA's Plants v. Zombies 2 mobile game.

**Dr. Maya Patrice Byfield**, born in Queens, New York, is the daughter of Jamaican parents. After graduating from Oakwood University with a BS in Biology, Dr. Byfield received her MS in Biomedical Sciences and Ph.D. in Molecular Pharmacology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. She conducted her Post-Doctoral associate work in Neuroscience at the University of Central Florida, College of Medicine. She is currently a Tenured Professor of Biology at Seminole State College of Florida and Founder and Director of Phenomenal STEM(ist). For bright minds with the potential to become America’s next generation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) leaders, Dr. Maya Byfield AKA the Phenomenal STEMist is a bridge between innate talent and real-world opportunities. A role model to female and minority students, she helps a wide cross-section of young people chart promising futures. As Project Director of Seminole State College’s groundbreaking STEM Research Program since 2010, Byfield has forged partnerships with some of the region’s most prominent institutions, allowing students to gain valuable experiences in Central Florida.

This program is free and open to the public and will take place on Monday, January 27, 6:00 - 8:30 PM at the Credo Building, 1001 N Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801.
Day 3 Presenters

Florida’s emerging biotechnology industry. Dr. Byfield was featured in the PBS Stories of Champions segment of American Graduate Day 2015 and awarded as one of the Top 100 Inspiring Women in STEM in the nation by Insight into Diversity Magazine.

**David Yarde** is an award winning designer and software engineer that is now focused on leveraging his 16+ years of lessons learned in design, software programming and building brand experiences to help individuals and teams build lovable products and cultures. During David’s career he has helped to facilitate a variety of customer experience solutions involving developing creative teams, strategies, visual designs and software platforms for brands of all sizes from Avis, Merriam-Webster, and Walmart/Sam’s Club all the way to the startup owner with a passion to make the world better. With this experience David helps brands fill the gaps as a brand strategy advisor and partner at a branding and design firm that’s focused on building better communities by building better brands. As a result, David has had the opportunity to share the tough lessons learned about entrepreneurship, team building, personal development, and brand storytelling with individuals and teams across the country as well as on a variety of platforms and publications such as Brand Strategy Insider, The Orlando Business Journal, WordPress.tv, Thrive Global, and The Good Men Project.

**Joshua “TechDev” Walker** is a Big Data Cloud Manager + diversity advocate that uses commonplace examples with humorous pop culture storytelling to train, inspire, and relate to everyday people who have an interest in technology. Josh has been featured on Fox, PBS’s Nerd Nite Spotlight, Orlando Business Journal and is a co-founder of Black Orlando Tech.
Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Book “Fare”

Alice Morgan Grant is an experienced teacher, writer, editor, and curriculum developer, whose publications include the highly-acclaimed Teacher’s Guide to accompany Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston and Her Eatonville Roots, a multi-media exhibition. Mrs. Grant holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in English and a master’s degree in counseling. She has a strong personal interest in African American life and culture and has done considerable research on the establishment of black towns and settlements. As a college professor of English, she sought to incorporate cross-disciplinary learning into her classes in writing, literature, and journalism. Mrs. Grant regularly conducts workshops with teachers and students on topics in African American life and culture.

Since 1997, Mrs. Grant has managed the Excellence Without Excuse Community Computer Arts Laboratory and Learning Center, located in the historic Town of Eatonville. This unique program was designed and largely funded through her grant writing skills. More than 3,000 students in grades pre-K – 12 have benefited from the after school academic enrichment experiences offered through the computer lab.

Lillian Lancaster’s love for the spoken and written word and the desire to teach and inspire others led her to enter the teaching profession and continue the work until retirement and beyond. Her academic background includes an undergraduate degree in Language Arts and Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership.

Her professional experience includes being a classroom teacher for 23 years and 20 years as district level staff developer, school level curriculum resource teacher, adjunct composition instructor at the college level, editor and writing tutor. Other experiences include conference presentations, participation on writing teams at the local and state level, publication of articles related to multicultural education and to early reading emphasis.

She values the ZORA! experience and the opportunity to serve as part of the editorial team for the ZORA! Magazine.
N. Y. Nathiri has worked in the field of historic preservation for almost three decades, all of that time having been spent on behalf of her hometown, Eatonville, Florida, which is popularly known as “the oldest incorporated African American community in the United States.” She is a founding member and currently the executive director of the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.), a historic preservation/cultural arts organization, best known for its sponsorship of the annual Zora Neale Hurston™ Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA!™ Festival). Under her leadership, P.E.C. programs have received national recognition, including the ZORA! Festival’s being named “One of 25 Cultural Tourism Success Stories” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and being the recipient of the “Regional Destination Award in the Humanities” from the Cultural Olympiad. She has also led the organization’s grants efforts which have seen P.E.C. receive millions of dollars from all levels of government as well as from national foundations such as The Andy Warhol Foundation. Nathiri holds an undergraduate degree in history from Ithaca College (New York) and a Master of Science degree in library science from Syracuse University. She is the compiler and editor of the award-winning volume, ZORA! Zora Neale Hurston: A Woman and Her Community (Sentinel Communications, 1991). She is also the recipient of several honors including being named “Hero of Preservation” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mary Call Darby Collins Award presented by the Florida Secretary of State “In recognition of dedication and volunteer action that has forever changed the course of historic preservation in Florida.” She also holds an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Rollins College.

Currently, she serves as Vice President for Cultural Heritage Tourism on the Board of Directors for the Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, Inc. (HBTSA), a multi-state heritage preservation and economic development initiative.
Thursday, January 30, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Inaugural Africa - America Women’s Economic Forum

Mrs. Macoura Dao
Title: President of the Network of Locally Elected Women and Territorial Leaders of Africa (REFELA) & Mayor of Foumbolo in Côte d’Ivoire, Africa

She is the winner of the Award of Excellence and recipient of the honorary order of Officer of the Order of Merit of the Ivory Coast. In the context of women’s empowerment, she led in the creation of a women’s cooperative in Foumbolo, in partnership with the Teeg Taba Association of Burkina Faso for the sale of cassava paste and delivery of 4 cassava grinders to the women of this cooperative.

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive, National Diaspora Commission Nigeria and former member of the Nigeria Federal House of Representatives representing Ikorodu Constituency in Lagos State, Chairman of the House Committee on Media & Publicity

Hon. Abike represented the people of Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives from June 2003 - June 2015 where she served as Chairman House Committee on Media and Public Affairs (June 2003 - June 2008). As Chairman on Media, she worked at giving the House a credible image through absolute openness and transparency; and as Chairman House Committee on Diaspora Affairs (June 2008 - 2015), her major spotlight was in her advocacy and calls for justice and fairness for Nigerians. From Pakistan, Libya, to USA, Northern Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Brazil and many more countries, her intervention was impactful.

This program will take place on Thursday, January 30, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 445 South Magnolia Avenue in Orlando 32801. The program requires a ticket, which must be purchased no later than Sunday, January 26 from the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 844-513-2014

Link: https://www.drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2020/womens-economic-forum/
Anna McCoy
Title: Principal, Chief Strategy and Global Officer of Urban America and Founder of a private real estate equity and development firm based in the United States

She manages real estate transactions in excess of $2 billion and has written three books, teaching women about financial literacy and empowering women globally “to step into their greatness.” Anna McCoy on Leadership – “Lead from right where you are. When we talk about leadership, it can sometimes feel overwhelming for women to think about taking on a new role that might require additional responsibilities when we are already managing so much. The truth is, we can lead wherever we are at the moment. The moment that you have an opportunity to act, do so. Then you will find yourself leading.”

Pamela McCauley, Ph.D.
Title: Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering & Computer Science, University of Central Florida; Expert Witness; Entrepreneur

A seasoned entrepreneur, Dr. McCauley has received funding from the National Science Foundation in her technical areas and in research projects devoted to enhancing participation of under-represented minorities and women in engineering education and careers.

Margaret Jackson
Title: Program Director, Alameda County Small Business Development Center, California

Margaret Jackson is the #1 Small Business Radio Personality in Silicon Valley and the Publisher of the Small Business Concierge Magazine. The AM 1220 KDOW Money 2.0 Business On the Edge Radio Show is on the #1 Business and Finance Wall Street Business network in the nation. It is the platform for the business professional, entrepreneur, and the small business owner to learn and grow professionally. Approximately 10% +/- women are on the Forbes Billionaire’s list each year. “It is time for a change!” says Margaret.

This program will take place on Thursday, January 30, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 445 South Magnolia Avenue in Orlando 32801. The program requires a ticket, which must be purchased no later than Sunday, January 26 from the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 844-513-2014. Link: https://www.drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2020/womens-economic-forum/
Nyami Mandindi
Title: Founder and Executive Director of a property development and investment venture, Kusile Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd and of Petals Global (Pty) Ltd, a women’s investment company, located in South Africa

Nyami is the recipient of the prestigious Women’s Property Network Five Star Award, which recognizes women leaders in the Property Sector. Former Chairperson of Group Five Company, she is currently an Independent non-executive director to the board of directors, Hyprop Limited. As a Professional Quantity Surveyor, she has been involved in every aspect of the infrastructure, property investment and development value chain during her career.

Danayi Musamirapamwe
Title: Founder of “She is Africa”

As a millennial content creator and influencer with a sharp focus on women’s economic empowerment including women at the bottom of the economic pyramid, she believes in instituting change from the inside out; empowering young women by encouraging them to feel and “look good” as they pursue their purpose. Leveraging on her masters in law and business from Bucerius Law School (Germany) and internships at The Hague International Court and consultant on an European Union Commission-funded project that focused on private sector development of ACP small and medium enterprises (SMEs), she has developed thought leadership pieces including empowerment solutions for women.
Thursday, January 30, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Afrofuturism Conference
1st Day

Keynote Speaker

Reynaldo Anderson, Ph.D.

Title: Associate Professor of Communication and Chair of
the Humanities department at Harris-Stowe State University
in Saint Louis Missouri

Dr. Anderson has earned several awards for leadership and
teaching excellence and he is currently the Past Chair of the
Black Caucus of the National Communication Association
(NCA). Anderson has not only served as an executive board
member of the Missouri Arts Council, he has previously
served at an international level working for prison reform with
C.U.R.E. International in Douala, Cameroon, and as a development ambassador
recently assisting in the completion of a library project for the Sekyere Afram
Plains District in the country of Ghana. He publishes extensively in the area of
Afrofuturism, communication studies, and the African diaspora experience.
Dr. Anderson is currently the executive director and co-founder of the Black
Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM), a network of artists, curators, intellectuals
and activists. Finally, he is the co-editor of the book Afrofuturism 2.0: The Rise of
Astro-Blackness published by Lexington books; co-editor of Cosmic Underground:
A Grimoire of Black Speculative Discontent published by Cedar Grove Publishing;
the forthcoming volume The Black Speculative Art Movement: Black Futurity,
Art+Design released by Lexington press in 2018; and the co-editor of Black
Lives, Black Politics, Black Futures, a forthcoming special issue of TOPIA:
Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies.
Keynote Speaker

Isiah Lavender III  
Title: Sterling Professor of English  
University of Georgia.

Dr. Lavender’s earliest memory involves witnessing Han Solo shoot the green-skinned Greedo first in Star Wars some time during the summer of 1977 while at a drive-in theater with his father. Flash-forward forty-three years and this brief moment in time informs his research agenda—depictions of race and ethnicity in science fiction. To date he has produced four books, five book chapters, eleven peer-reviewed articles and essays, two review essays, fifteen published book reviews, three encyclopedia entries, and seven media appearances on the subjects of race and racism in science fiction. His fifth and sixth books have been accepted for publication and are under contract respectively in addition to three forthcoming book chapters.

In 2018, he joined the editorial team of the oldest science fiction journal, Extrapolation, as one of its five editors. He is currently overseeing and co-editing the Beyond Afrofuturism special double issue of the journal. Likewise, he is on the board of the University of Wales Press’s New Dimensions in Science Fiction series. His impending fourth book, Afrofuturism Rising: The Literary Prehistory of a Movement (Ohio State UP, October 2019), extends existing scholarly conversations about afrofuturism to canonical literary texts by African American writers (most from before the twentieth century) that up to now have not traditionally been thought of as SF. His current book projects include the co-edited collections Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-first Century and the Routledge Handbook to Literary Futurisms and his monograph-in-progress Critical Race Theory and Science Fiction.
Ishmael Reed


He is a MacArthur Fellow, with other honors including the University of Buffalo’s 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award, National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize nominations, a Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Award, and San Francisco LitQuake’s 2011 Barbary Coast Award. Awarded the 2008 Blues Songwriter of the Year from the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame, his collaborations with jazz musicians for the past forty years were also recognized by SFJazz Center with his appointment, from 2012-2016, as San Francisco’s first Jazz Poet Laureate and in Venice, Italy, where he became the first Alberto Dubito International awardee in May, 2016, honored as “a special artistic individual who has distinguished himself through the most innovative creativity in the musical and linguistic languages.” Reed’s most recent honors include the 2018 Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Award, and the 2017 AUDELCO Pioneer Award for the Theater. His online international literary magazine, Konch, can be found at www.ishmaelreedpub.com. His author website is located at www.ishmaelreedpub.org.
Public Announcement came up in the early 90’s and was reorganized with new members and sound led by the dynamic lead singer Feloney Davis who brought in current members Glen “Mac” Oneil and Alvin “Ace” Watkins. The Group went on recorded Platinum hit Body Bumpin and other chart topping hits as John Doe, Man aint suppose to cry, Turn back hands, Mamcita, Loose a Love. Some almost 30 years later the group is together recording and on the road performing with the likes of Carl Thomas, Silk, Throop to name few. Our story is one of Unsung still to be written.” *Courtesy of Platinum Recording*

Michel’le Toussant is an R&B recording artist and songwriter who will forever hold a place in music history as one of the most important female voices in the history of the West Coast Hip Hop Movement. Signed to Ruthless Records as a teenager, her label mates included pioneers such as Eazy E, NWA and the D.O.C. Unlike the gritty, hard hitting rap music previously produced by Ruthless Records, Michel’le’s melodic, yet powerful vocals offered an amazing contrast on her debut album “Michel’le” which was produced entirely by Andre “Dr. Dre” Young and Executive Produced by Eric “Eazy E” Wright.

Now the mother of two, in the midst of true career resurgence, she has new music on the horizon, a book in the works, voiceover projects, and performances across the country; she is making her move back into the spotlight.
Howard Hewitt “With his silky smooth, straight-from-the-heart soulful style, Howard Hewett is gifted with one of the most instantly recognizable voices in contemporary music. A writer from Rolling Stone magazine once described him as “the premier vocalist in the post-Marvin Gaye era of romantic pop.”

He began his career as a pre-teen singing gospel in Akron, Ohio with his older sisters as the lead singer of The Hewett Singers. Hewett’s Mother, Charlene Hewett-Brown, was a major Gospel Promoter in the Akron-Canton area. Nepotism was alive and well in Hewett’s family, so once the group was formed they would open for all the shows his mother promoted, which included performing with Gospel Greats such as the Pilgrim Jubilees, James Cleveland, Albertina Walker and the Caravans, Bill Moss and The Celestials, and on and on! At 15r, Hewett moved into the R & B Field, forming local groups around the Akron area and ending up in a 7-piece funk band called LYFE! Band and Show! He stayed with the band through high school, then set his sights on Los Angeles, finally relocating there in 1976.

In 1986, Hewett launched his solo career, scoring an immediate R & B hit with I’m For Real (which was co-written by Stanley Clarke, and featured such stellar musicians as George Duke and Wilton Felder of the Jazz Crusaders); followed by Stay, I Commit to Love and the contemporary gospel classic, Say Amen.

With 16 albums recorded, countless collaborations and over 15 million records sold worldwide, Hewett remains a viable and legendary force in the music business. He continues to enjoy is first love, performing and entertaining for his countless fans and “Followers of the Music” domestically and worldwide.

“Music is a loving and spiritual journey that we’ve been on together for many years,” Hewett says, and there’s still so much more to explore . . . continue this journey with me, you won’t be disappointed . . . I promise . . .

God bless”

Admission Policy
Saturday & Sunday, 17 and under – Free  (Middle and high school students should be prepared to present current school i.d.)
Saturday, Adult General Admission, $20 at the gate
Sunday, Adult General Admission, $10 at the gate
Festival Theme: Multiverse: An Introduction to Afrofuturism

Program Schedule (Subject to Change)

Day 1—Saturday, January 25 – 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Free and open to the public

Re-Opening of the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts
(The Hurston): A Community Celebration
Location: 344 East Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville 32751
Refreshments provided by Maitland Rotary

Exhibition – A Past Unremembered: A Black Speculative Odyssey
Curator: Julian Chambliss, Ph.D., Department of English
Consortium for Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Research (CEDAR);
Val Berryman, Curator of History, MSU Museum
Michigan State University

Day 2—Sunday, January 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM
Free and open to the public

Back Story: The Role of Robinson (Robby) M. Sondashi with ZORA! Festival 2020
Location: The Hurston Museum
344 East Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville 32751

Question: Just how did Robinson M. Sondashi from Zambia come to work with the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.), the organizer of the annual ZORA! Festival?

Panelists:
Robinson M. Sondashi, Executive Director - Transformation Community Development Initiatives

Sarah Gal, Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Central Florida

Moderator:
N. Y. Nathiri, Executive Director, Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)
Day 3—Monday, January 27, 6:00 – 8:30 PM
Free and open to the public

Full STEAM Ahead: A B.O.T. Modern Futurism Panel
Location: The Credo Building
1001 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando 32801

Program Rational: In the honor of a true pioneer, Zora Neale Hurston, Black Orlando Tech (B.O.T.) is collaborating with the Zora Neale Hurston Festival to bring together a revolutionary panel to address a revolutionary topic. Afrofuturism is a modern explosion of art, science, and technology pioneered by melanin powered realities. Afrofuturism represents both African heritage and black self-actualization. The word was created by Mark Dery in a fictional context to honor black creators. However, in 2020 it’s clear that the future we once fantasized about is now our norm.

Panelists:
Ayesha Benjamin – Cyber Security, EA Sports
Maya P. Byfield, Ph.D. – Founder, Phenomenal STEM(ist)
David Yarde – Partner, Sevenality

Moderator:
Joshua Walker – VP, Black Orlando Tech

Day 4—Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Free and open to the public *

Film Screening: The Brother from Another Planet
Location: Denton Johnson Community Center,
400 East Ruffel Street, Eatonville 32751

Talk-Back Facilitator:
Trent Tomengo, Professor of Humanities
Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford

*Members of the public may bring their own refreshments.
Day 5—Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Free and open to the public

Book “Fare” A Session on the Special Commemorative Edition of the ZORA! Magazine, 1990 - 2018

**Program Rational:** Focusing on the creation of the 30th Anniversary commemorative edition of the ZORA! Magazine, the official annual publication of the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (P.E.C.), editorial board members will discuss how this 200-page, hard cover, “Best of” edition has been brought to life. Included will be galley proofs from the forthcoming legacy publication as well as previous ZORA! Magazines from the P.E.C. Archives.

**Location:** University of Central Florida Library, Main Campus, 4000 Central Florida Blvd, Orlando FL 32816

**Editorial Board Members:**
- Alice Morgan Grant, Contributing Writer, Copy Editor
- Lillian Lancaster, Contributing Writer
- N.Y. Nathiri, Magazine Editor

Day 6—Thursday, January 30

This day’s schedule is divided into three components:

1: **The Afrofuturism Conference** (1st day), 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
   (Registration required);

2: **The Inaugural Africa - America Women’s Economic Forum**, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Ticket required)

3: **“On the Spirituality of Zora Neale Hurston,”** 7:30 - 9:00 PM
   Badge holders from The Afrofuturism Conference;
   Inaugural Africa - America Women’s Economic Forum;
   & the General Public
   (No paid admission required)
Question:
What do you know of Afrofuturism? How does it connect to Zora Neale Hurston?
These questions call our attention to the visionary scholarship and innovative practice at the heart of Hurston’s legacy. Hurston’s ability to see beyond the limitations imposed by white supremacy has long marked her as a transformative figure. From its inception, the term “Afrofuturism” followed a path championed by Hurston and other black scholars and artists that sought to call our attention to the vast contributions black people have made to global society. Defined in 1994 by Mark Dery as “speculative fiction that treats African-American themes and addresses African-American concerns in the context of twentieth-century technoculture,” Afrofuturism as a field of contemporary thought resonates with Hurston’s legacy. She embraced the value of black knowledge and saw how that knowledge could prompt transformative action. Her legacy of documenting the black imagination arguably make her a foundational figure in Afrofuturism. The Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities has embarked on a five-year exploration (Festivals 2020-2024) of the meaning and practice around Afrofuturism. From sights and sound to thought and action, we will explore how her legacy and contemporary Afrofuturism are linked. In doing so, we continue the work of celebrating blackness central to the work that Zora Neale Hurston has produced.

Location Information:

Thursday Morning sessions will be held in The Bridge/Auditorium (Rm. 127) at the UCF Downtown Campus, Communications Media Building 500 W. Livingston Street, Orlando.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON workshops will be held in Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Lias Fellowship Hall, 412 E Kennedy Boulevard Eatonville, FL 32751

Conference Schedule:

8:00-8:30 - Registration & Coffee
8:30 - 8:35 — Welcome
Lyman Brodie, Executive Associate Dean, College of Arts & Humanities, University of Central Florida

Scot French, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Digital/Public History, Department of History; Associate Director, Center for Humanities and Digital Humanities (CHDR), University of Central Florida;

Julian Chambliss, Ph.D., Professor of English, Val Berryman Curator of History, Consortium for Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Research (CEDAR) Michigan State University

8:35 - 9:30 — Keynote
Reynaldo Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication and Chair of the Humanities Department, Harris-Stowe State University

9:45 - 11:00 — Panel #1
Chair: Clarissa West-White, Ph.D., Reference Librarian & Instructor, Bethune-Cookman University “The Zora Neale Hurston Museum: A Study in Afrofuturist Architecture”

Richard T. Reep, Independent Scholar / Rollins College “Homespace for Black Women: Connections Between Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God and Marvel’s Black Panther”

Kathryn Polizzi, Graduate Student, Department of English, St. Louis University “A Force Somewhere in Space:” Afrofuturistic Storytelling in Barracoon and Their Eyes Were Watching God

Piper Kendrix Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The College of New Jersey “On the Culture Beat: Exploring Zora Neale Hurston’s Narrative Praxis as a Model for Morally Transformative Journalism”

Tiffany Pennamon, Graduate Student, Department of English University of Florida

11:00 - 11:15 — Break

11:15 - 12:30 — Panel #2
Chair: Anna Lillios, Ph.D., Professor, Department of English, University of Central Florida

“Golden Age Science Fiction’s Backfire: The Collapse of the White Canon”
Michael Stokes, Graduate Student, Michigan State University
“Zora Neale Hurston and Octavia Butler: Women Alone Bravely Facing the Future”  
Lisbeth Gant-Britton, Ph.D.

“Afrofuturism in Russia: A Critical Survey”  
Irina Morozova, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow

“Reclaiming and Liberating the Dispossessed: Zora Neale Hurston’s Expansive Blackness”  
Aiesha Turman, Ph.D., Humanities and Culture Union Institute & University

12:30 - 1:30 — Lunch at Downtown UCF

1:30 - 2:30 — Break for Travel to Afternoon Session in Eatonville

2:30 - 3:30 — Workshop #1: “What is Afrofuturism? Definitions, Resources, and Praxis”

Chairs/Facilitators:
Julian Chambliss, Ph.D., Michigan State University

Walter D. Greason, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Educational Leadership, Monmouth University

Clarissa West-White, Ph.D., Reference Librarian & Instructor, Bethune-Cookman University

Since the debut of Marvel’s Black Panther (2018), the focus on Afrofuturism in the U.S. has skyrocketed amongst scholars and the general public. This focus fails to provide the public an understanding of the scope, complexity, and significance of Afrofuturism. What is Afrofuturism? When Mark Dery introduced the term “Afrofuturism” in 1994 he defined it in relation to speculative fiction that locates persons of African descent in complex techno-cultural universes, not as outliers or exceptions but as central to a dazzling range of imagined futures. Since then the term has come to encompass myriad meanings, as a literary and artistic movement, a philosophical stance, and a mode of knowing (an “epistemology”) rooted in the historical experience of the African Diaspora that offers radically different frameworks for understanding how society is formed and how it can operate. In this workshop, we will outline the definition of Afrofuturism and its origins in contemporary thought. Participants will be given a list of Open Electronic Resources (OER) that they can utilize to expose students to Afrofuturism in the classroom.

3:30-3:45 — Break
3:45–5:00—Workshop #2: “Call: What is Afrofuturism? Response: Community-Engaged Partnerships between Historically Black Spaces”

**Moderator:**
Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Ph.D., Professor of English, Spelman College

**Student Presenters:**
Asia Reese, Spelman College
Airel Stewart, Prairie View A&M University
Kenyatta Robinson, Mississippi Valley State University
Nino Chambers, Tuskegee University
Fabian Carter-Randle, Grambling State University

The HBCU-HBTSA Summit, orchestrated by Spelman College and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, consisted of a collaborative gathering of six historically Black Colleges and Universities and six historically Black communities at ZORA! Festival 2019. These groups assembled, forged collaborative, community-reservation projects in their home communities. Using intersectional conversations in the work of Dr. Julian Chambliss.

**Panalists:**
Dr. Andrea Roberts and Dr. Rita Bates

This panel will consist of a Spelman faculty mentor as moderator and a representative student from five collaborating HBCUs to talk about the community-engaged, historic preservation projects as Black Imaginative work. Student presenters will reflect on the experience of working on the historic preservation projects in their partner communities and how that work and those experiences. 1: To build on the community-engaged scholarship of Zora Neale Hurston’s early 20th-century work; and

2: To speak to larger Afrofuturistic conversations, situating historic placemaking and 21st-century storytelling and preservation among them.

---

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

B: Inaugural Africa - America Women’s Economic Forum

Required Registration of $75 (Includes Luncheon Buffet)

Location: Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
445 South Magnolia Avenue, Orlando 32801

Focus: “Women connecting for commerce and culture”
Objectives:
Inaugurate a mechanism whereby African women entrepreneurs and elected officials will connect and exchange with their American counterparts through the Africa-America Women Economic Forum- Sustainable Trade Conversation;

Begin building sustainable economic relationship between Africa and American through networking and education for women entrepreneurs and elected officials;
Foster trade relations between Africa and America creating access to global markets for Women Entrepreneurs; and
Encourage the nurturing of positive African culture by women through the arts and entertainment.

Presenters include:
Mrs. Macoura Dao
President of the Network of Locally Elected Women and Territorial Leaders of Africa (REFELA) & Mayor of Foumbolo in Côte d’Ivoire, Africa

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa
Chairman and Chief Executive, National Diaspora Commission Nigeria and former member of the Nigeria Federal House of Representatives representing Ikorodu Constituency in Lagos State.Chairman of the House Committee on Media & Publicity

Anna McCoy
Principal, Chief Strategy and Global Officer of UrbanAmerica and Founder of a private real estate equity and development firm based in the United States

Pamela McCauley Ph.D., Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering & Computer Science, University of Central Florida; Expert Witness; Entrepreneur

Margaret Jackson Program Director, Alameda County Small Business Development Center, California.

Nyami Mandindi, Founder and Executive Director of a property development and investment venture, Kusile Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd and of Petals Global (Pty) Ltd, a women’s investment company, located in South Africa.

Danayi Musamirapamwe Founder of ‘ She is Africa,” South Africa
Festival Program Schedule

**7:30 - 9:00 PM**

C: **“On the Spirituality of Zora Neale Hurston”**
Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
445 South Magnolia Avenue, Orlando 32801

**“On the Spirituality of Zora Neale Hurston: A Conversation”**
**Curator:** Eleanor Traylor, Ph.D., Professor Emerita
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

**Panel:** Maryemma Graham, University Distinguished Professor of English University of Kansas, Lawrence

N. Y. Nathiri, Executive Director
Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)
Eatonville, FL

Eleanor Traylor, Ph.D., Professor Emerita
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

**Location:** Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater
Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 445 South Magnolia Avenue, Orlando 32801

**Day 7—Friday, January 31, “Education Day”**

This day’s activities are divided into three components, two of which take place in Orlando, while the third component takes place in Historic Eatonville.

**8:30 AM- 5:00 PM**

7A: **Day 2 of the Afrofuturism Conference**

**8:00 AM- 3:00 PM**

7B: **7th Annual ZORA! STEM Conference for Middle School Students**

**9:00 AM- 5:00 PM**

7C: **Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville**

**7A: Afrofuturism Conference - 2nd Day**

ALL SESSIONS will be held in The Bridge/Auditorium (Rm. 127) at the UCF Downtown Communications Media Building, 500 W. Livingston Street, Orlando, FL
Festival Program Schedule

Morning

8:30 - 9:00 — Registration and Coffee

9:00 - 9:25 — Introductory Remarks
N.Y. Nathiri, Executive Director, Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)

9:30 - 10:30 — Zora Neale Hurston Arts and Humanities Presenter
Ishmael Reed
Poet, novelist, essayist, songwriter, playwright, editor and publisher, author of Mumbo Jumbo (1972), a groundbreaking novel that captures the ideological challenge offered by Afroputurism

10:45 - 11:45 — Roundtable
Chair: Shan-Estelle Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Rollins College
Reynaldo Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication and Chair of the Humanities Department, Harris-Stowe State University;
Kinitra Brooks, Ph.D., Audrey and John Leslie Endowed Chair in Literary Studies, Department of English, Michigan State University;
Isiah Lavender III, Ph.D., Sterling Goodman Professor of English, University of Georgia

12:00 - 1:00 — Lunch (Complimentary light lunch)

Afternoon

1:00 - 2:00 — Keynote
Isiah Lavender III, Ph.D., Sterling Goodman Professor of English, University of Georgia
Abstract: Zora Neale Hurston’s novel Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) concerns the thrice-married Janie Crawford-Killicks-Starks-Woods, and how she navigates the color line from Eatonville to the Everglades and back seeking, love and acceptance where the dozens and blues get played on the porches and in jook joints. In fact, Hurston’s novel also incorporates many of the elements of afrofuturism. This incredible notion depends on accepting that in afrofuturism we have a present-day mode of folklore, a tool for interrogating black existence, its dark matter, its reality, and its alternatives. In this respect, afrofuturism sternly exhorts us to bring our racial memories into the future as Hurston does. Hence, I am rethinking Their Eyes as a classic in regard to afrofuturism.

2:00 - 2:15 — Break
2:15 - 3:30 – Panel #3
Chair: Trent Tomengo, MFA, Professor of Humanities, Seminole State College of Florida

“Their God through Zora’s Eyes”
Irina Tedrick, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of English, Languages & Cultures, Savannah State University;

“Zora on My Mind: Traveling with the ‘Eternal Feminine’ in ‘How It Feels to Be Colored Me’”
Gary L. Lemons, University of South Florida

“Afrofuturism As Repairer of the Breach: Identity, Liminality, and Politics in Hurston’s ‘Meet the Mama’ and Marvel’s Black Panther”
Marvin E. Hobson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Indian River State College;

3:45 – 5:00 – Panel #4
Chair: Scot French, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Digital/Public History; Associate Director, Center for Humanities and Digital Research, University of Central Florida

“History Re-Experienced: Implementing Mixed Reality Systems into Historic House Museums”
Shadrick Addy, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design, Ohio State University

“Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLoc)”
Laurie N. Taylor, Chair, Digital Partnerships &amp; Strategies Department, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida;

“Eatonville and Wakanda: Contrasting Visions of Black Independence”
Walter D. Greason, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Monmouth University

5:00 - 5:15—Closing Remarks
Day 7—Friday, January 31, “Education Day”
7B: 7th Annual ZORA! STEM Conference for Middle School Students

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Orange Technical College, Mid Florida Campus
2900 West Oak Ridge Road, Bldg. 1600, Orlando 32808

Please note: No on-site participation available as this program is filled. You may register to participate VIRTUALLY: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5091237318033315331

Workshop Opportunities: Adventures in Medicine – UCF College of Medicine
This 45-minute educational activity will expose middle school students to medical science and the physician training process. Students will learn about the educational path and content in the four years of medical school and apply that knowledge in hands-on activities.

Space Exploration and Programing/Coding – Orlando Science Center
Students will immerse themselves in the exciting world of science technology! Take a tour through our solar system and beyond in our Mobile Planetarium, put your coding and programming abilities to the test by completing a series of challenges!

Music in STEM – Valencia College
Music is everywhere but so is science. There is a great deal of physics embedded in music and we will discuss and demonstrate some of it.

Basic CPR – Orange Technical College
Using mannequins, students will learn Basic First Aid techniques including bandaging, choking procedures, and nosebleed care. In addition, students will experience state-of-the-art special effects techniques with human patient simulator demonstrations. These simulations provide health science students and teachers the opportunity to train in a safe and learner-friendly environment.

Robotics and Manufacturing – Orange Technical College
Students will immerse themselves in a manufacturing environment to see how robotics and automation affect the world around them. From use in material movement and sorting to ride vehicles at a theme park or manufacturing a product used in your daily lives. The world of automated manufacturing, industrial maintenance, and robotics will only affect our lives more in the future.”
Festival Program Schedule

7C—Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville,
9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Free Admission for children, youth and adults
For vehicles which are “education-related” (i.e., school buses, school vans, home-schooled vehicles), parking is free in the Wymore Road field.

Location: In the Community Park, next to the Eatonville Public Library Branch and along East Kennedy Boulevard

Outdoor Festival Features include:

Exhibition—A Past Unremembered: A Black Speculative Odyssey
Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts
344 East Kennedy Boulevard

Orange County Library System-sponsored program: Nic Stone, author of Dear Martin
To register: https://attend.ocls.info/event/3481947

Nic Stone is an African-American New York Times best-selling author of young adult and middle grade fiction. Stone was born and raised in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia and has a degree in Psychology from Spelman College.

Her debut novel, Dear Martin, tells the story of high-schooler Justyce as he attempts to figure out his place in the world by exploring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dear Martin was a finalist for the William C. Morris award and received a starred review from Booklist.

African Pavilion—Exhibitors representing the Africa – America Women’s Trade Expo; Evelyn’s Creation & Others

Center Stage Performances by Students from Orange County Public Schools

Afrofuturism Pavilion including:
ZORA! Writers Space, Coordinated by Bill Campbell of Rosarium Publishing

ZORA! STEM Activity Hub
Make-and-Take Tent
Fine Arts/Master Crafts Booths
International Market Place
“News You Can Use Booths”
International Food Court & MUCH MORE
Festival Program Schedule

Day 8—Saturday, February 1 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

African-American Cultural Heritage Tourism Conference
Free and Open to the Public

Please note: Breakfast will be available, 8:00 - 8:45 AM. $15 donation includes Southern Breakfast (All from “Scratch”) + General Admission Ticket to the Outdoor Festival of the Arts, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. No sales at the Church. No tickets available after Sunday, January 26.

Location: Lias Hall, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
412 East Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville 32751

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville (continues)

Admission Policy:
Children and Youth: Free (Middle and high school students should have valid school i.d.)
Adults: General admission, $20; V.I.P. Seating: $75 (Includes catering, 2 adult beverages, and up-front seating)
Please note: Children and/or Youth in V.I.P. Section, ticket required

Center Stage Headline Performers
Howard Hewett &
Public Announcement, Michel’le

PLUS:
Exhibition at the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts

African Pavilion:
Exhibitors representing the Africa - America Women’s Trade Expo;
Evelyn’s Creation & Others

Afrofuturism Pavilion including:
ZORA! Writers Space, Coordinated by Bill Campbell of Rosarium Publishing

ZORA! STEM Activity Hub
Make-and-Take Tent
Fine Arts/Master Crafts Booths
International Market Place
Festival Program Schedule

“News You Can Use Booths”

Day 9—Sunday, February 2

Traditional Worship Service  (Ecumenical)
8:30 - 9:45 AM
Street Lawrence African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church
Pastor: Rev. Terrell Blair, Sr. Pastor
Service Coordinators: Sisters Louise Franklin and Wanda Randolph
Location: 549 East Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville 32751

Outdoor Festival of the Arts in Historic Eatonville (continues)
SUPER SHOPPERS SUNDAY
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Admission Policy:
Children and Youth: Free
(Middle and high school students should have valid school i.d.)
Adults: General admission, $10; V.I.P. Seating: $25  (Includes catering, 2 adult beverages, and up-front seating)
Please note: Children and/or Youth in V.I.P. Section, ticket required

Center Stage Headline Performers—To Be Provided

PLUS:
Exhibition at the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts
African Pavilion—Exhibitors representing the Africa - America Women’s Trade

Day 9—Sunday, February 2

Expo: Evelyn’s Creation & Others

Center Stage Performances by Students from Orange County Public Schools

Afrofurturism Pavilion including:
ZORA! Writers Space, Coordinated by Bill Campbell of Rosarium Publishing
ZORA! STEM Activity Hub Make-and-Take Tent

Fine Arts/Master Crafts Booths
International Market Place
“News You Can Use Booths”
International Food Court & MUCH MORE
Please Help to Sustain The ZORA! Festival Legacy!!!

Make a cash contribution on behalf our ZORA! Festival 2021
Your investment will help our organization to qualify for a $172,000 Cash Dollar-for-Dollar Challenge Grant administered by Orange County (FL) Government

Please visit www.zorafestival.org and click on the link;
Mail your check/money order to ZORA! Festival 2021
344 East Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville, FL 32751

Call 407.647.3307 to make your contribution via credit/debit card
Deadline for receipt: June 30, 2020

Purchase ZORA! Festival Merchandise
- 2020 Festival T-shirt, $20.00
- ZORA! Burlap Bag, $20.00
- Livin’ Beyond Your Paycheck, $20.00
- Other items available

Host a ZORA! Festival Fundraiser
For more information, please email
ny@preserveeatonville.org

ZORA! Festival in now “America's longest running arts and humanities festival celebrating the cultural contributions of people of African ancestry throughout the Diaspora.” However, we can actually only maintain this jewel if individuals “just like you” will invest. Thank you for your consideration.
Outdoor Festival of the Arts Map

31st Annual Zora Neale Huston™ Festival of The Arts and Humanities (ZORAI™ Festival)
January 31 - February 2, 2020

OUTDOOR FESTIVAL Location Guide

For More Information:
zorafestival.org
407-647-3307

Guests should expect public safety measures to be enforced. Thank you for your cooperation.

Special Notes:
(A) Free Admission to Children & Youth (Pre-K - Grade 12), Friday - Sunday, 10:30 - 2:00; High school students must show current, valid school id.
(B) Free Admission to Adults on Friday, "Education Day," 5/19.
(C) Education-related vehicles (Advance request deadline: 5/18) — Free on "Education Day."
(D) Guests entering from the east side of East Kennedy will not have to pay an admission fee to visit the Zora Neale Hurston™ National Museum of Fine Arts (The Hurston™) and the Vegan Village ("Food Experience.")

MAP CREDIT
Trent Tomengo, Professor of Humanities, Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford Member, Academics Committee, Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts (ZORAI™ FESTIVAL) 2020 - 2024
© 2019 Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.)
REVISIRED 1-11-20 (Subject to Change)
On these pages, the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community Inc. (P.E.C), which presents the annual Zora Neale Hurston™ Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA!™ Festival), expresses its sincere appreciation for the cash and in-kind support provided by our sponsors (as of January 15, 2020).

ZORA! Festival 2020 is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program

Community Partners

Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities
Official ZORA! Festival Transportation Sponsor

Orlando Dodge

Additional Support provided by

Our Legacy
Seminole State College of Florida
Winnie Hurston
Winfred Chad McKendrick
Harrietta Finley White
Bickley Wilson

Festival Patrons

Josephine Fulcher Anderson
Iyesha Cherisol
Jose B. Fernandez
Marie-Jose Francois, M.D.
Woodie King, Jr.
M. G. Little, Ph. D.
Reginald B. McGill
Aman Nadhiri, Ph.D.
Jenneil Ross
Elizabeth Van Dyke

Marketing Partners
Because of the collaborative relationships P.E.C. enjoys, Festival 2020 will present an array of outstanding offerings. Here, we acknowledge, with gratitude:

**Collaborative Partners**

Orange County Public Schools

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
College of Medicine

VALENCIA COLLEGE

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

eSTEAMED Learning, Inc.
HELPING SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS WIN

THE FLORIDA LOTTERY TAKES EDUCATION FURTHER

Since the Florida Lottery’s establishment in 1988, we have given players the opportunity to transform their lives, and we have been steadfast in pursuit of enhancing education statewide, year after year.

Over the past 31 years, the Florida Lottery has remained committed to furthering public education in Florida. Throughout that time, we have contributed more than $36 billion to public schools, universities and colleges, and directly to students through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program, which is primarily funded by the Florida Lottery, was created in 1997 by the Florida Legislature to assist students in pursuing educational career goals. Since the program’s inception, we have contributed more than $6.2 billion to send over 840,000 students to college.

The Florida Lottery is proud to be a dedicated and dependable funding source for public education by contributing over $1 billion annually for the past 17 consecutive years, while remaining one of the most efficient lotteries in the country.

We thank you for helping us reach these incredible milestones, as a portion of every ticket purchased goes towards education. We hope that the benefits of our contributions continue to be felt in communities across the entire state.
SAVE THE DATE

Zora! 2021

Saturday, January 23 - Sunday, January 31