



Symposium Schedule

August 17, 2018 • 4:00pm – 9:30pm • National Civil Rights Museum

3:00pm – 4:00 pm **REGISTRATION**

4:00 pm – 4:20 pm **WELCOME** by Terri Lee Freeman, Museum President
OPENING PLENARY MASTERCLASS with Ed Mabrey

** 10-Minute Transition **

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm **SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS**

- Activism Track – **Art as Activism** with Bethsheba Rem (Queen Sheba) – EDUCATION CENTER CLASSROOM
- Technique Track – **Get in FORMation!** With Johnathan Samuel-Eddie Perkins – HOOKS HYDE HALL
- Youth Voice Track – **Go Where I Send Thee: Youth as the Catalysts of Social Change** with Mackenzie Berry – THEATER

** 10-Minute Transition **

5:40 pm – 6:40 pm **SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS**

- Activism Track – **Art & Activism: From Nina Simone to Kendrick Lamar** with Jasmine Mans – EDUCATION CENTER CLASSROOM
- Technique Track – **Get in FORMation!** With Johnathan Samuel-Eddie Perkins – HOOKS HYDE HALL
- Business Track – **How To Become a Full-time Performance Artist/Writer** with Ed Mabrey – THEATER

** 20-Minute Transition with food service **

7:00 pm – 7:20 pm **DINNER PLENARY & KEYNOTE** with J. Ivy (Hooks Hyde Hall)

7:20 pm – 8:20 pm **PANEL** – J.Ivy, Ed Mabrey, Queen Sheba, Jonathan Samuel-Eddie Perkins & Carin Malone

** 10-Minute Transition **

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm **OPEN MIC** for workshop participants and facilitators (Ford Theatre). You **MUST** attend one workshop and plenary in order to participate.



Symposium Workshops

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ACTIVISM TRACK:

The goal is to expose participants to a variety of civil and human rights organizers and activists, to encourage participants to get more information from activists through discussions, and to tap into current events and initiatives.

Art As Activism with Bethsheba “Queen Sheba” Rem

Queen Sheba explores the need for increased social justice teaching and the obstacles such education faces. Social justice education, such as ethnic studies courses, increases student achievement and dramatically reduces racial disparities. Colleges, small high schools for students not served by conventional schools, have been providing such evidence for years. Even privileged students benefit from a social justice education and, as the race curriculum controversy has always demonstrated, aware students are willing to fight for it. Despite the research and student activism, social justice education is under fire. Learn how to create action plans what you can do with your art to change your community. Often times the inability to navigate through difficult situations, build consensus, and manage change can impede a person’s ability to create powerful results for themselves, their family, and their workplace along with others social and professional organizations. We will enable those present to understand their strengths and weakness in order to help establish more effective communication to reduce conflict in their personal and professional lives.



Born in Detroit, MI, and currently residing in Atlanta, **BETHSHEBA A. REM, “Queen Sheba,”** is a spoken word artist, activist, motivational speaker, teacher, author, comedian, playwright and founder of Poetry vs. Hip-Hop, LLC and nationally touring stage show. She has six albums, two of which were Grammy-nominated in the Spoken Word category, and she is a two-time NAACP Image Award Nominee. Her works have appeared in numerous anthologies and magazines and the focus of college students’ papers. Sheba uses her platform to speak out on pro-feminism, domestic violence, AIDS awareness for young adults. With a master’s degree in poetry from Queens University, Sheba tours internationally and has conducted performances and workshops at over 200 colleges and universities nationally and abroad. She is currently touring internationally in her one-woman comedy show, “My Thoughts Out Loud,” while being CEO of her event planning company.



Symposium Workshops (continued)

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When Art Becomes Activism with Jasmine Mans

Art, often times, has been used as a form of activism and protest. Mans' workshop chronologically dissects moments in history that, not only, have made an imprint on politics, but art culture. This workshop leads students through the poetry of the Civil Rights Movement, to today's Black Lives Matter Movement. Using storytelling as a catalyst medium, Jasmine Mans will draw on her own original poetry to approach both the internal and interpersonal dialogue surrounding aspects of society and identity. Jasmine uses poetry and critical storytelling to narrate stories such as the Birmingham Church Bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963. Black Son which narrates the fear of mothers raising black sons in an America with such racial unrest. In Footnotes for Kanye, Mans uses Artist Kanye West to discuss the appropriation of Black mediums.



JASMINE MANS is a classically trained poet and orator who has taught over 100 workshops between the US and UK. In 2012 she was chosen by *Glamour Magazine* as one of their Top 10 Most Influential Woman in College. Later *Lyon Magazine* would call Jasmine "Your New Favorite Poet on the Internet." *Blavity*, *Saint Heron*, and *Billboard* would cover Mans' poetry, all commenting on the intensity and honesty safeguarding her work. Jasmine has also successfully competed in HBO's Russell Simmons Presents Brave New Voice and Knicks Poetry Slam competitions. Her artistry has brought her to theaters and stages including Kennedy Center, Broadway's New Amsterdam Theater, Sundance Film Festival and Madison Square Garden. "Black Boy Gold" is Mans' multimedia project which includes poetry, visuals and sounds tackling homophobia, police brutality, black on black crime, and hate growing within the black community. With over 10 years of workshop and performance experience, she is the resident poetry facilitator at the Newark Poetry Library in NJ.

TECHNIQUE TRACK:

For the intermediate or advanced artist, this track enables participants to hone their skills and creative process, broaden perspective on the art form by examining rhetoric, storytelling, history and then speak truth to power to better deliver indelible work that motivates audiences to act.

Get in FORMation! with Jonathan Samuel-Eddie Perkins

In line with this year's theme of "Freedom Forward", workshop participants will be lead to craft poems in a set of poetic forms. These poems, whether they are haikus, sestinas, or villanelles, will be prompted to add to the national conversations on economic empowerment, equal access to information and quality education and the reclamation of our communities. Slam poetry combines the written form with the oral art of storytelling. Contained with strong slam poems are the hallmarks of all good writing: imagery, figurative language, sounds, meter, characters, and powerful themes that audiences can connect with. This art form has allowed young writers to truly discover their voices; express themselves without restraints, cope, and heal. All in all, participants will discover healthy and effective ways to raise their creative voices to affect positive change in their communities. *See Jonathan's bio on next page.*



Symposium Workshops (continued)

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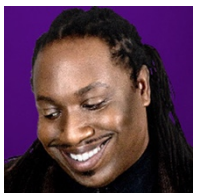
JONATHAN SAMUEL EDDIE PERKINS is a spoken word comedian from Columbus, GA and a lover of everything that is art. He has competed with spoken word teams and is 2014 Grand Slam Champion at Art Amok. For years, Jonathan has been leading creative writing and performance workshops across the nation. Jonathan was recognized for his work as an "artist" as a recipient of a 2013 Spoken Word Gala Community Service Award. At the 2014 and 2015 Southern Fried Regional Poetry Festival, he ranked among the top 10 individual competing poets. He penned and staged the one man show, "Journey Here," which candidly chronicled his life as a writer/performer, black man, teaching artist, and caregiver for his mother, who was living with Alzheimer's. Jonathan was the 2018 runner-up for The Missouri Review's Miller Audio Prize in the Humor category. He currently serves as the founder/director of the Fountain City Teen Poetry Slam, an organization that inspires youth to use their creativity as a positive outlet in their daily lives. For over 6 years, Jonathan has been leading creative writing and performance workshops across the nation. Pulling from his vast experience as a performer, director, playwright, poet, teaching artist, and community activist, he's developed a number of workshops that appeal to varying demographics.

BUSINESS TRACK:

Poets will be prepared to elevate their brand to the next level, increase collaborations, define strategy, and know how to make a profit.

How To Become a Full-time Performance Artist/Writer with Ed Mabrey

In this workshop, we discuss what it means to be an "art-trepreneur" or an "edutainer". In an interactive forum we discuss how to look at and approach the financial concerns of being a full-time artist, how to target jobs and careers, what tools are needed to do the job and more. Participants will be in charge via an interactive role-playing game to build a successful artistic career.



ED MABREY, JR. is the currently the only four-time Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. He tours the country professionally as a poet, comedian, and motivational speaker. A two-time InkSlam winner, the only three-time and current Southern Fried Regional Poetry Slam Individual Champion, multiple LEAF Slam Champion, Ed is joining the Drop the Mic Poetry Slam events for the second year! An Emmy winner, Ed has been on several seasons of TV One's "Verses and Flow." He has appeared on HBO's All Def Digital and was a speaker at TEDx twice. With over 20 years of teaching experience, he has performed at over 200 schools from K-12 to universities around the country, teaching workshops and conducting seminars. On the comedy front, Ed has opened for D.L. Hughley, Rob Schneider, Roy Wood Jr., Charlie Murphy and many more. He is a two-time finalist in The World Series of Comedy, and has been the voice in several company commercial spots.



Symposium Workshops & Plenary (continued)

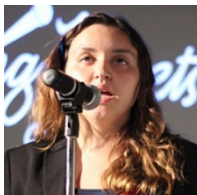
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YOUTH TRACK:

Designed for the youth/teen poet or poetry enthusiast who may be at the start of their artistic journey, this track helps participants find their voice, understand storytelling and essential writing elements, develop strong communication skills, stage persona and build confidence.

The Bridge Between Organizing & the Word: Youth Empowerment from a Youth Perspective with Mackenzie Berry

The goals of the workshop are to identify the advantages young people have to advance social change, demonstrate the connection between the word (written and spoken) and community organizing, and to produce works. Participants will engage in writing by Nina Simone, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Langston Hughes, allowing them to focus on youth and social change, using the text for writing prompts to identify shifts in the dreams of the past with examples of current youth organizers to bridge the past to the present, the artist as the organizer, and asked to name what they are doing to advance social change.



MACKENZIE BERRY is founder and board of director member of the nonprofit Young Poets of Louisville. She has performed and presented as Poet Laureate of Thrivals 8.0 in the Louisville Idea Festival in 2015. She has facilitated workshops for youth in the JVN Project using hip hop as a tool for community uplift in Madison, WI. Berry currently facilitates workshops with the Summer of Justice program and is a creative writing student in the First Wave Hip Hop & Urban Arts Program (the first and only program of its kind) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She competes as a Louisville Lip Poetry Slam team member for the 2017 Southern Fried Poetry Slam Festival, is a Madison First Annual Ron Wallace Poetry Contest winner and won second place in the Charles Hart Writers of Promise Award, both at University of Wisconsin-Madison.



OPENING PLENARY – MASTERCLASS with Ed Mabrey

“The Fine Art of Being an Artist”

In this brief talk, participants will discover, through reflection of an artist career, the steps that must be taken in order to achieve their goals.



Symposium Plenary (continued)

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DINNER PLENARY & KEYNOTE SPEAKER – J. Ivy



Native Chicagoan, **J. Ivy** is an Award Winning Performance Poet, Artist, Author, Song Writer, Voice-Over Talent, Motivational Speaker, and Actor. His work has earned him a Peabody, Clio, Telly, and NAACP Image Award. The mindset of his self-authored motto, “Dreams Don't Come True, They Are True,” along with his patented breath taking performances have led him to three appearances on HBO’s Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry, two full seasons of NBC’s Sunday Night Football, ESPN’s National Spelling Bee, B.E.T.’s “Muhammad Ali: The People’s Champ,” and more. He has shared stages with Prince, Talib Kweli, Common, Sia, Jill Scott, George Clinton, and more. With the unique use of his poetry he has lent his gift to musical creations with Kanye West, The RZA, Estelle, Slum Village, and John Legend.

J. Ivy is widely known for being the Poet featured on Kanye West’s Grammy Winning Album “The College Dropout,” on the classic song “Never Let Me Down,” along with Hip-Hop Icon Jay-Z. He is also the man who gave Oscar & Grammy Award-Winning singer-songwriter John Stephens the name John Legend, as told on Oprah’s Next Chapter. J. Ivy has MC’d and performed poetry for conferences hosted by Deepak Chopra. He was commissioned to pen a poem for NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan. In addition, his book *Dear Father: Breaking the Cycle of Pain* has sparked the Dear Father Movement, a campaign of Dear Father Letters with the theme and goal being, “One Million Letters Written, One Million Hearts Healed.” Coupled with a series of workshops titled, “The POWER of Forgiveness,” which J. Ivy has led at Steve Harvey’s Mentoring Camp for Young Men, The Sun Valley Wellness Festival, The Omega Institute, The Anguilla Literary Festival, Chicago Public Schools, Mt. Vernon High School amongst others, J. Ivy is steadily moving forward with using the art of writing to inspire healing in our communities.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel will cover a range of issues related to poetry and activism in their communities. Gain the artists’ perspectives on the art of poetry as well as their take on current issues. In a Q&A, the audience will engage in vibrant discussions.

Entitled “**Freedom Forward: Moving the Movement Forward through Art,**” the panel discussion goes deep in examining the role of artists using their craft in activism and the ways they engage in issues important to them. Panelists will explore the how they got started, their writing process and inspiration, how they distinguish between, poetry, spoken word, hip hop and rap. Panelists will also define what success means to them and how they reconcile commercialism and the “purity” of the art form. They will also share the importance of self-care as a performing artist and activist.

PANELISTS: James “J. Ivy” Richardson II, Ed Mabrey, Bethsheba “Queen Sheba” Rem, Jonathan Samuel-Eddie Perkins and Carin “Writeous Soul” Malone

MODERATOR: Faith Morris, Chief Marketing & External Affairs Officer, National Civil Rights Museum