

western arts alliance

Black Arts @ WAA Pre-Conference Symposium

Sunday, August 25 | Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Los Angeles, CA

ABOUT THE BLACK ARTS @ WAA PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM

Drawing on Black leadership, perspective, experience, and voice, this day-long symposium will focus on the performing arts of the Black arts diaspora. The program, which will take place in Leimert Park, the historic center of LA's Black community, will include a keynote speaker, workshops and panels, networking events, and showcasing.

The initiative seeks to recognize, champion, and uplift Black artists and ensembles as it works to address systemic racism and implicit bias in the field of touring and presenting. WAA recognizes that there is no quick fix to these complex issues, but a process rooted in transparency, honesty, and generosity, can be a powerful instrument for change.

9:00AM - 10:15 AM | OPENING PROGRAM

Performance by **Okaidja Afroso**, the Ghanaian singer/songwriter.

Keynote with Patrisse Cullors, Artist, Organizer, Freedom Fighter, Co-founder of Black Lives Matter

"We want to build a world in which undeveloped and unrefined emotional instincts - like possessiveness and jealousy- are minimized as much as humanly possible so that all eyes, hearts and spirits are not distracted from the goal. And the goal is freedom. The goal is to live beyond fear. The goal is to end the occupation of our bodies and souls by the agents of a larger American culture that demonstrates daily how we don't matter."

Patrisse Cullors, *When They Call You a Terrorist*

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10:30 AM - NOON | THE STATE OF BLACK ARTS

Learn about the challenges, barriers, and opportunities for Black artists and works in the United States. In this discipline specific panel, you will hear from three prominent artists and arts leaders in the fields of music, theatre, and dance share their personal and professional take on what inspires, informs, and motivates the performing arts of the Black diaspora.

Nataki Garrett Artistic Director | Oregon Shakespeare Festival | Ashland, OR
Gesel Mason Artistic Director | Gesel Mason Project | Austin, TX
Dae Bogan Music Industry Professional | Los Angeles, CA

Moderated by:

Krista Bradley Director of Programs & Resources | Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) | Washington, DC

1:00 - 2:00 PM | BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE - PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

This panel, including an artist, agent, presenter, and a theatre executive, looks at successful models of touring, presenting, audience engagement, and outreach for Black artists and audiences. What can we learn from these efforts that can be replicated in our own agencies, communities, projects, or programs?

Pamela M. Green Agent, PMG Arts Management | Durham, NC
Don Roth Director, Mondavi Center | University of California, Davis, CA
Darrell Grant Jazz Artist; Educator; Professor; Portland State University | Portland, OR
Shay Wafer Executive Director; Consultant; WACO (Where Art Can Occur) Theatre Center | Los Angeles, CA

Moderated by:

Rena Williams-Niles Associate Dean of Administration, USC, Kaufman School of Dance

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2:00- 3:15 PM | PEER TO PEER BREAKOUTS

Find your kindred spirits in one of our following breakout groups designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, exchange, and networking.

ART & ACTIVISM

Artists and arts organizations are increasingly leaning in to make social change. Connect with colleagues to learn how you can better address issues in your community.

Facilitated by Maurice Kitchen and Marie Ke/lier.

EMERGING LEADERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

Next generation arts leaders are seeking a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable field. Meet with peers who are reimagining leadership and empowering change on our stages, in our offices and boardrooms.

Facilitated by Terrv Scott.

CREATING INCLUSIVE & SAFE SPACES

A seat at the table is not enough. Connect with peers who are committed to creating inclusive, accessible, and safe spaces for everyone - including underrepresented and marginalized peoples.

Facilitated by MJ Brown aka Miss Barbie-Q.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES (RANDY JACKSON STUDIO)

Are you breaking new grounds, ceilings, and barriers in your field? This is the place to be if you are an artist, activist, or arts leader with a penchant for coloring outside the lines and knocking down institutional barriers.

Facilitated by Adi/ah Barnes.

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3:15 - 3:30 PM | CLOSING PROGRAM

A poem and performance of "A Change is Gonna Come" by Street Corner Renaissance, Adilah Barnes, and Lula Washington.

4:00 - 5:00 PM | GUIDED TOUR AT THE ART+ PRACTICE

Visit the Art+ Practice for a guided tour of the exhibit, Time is Running Out of Time, by co-curator Jheanelle Brown, Program Manager at The Broad Museum. This exhibit is a satellite program of the Soul of a Nation exhibit at The Broad and presents early short works of Black filmmakers and video artists in Los Angeles.

5:00 - 7:00 PM | NETWORKING RECEPTION

Hosted by Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

7:00 - 10:00 PM | SHOWCASE PROGRAM ARTISTS

ADAAWE
DANCE IQUAIL!
Albino Mbie
Red Door Project.