



**The Omari Hardwick bluapple Poetry Network  
2018 Poetry & Leadership Conference  
LTABFLA: "Crossing the Street"  
Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Conference Agenda**

8:00 – 8:30am	Registration/Check-In/Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00am	Welcome, Purpose, & Whole Group Exercise – Main Auditorium
9:00 – 9:15am	Dismissal to Breakout Sessions
9:15 – 10:15am	<b>Workshop Session 1</b> (Students attend workshop they chose during registration, based on availability. Coaches will attend breakout session.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Fourth Wall – Marnino Toussaint (PCAT)</li><li>Elevator Pitch – Amorette Lormil &amp; Autumn Williams</li><li>My Body Is Poetry – Calvin "MadeSON" Early</li><li>Poetry Building Blocks – Gaby Martinez</li><li>The "I" in Poetry – Lachelle Walthour</li><li>Tell Me A Story – Byrd Wilson</li><li>Write Through This – Cecily Schuler</li><li>Block Writer's Block – Lizz Straight</li></ol>
10:15 – 10:25am	Break between sessions
10:25 – 11:25am	<b>Workshop Session 2</b> (Students will attend workshop they chose during registration, based on availability.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Show &amp; Tell – Sierra DeMulder</li><li>A Writer's Life – Emonde Prosper</li><li>The Fourth Wall – Marnino Toussaint (PCAT)</li><li>My Body Is Poetry – Calvin "MadeSON" Early</li><li>Write Through This – Cecily Schuler</li><li>Block Writer's Block – Lizz Straight</li><li>Tell Me A Story – Byrd Wilson</li><li>The "I" in Poetry – Lachelle Walthour</li></ol>
11:25 – 11:35am	Break between sessions
11:35 – 12:35pm	<b>Workshop Session 3</b> (Students will attend workshop they chose during registration, based on availability. Coaches & sponsors can choose a workshop to attend.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Block Writer's Block – Lizz Straight</li><li>Try On A Mask – Sierra DeMulder</li><li>Lost &amp; Found – Marnino Toussaint</li><li>My Body Is Poetry – Calvin "MadeSON" Early</li><li>Tell Me A Story – Byrd Wilson</li><li>Poetry Building Blocks – Gaby Martinez</li><li>Professionals Don't Starve – Emonde Prosper</li><li>Elevator Pitch – Amorette Lormil &amp; Autumn Williams</li></ol>
12:35pm	Dismissal to Lunch
12:40 – 1:15pm	Lunch provided by the Jason Taylor Foundation
1:15 – 2:00pm	<b>Key Note Speaker Rudy Francisco</b>
2:00 – 3:25pm	<b>Team Poetry Showcase and Open Mic Session</b>
3:25 – 3:30pm	Closing Remarks & Dismissal



## Workshop Descriptions: Session 1

### a. The Fourth Wall

Room: PCAT

Facilitator – Marnino Toussaint

In theater, the fourth wall is the imaginary wall through which the audience observes the action on stage. This workshop will push students to enhance their stage presence by utilizing acting tools such as improvisation, movement, and voice to fully immerse their audience in the experience that is their poem.

### b. Elevator Pitch

Room: 924

Facilitator – Amorette Lormil & Autumn Williams

Rita Dove once said, “Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.” Clarity, concision, and word choice are not only essential skills for writers but also for community leaders. This workshop will uplift specificity and succinctness in order to help students to “sell” their message and harness the true power of their words.

### c. My Body Is Poetry

Room: 905

Facilitator – Calvin “MadeSON” Early

“The human body is the best work of art.” — Jess C. Scott. This workshop is an interactive creative writing session designed to provide participants an outlet for sharing the unique story of the skin they live in.

### d. Poetry Building Blocks

Room: 931

Facilitator – Gaby Martinez

The fundamental building blocks of poetry: specific details, strong imagery, and figurative language, can supply the material for every poem we could ever wish to write. This workshop will explore the many ways it is possible to produce a unique and evocative poem.

### e. The “I” In Poetry

Room: 929

Facilitator – Lachelle Walthour

Great writers can take the most universal subject and make it personal by inserting elements of their own lives and experiences into their poems. Attendants will learn about personalizing their work by including their own unique essence in their pieces, ultimately making their poetry more memorable overall.

### f. Tell Me A Story

Room: 935

Facilitator – Richard “Byrd” Wilson

This workshop is an introduction to narrative poems, a form of poetry that tells a story, often utilizing the voices of a narrator and characters as well. Prepare to explore narrative and theatrical development, character progression, and structure in order to create a compelling storyline in your poetry.

### g. Write Through This

Room: 930

Facilitator – Cecily Schuler

Poetry has long been considered a healing art form. In this part-generative, part-resource sharing workshop, students will explore techniques on approaching the unspeakable—how to give our struggles a voice, find catharsis in our expression, and how to carry on intact and empowered.

### h. Block Writer’s Block

Room: 934

Facilitator – Lizz Straight

This workshop is designed to help writers navigate an unconventional path through the creative writing practice, while breaking down the walls of familiar content and writing strategies along the way, as these can often be our most steadfast blockages. Participants will confront the writer we think we are while identifying reliable comforts and weaknesses that stifle our creative process.



## Workshop Descriptions: Session 2

### **a. Show & Tell**

**Room: PCAT**

*Facilitator – Sierra DeMulder*

Every poet uses words to creating vivid images that immerse readers in the world of the poem—by not merely telling readers what’s happening, but showing it to them. *Telling* merely catalogs actions and emotions; *showing* creates images in a reader’s imagination. This workshop will illustrate how these forces can be used to strengthen your spoken word by striking a balance between the two.

### **b. A Writer’s Life**

**Room: 924**

*Facilitator – Emonde Prosper*

"*I just don't have time to write!*" If you have ever made this statement, this is the workshop for you. School, work, family—life will always get in the way of your creative expression. Still, you have this talent to share. With focus, dedication, and some useful tips, you can make room for the pen again in no time. It's all about the right timing!

### **c. The Fourth Wall**

**Room: PCAT**

*Facilitator – Marnino Toussaint*

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### **g. Narrative Poetry**

**Room: 935**

*Facilitator – Richard “Byrd” Wilson*

Facilitated by acclaimed playwright, Zodwa Nyoni, this workshop is an introduction into writing for the stage. Every writer has a voice and process. They are key in developing your stories, but what are the key elements that get stories from the idea to script? Discover the tools of writing for the stage, including narrative development, theatrical development, character progression and structure. For all writers looking to learn the basics of writing for the stage.

### **h. The “I” In Poetry**

**Room: 929**

*Facilitator – Lachelle Walthour*

Great writers can take the most universal subject and make it personal by inserting elements of their own lives and experiences into their poems. Attendants will learn about personalizing their work by including their own unique essence in their pieces, ultimately making their poetry more memorable overall.



## Workshop Descriptions: Session 3

**a. Block Writer's Block** Room: 934  
*Facilitator – Lizz Straight*

This workshop is designed to help writers navigate an unconventional path through the creative writing practice, while breaking down the walls of familiar content and writing strategies along the way, as these can often be our most steadfast blockages. Participants will confront the writer we think we are while identifying reliable comforts and weaknesses that stifle our creative process.

**b. Try On A Mask** Room: 928  
*Facilitator – Sierra DeMulder*

The desire to switch identities isn't one we can regularly indulge. However, through persona poetry, we can try on new masks whether it is another person, an inanimate object, etc. In this workshop, students will explore techniques to better "see with other eyes," using character development, detail assumption, and emotional triggers.

**c. Lost & Found** Room: PCAT  
*Facilitator – Marnino Toussaint*

Poetry can be mined from life experience whether first hand or otherwise. This workshop examines the form of found poetry—poetry that is already out there in the public domain in the guise of advertisements, emails, horoscopes, recipes, legal documents, any text which doesn't necessarily appear to possess poetic possibility. Students will be encouraged to experiment with form and content through the re-structuring of existing material.

**d. My Body Is a Poem** Room: 905  
*Facilitator – Calvin "MadeSON" Early*

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**f. Poetry Building Blocks** Room: 931  
*Facilitator – Gaby Martinez*

Sometimes you need a little extra inspiration. This workshop will give insight on some specific techniques to help writers discover "secret" fountains of inspiration and how to convert that inspiration into thoughtful pieces. Be prepared to read a little bit in this workshop.

**g. Professionals Don't Starve** Room: 924  
*Facilitator – Emonde Prosper*

Would you want to get paid \$100 once or \$100 once a month for 12 months? It is not just about how many gigs you can get. It's about how many gigs can you get called back for and do again. The secret sauce to getting repeated work is being professional at ALL times. This workshop will get you ready to slay and keep getting paid!

**h. Elevator Pitch** Room: 924  
*Facilitator – Amorette Lormil & Autumn Williams*

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