

The Mark Allen Everett Poetry Series
and PEN America present

TULSA RACE MASSACRE COMMEMORATIVE READING

Sunday, May 30th | 3:00 p.m. CST

The Molly Shi Boren Ballroom in the OU Student Union
featuring readers:

Najah Amatullah Hylton

Najah Amatullah Hylton has been writing and performing since she was a young girl. She wrote for several news and magazine publications from college to 2013 and she has maintained her own blog since junior high school. Najah began performing poetry semi-competitively in 2010. In 2012, she presented her first solo show at Urban Roots, called "The Risk to Bloom." Her first self-published poetry book went on sale in March 2014, carrying the same title. In 2013, she began teaching secondary language arts in Oklahoma City and she currently works in education. She is also working on a Master of Arts in literature. Najah writes on commission, edits by contract, and performs and speaks when and where she is asked. Photos, quotes, and poems in progress can be found on her Instagram and Facebook pages as well as her website.



Quraysh Ali Lansana

Quraysh Ali Lansana is author of twenty books in poetry, nonfiction and children's literature. Lansana is currently a Tulsa Artist Fellow and serves as Acting Director of the Center for Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, where he is also Writer in Residence for the Center for Poets & Writers and Adjunct Professor in Africana Studies and English. Lansana is Creator and Executive Producer of KOSU/NPR's Focus: Black Oklahoma monthly radio program. A former faculty member of both the Writing Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Drama Division of The Juilliard School, Lansana served as Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University from 2002-2012, and was Associate Professor of English/Creative Writing there until 2014. His work *Our Difficult Sunlight: A Guide to Poetry, Literacy & Social Justice in Classroom & Community* was published in March 2011 by the Teachers & Writers Collaborative and was a 2012 NAACP Image Award nominee. His most recent books include *the skin of dreams: new and collected poems, 1995-2018*, *The Whiskey of Our Discontent: Gwendolyn Brooks as Conscience & Change Agent* (Haymarket Books, 2017) and *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop* (Haymarket Books, 2015). His forthcoming titles include *Those Who Stayed: Life in 1921 Tulsa After the Massacre* and *Opal's Greenwood Oasis*. He is a founding member of Tri-City Collective.



Eder J. Williams McKnight

Eder J. Williams McKnight is an educator and poet residing in Tulsa, Oklahoma since 2014. She teaches at Holland Hall in the Upper School English department. Eder has collaborated with local visual and performance artists to produce poems featuring Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre, which have been performed live in various venues and have appeared in *Art Focus Oklahoma* and *Oklahoma Today*. She received an M.F.A. in poetry from Stonecoast at the University of Southern Maine in 2015. She has produced two hand bound art books, *But Move Not* (2012) and *A Burlap Bloom* (2013) with artist Suzanne Sawyer of Down Home Girl Studio.



Leroy Myers

Leroy Myers is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Oklahoma. His interests include African American migration and African-Native American relations in the Trans-Mississippi West and Southeast. His research focuses on black southern migration throughout Indian Territory and Oklahoma during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He is also a reader and lover of poetry.



Written Quincey

Originally from College Hill, Cincinnati, Ohio, Written Quincey has called Tulsa, Oklahoma home for over the past decade. A visionary with a creative lens through artistic expression, this gentleman capitalizes on favor and skill to enhance one of the world's most ancient forms of literature. Poetry is fatherhood, social justice, activism, love making, brainstorming, teaching, learning, reading, questioning theory, questioning lyricism, and using lyricism to challenge the monotony of tradition. Q, known to many, studied at the University of Cincinnati, apprenticed in AmeriCorp, has traveled the nation since 2000 and performed in over 50 venues. Since 2014 he has held the position as the Artist in Residence at Tulsa Central High School for Fine and Performing Arts receiving several awards; additionally, sitting as a Poetry Committee member at Living Arts of Tulsa; Slam Poetry Coach with *Louder Than A Bomb*; 2018 *TedxUniversity of Tulsa* nominee and founder of the *Cypher120: Experience* which is responsible for the urban musical, visual, literary, artistic renaissance in Tulsa since 2013. Most recently an artist featured on the highly anticipated *Fire in Little Africa* project sponsored by Motown. Just a glimpse...

