



New York State  
Literary Technical  
Assistance Program



Council on  
the Arts

with the support of Governor  
Andrew Cuomo and the New  
York State Legislature

## 2019 Facing Pages Statewide Literary Arts CONVENING



## *COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, LEGACY: Sustaining Ourselves & Our Organizations*

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Noon – 8pm

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 9am – 3pm

**FREE REGISTRATION**

Girls Write Now  
247 W. 37th Street  
New York, NY 10018

# AGENDA

## Day 1: Sunday, November 17, 2019

9-11:30AM      **Mentoring: Pre-Convening with Continental Breakfast**

11-12            **REGISTRATION**

12-1:30PM     **CONVENING OPENING LUNCH**

**Hannah Thomas**, Girls Write Now, & **Aryanna Khan**, Urban Word NYC, Opening Poems

### **WELCOME**

**Debora Ott**, Founding Director, LitTAP

**Laurie Dean Torrell**, Executive Director, Just Buffalo Literary Center

**Maya Nussbaum**, Executive Director, Girls Write Now

### **KEYNOTE: Ken Chen: *Growing Your Nonprofit and Growing as A Person***

**Ken Chen** served as the Executive Director of the Asian American Writers' Workshop from 2008 to 2019. During his tenure, AAWW launched fellowships, literary festivals, online magazines, social justice programs, and increased its budget from \$200K to \$1.1M. He is the recipient of the Yale Younger Poets Award, the oldest annual literary award in America, for his book *Juvenilia*, which was selected by the poet Louise Glück. An NEA, NYFA and Bread Loaf fellow, Chen co-founded the cultural website Arts & Letters Daily and CultureStrike, a national arts organization dedicated to migrant justice. His essay "Authenticity Obsession, or Conceptualism as Minstrel Show"—on the appropriations of Kenneth Goldsmith and Vanessa Place—became a key text in contemporary conversations about race and literature, and has been cited in The New Republic, The New Yorker, LARB, Jacket, and New York Times. A graduate of Yale Law School, he successfully defended the asylum application of an undocumented Muslim high school student from Guinea detained by Homeland Security. From 2019 to 2020, he will be working as a Cullman Fellow at the New York Public Library on his next book: *Death Star*, a multi-genre book about attempting to return-migrate his father from the underworld and encountering there everything that has been destroyed by colonialism.

1:30-2:45PM    **Session 1: PANEL: *Sustaining Vital Organizations Through Leadership Transitions***

Leadership can be especially crucial when navigating transitions into new roles and organizations. How do leaders balance continuity and change? What kinds of mutually supportive structures can be brought to work with staff and board during leadership transition? How do leaders build institutional memory and what are challenges and best practices related to succession? These are questions that will be considered by this panel, with opportunity for Q&A.

**Moderator: Elliot Figman**, Executive Director, Poets & Writers

Panelists: Executive Directors **Cathy Linh Che**, Kundiman; **Kyle Dacuyan**, the Poetry Project; **Mary Gannon**, CLMP; **Alison Meyers**, Writers & Books

2:45-3PM        **BREAK**

3-5:30PM       ***Principles of Leadership***

45-Minute Round Robins:

- Visioning – **Jeffrey Lependorf**, Executive Director, The Flow Chart Foundation
- Strategic Partnerships & Community Building – **Bruce Morrow**, Senior Director, Institutional Giving at GLAAD
- Board Building, Working with Board Members – **Laurie Dean Torrell**

3:30-5PM       ***Passion in Practice: Serving on a Literary Nonprofit Board***

Facilitator: **Andrea Louie**

Many people join the boards of literary organizations because they love to read and have a passion for literature. Actually serving on a board requires flexing different muscles, depending on the size and age of the organization. This board member-only session will provide an intimate and confidential setting in which participants can share their challenges and surface linkages between their passion for the written word and effective board service, particularly around fundraising. Please pre-register as space is limited.

6-8PM           **OPENING RECEPTION**

Music by **Sean Clements**, Percussion, and **Fode Sissoko**, Kora

## PRESENTERS INCLUDE:



CATHY LINH CHE



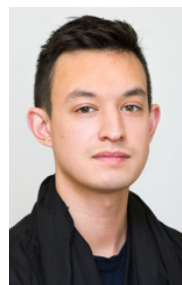
KEN CHEN



SEAN CLEMENTS



AMA CODJOE



KYLE DACUYAN



KATHY ENGEL



ELLIOT FIGMAN



MARY GANNON



JEFFREY LEPENDORF



ANDREA LOUIE



ALISON MEYERS



BRUCE MORROW



DOLAH SALEH



FODE SISSOKO

## Day 2: Monday, November 18, 2019

9-9:30AM Continental Breakfast

9:30AM **WELCOME to Day-2**  
Kathleen Masterson, Director, NYSCA Literature & Theatre Programs  
Kathy Engel, Opening Poem

9:45-12:45PM **Session 2: *Leading by Heart: How Awareness of Our Style and Emotions Help Us Lead***  
Facilitator: Dolah Saleh Breakout Session Facilitators: Gloria Jacobs & Debora Ott

This presentation will highlight the main points of leadership style and temperament, and show why that awareness is important to leading effectively. Dolah uses her certifications in the Birkman Method and Genos Emotional Intelligence to assess and coach individuals. Leading others is greatly facilitated by embracing the concepts within these two models, since they enhance self-and relationship management. Our emotions affect our behavior, performance, and decision making. Learning how to develop our emotional intelligence muscle allows us to be a credible leader who inspires trust, builds relationships, and enables collaborative attainment of organizational goals. Whether you are in a leadership role by default or design, knowing who you are and how you are personally motivated greatly increases the likelihood of your sensitivity to others and their uniqueness. To get a general idea of where each leader fits along the personality/temperament/preferences quadrants in determining motivational needs, each participant will have the opportunity to complete a self-evaluation questionnaire.

1-2:30PM **CONVENING CLOSING LUNCH**

**KEYNOTE: Ama Codjoe,**  
**Keynote: *Bringing People Together: Building Community Within Our Organizations***

Ama Codjoe has conducted organizational culture, social justice, and anti-bias trainings for DreamYard Project, The Met Museum, Bard Graduate Center, Yale University, and numerous other institutions. She is a core faculty member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education Leadership Institute. Ama has served as the Project Manager for Equity in the Panel Process, a national collective of funders pursuing racial equity in grantmaking, and as Visiting Assistant Professor of Social Justice and Inclusion at The New School. This keynote will discuss the responsibility of literary arts leaders to create and maintain positive organizational culture and provide examples of how arts leaders have created spaces for community building within their organizations.

2:30-3PM **WRAP-UP & CLOSING REMARKS**

New York State Literary Technical Assistance Program is  
an initiative of New York State Council on the Arts

Kathleen Masterson  
Director, Literature & Theatre Programs  
New York State Council on the Arts



Debora Ott, LitTAP Founding Director

Laurie Dean Torrell, LitTAP Project Administrator  
& Just Buffalo Literary Center Executive Director

Space is limited - Please register by October 31, 2019!



## 2019 Facing Pages – Statewide Literary Arts Convening

November 17 (opening lunch @ Noon) – November 18 (concluding @ 3pm)

Girls Write Now

247 W 37<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY

**COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, LEGACY: Sustaining Ourselves & Our Organizations**

**Registration is FREE**

### REGISTRATION FORM – Please return this page by October 31, 2019

Please provide the following information for each person registering:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**TRAVEL & HOTEL: Attendees are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements.**

I am attending both days.

I am attending Sunday only.

I am a board member and will attend Sunday,  
3:30-5:00pm Board Session with Andrea Louie

I am attending Monday only.

Any dietary restrictions?  YES  NO If yes, what: \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Assistance: LitTAP is committed to maximizing broad participation from the nonprofit literary arts field.**

**Registration for this convening is FREE.** More than one per organization may attend if space permits. A limited number of travel stipends of up to \$75 per group are available for those traveling more than 120 miles to attend and may be used toward mileage, train or flight. **First come, first served basis.**

Please check if you are requesting a Travel Stipend of \$75.

Please check if you are a presenter w/Travel paid.

Note: Presses, please contact CLMP directly ([www.clmp.org](http://www.clmp.org)), which has limited travel funds available for publishers wishing to attend the conference from other parts of the State.

**Please email or mail completed registration forms to:**

Email to: [submissions@justbuffalo.org](mailto:submissions@justbuffalo.org)

LitTAP c/o Just Buffalo Literary Center, 468 Washington St #2, Buffalo, NY 14203-1708

**We will email you confirmation of receipt.** Questions: [info@justbuffalo.org](mailto:info@justbuffalo.org) or (716) 832-5400