



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The National Association of Black Storytellers Announces the Premiere Black Appalachian Storytelling Fellowship Awardees for 2022.

**Baltimore, MD:** The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. (NABS) has selected six artists as the 2022 Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellows. One fellowship, per state in the areas designated by the Appalachia Regional Commission of KY, OH, TN, NC and two from WV have been awarded. The recipients will receive a cash award of \$4,000 to support their practice as a Black Appalachian storyteller and culture bearer with opportunities to examine, research, develop and perform and/or document the Black Appalachian storytelling tradition. Additionally, the fellows will receive \$1,000 for travel to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National "*In the Tradition...*" Black Storytelling Festival and Conference to be held in Baltimore, MD, November 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and a one-year membership in the organization. The fellows will present at the "*In the Tradition...*" Festival as well as develop and present a program in their home communities.

The NABS Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship is made possible through partnerships and funding in part by Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions Program and South Arts as part of the *In These Mountains*, Central Appalachian Folk Arts and Culture.

This inaugural fellowship is an adjudicated award recognizing artistic excellence in representation of the folk arts and in their cultural heritage. The 2022 Black Appalachian Fellowship awardees are:

### Kentucky

- Alicestyne Turley: Author, Professor, Advocate, Mentor; Powell County

### North Carolina

- Raymond Christian: Performer, Podcast Producer; Teaching Artist, Mentor; Watauga County

## **Ohio**

- David Butcher: Historian, Genealogist, Curator, Museum Founder; Athens County

## **Tennessee**

- James “Sparky” Rucker: Performer, Recording Artist, Teaching Artist, Civil Rights Activist; Blount County

## **West Virginia**

- Crystal Good: Publisher, Performer, Ted-Talker, Mentor, Author; Kanawha County
- Ruby Daniels: Soil Conservationist, Therapeutic Herbalist, Workshop Presenter; Raleigh County

The co-founders of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc (NABS), Mother Mary Carter Smith and Mama Linda Goss (born and raised in Appalachia Tennessee) conceived the idea of a storytelling festival to give opportunities to African American storytellers to share the stories of their heritage.

The first “*In The Tradition...*” Festival of Black Storytelling was held at Morgan State University (MSU) in 1983. Now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the Festival returns to Baltimore, where the Fellows will be honored and will receive an originally designed award.