# National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc (NABS) http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/kotc/oldsite/KOTC_LOGO.JPG Keepers of the Culture, Inc. (KOTC) Affiliate Update November 2022 – November 2023

**Overview**

KOTC continues rebounding from COVID Pandemic and Post Pandemic effects.

We are only now slowly restarting - overcoming such obstacles as decreased

storytelling opportunities, programs and reduced KOTC membership numbers. Our programs

have begun to target a youthful demographic that we very much need in the development

and work of Black Storytelling. Nevertheless, KOTC manages to persevere.

**KOTC Elections**

In Feb 2023, KOTC held membership officer elections. The votes filled the following

positions:

Recording Secretary

Carla Wiley

Treasurer

Nashid Ali

Spiritual Caretakers

Ron Carter

Nzinga Asele El

As there were no candidates for KOTC President and Vice

President, KOTC elders formed a KOTC Leadership Council (KLC) to

administrate and lead the organization.

**KOTC Organizational Administration & Leadership**

**KOTC Leadership Council (KLC)** consist of an uneven number

of financial members who make decisions for the governance of the

organization. KLC takes on roles and responsibilities of the President

and Vice-President guiding the helm of day-to-day, short term and long-term

duties that fulfill KOTC’s core purpose. KLC is an Ad-Hoc Committee.

When the KOTC general membership duly elects a President, that President then

may discharge the KLC from their goals. The KLC handles (but are not limited to) the

following tasks:

* Developing programs
* Developing membership
* Developing workshops
* Developing/mentoring KOTC leadership
* Being representative of KOTC in the public sphere
* Facilitating meetings

**Membership Recruitment**

Currently a small active general membership forms KOTC’s nucleus.

KOTC recruiting potential storytellers while attracting seasoned alumni is a priority.

Saturday June 3, 2023, KOTC initiated this effort by holding the first in a series of

“Black Storytelling Meet and Greets -Sharing Our Stories” events. Other planned

“Black Storytelling Meet and Greets” are schedulded to take place in a variety of

Philadelphia neighborhood locations

October 2023 KLC convened a general membership meeting.

At the general membership meeting attendees discussed ideas for rebuilding

the organization along with a NABS update of which KOTC applauds the

appointment of Dr. Carolise Frink Reed, a KOTC founder, to the newly

created position of *NABS Scholar in Residence* and Past-President of KOTC and NABS, Queen Nur to her induction to the Brother Blue Circle of Elders and a recipient of the Linda Brown and Charlie Brown Service Award.

**Partnerships & Programs**

Even though COVID closed or drastically altered storytelling opportunities via partnerships,

programs, and schools, KOTC weathered this storm by performing via zoom in

such venues our annual participation in Philadelphia Free Library’s Sunday on Stage

(post pandemic changes, budget cuts and unfamiliar staff turnover now threatens this

twenty plus year partnership, in addition to others in these changing times).

With COVID restrictions widely lifting, KOTC Storytellers took part as Teaching

Artists at *Philadelphia’s Folk Arts and Treasures Charter School* as well as the

historic abolitionist *Stenton House*.

Respectfully Submitted

KOTC Leadership Council (KLC)

October 31, 2023