

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.,  
Annual Affiliate Report for 2023

The Officers and Members of CABS greet you in the spirit of our ancestors, NABS co-founders, Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith, and Queen Mother Linda Goss. Thank you to NABS President, Dr. David Fakunle, Executive Director, Vanora Leagus and NABS Board of Directors for your leadership and support.

**January 2023**

CABS Executive Board Members met for our annual all-day strategic planning meeting to establish CABS budget, 2023 calendar of events and programming. CABS began 2023 2023 Membership Drive Campaign which will run through September 2023.

**February 2023**

Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers under the leadership of Project Managers, Kwanza Brewer and Beverly Lloyd began meeting monthly virtual and in-person with youth for Storytelling activities.

**May 2023**

CABS hosted a public Open Mic at Choukouya's Resto-Bar for CABS members and guests and shared stories, poems, spoken word and songs.

**June 2023**

After 2 ½ years absence due to Covid, CABS held its 15<sup>h</sup> Annual Sisterhood Luncheon fundraiser in-person. The theme of the Luncheon was "Welcome Back & Juneteenth Jamboree" with over 250 guests in attendance and a marketplace of 25 Vendors. CABS delighted to be in the company of our community again.

Storyteller, Beverly Lloyd organized the African American Cultural Juneteenth Celebration featuring Kwanza Brewer and Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers. Storytellers Judy Bateman, Lois Graham, Pam Hubbard, and Michele Rudolph performed at Juneteenth Celebrations throughout the Greater Cleveland area.

**September 2023**

CABS presented (3) free Storytelling Workshops and Showcase to the public. Dr. Carolise Frink Reed presented Storytelling Ethics Workshop virtually on 9/18; Barbara Eady and Wanda Owens presented Storytelling 101 Workshop in-person and online on 9/20; Ivory Williams presented Stage Presence Workshop in-person and online on 9/21. The attendees from Storytelling Workshops attended CABS Membership Meeting and showcased their stories on 9/22

**October 2023**

CABS is hosting a public Open Mic 10/20 and inviting attendees from the Storytelling Workshops, and the public to share their stories, poems, narratives, and songs.

**November 2023**

CABS Members travelling to NABS 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.  
Michele Rudolph, Communications Officer