

## 2021 Affiliate Report

**Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia (KSOG).** Kuumba means “Creativity” in Swahili. KSOG was chartered in 1995 by local Atlanta Storytellers. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020! We are a group of professional storytellers that provide programs to schools, universities, festivals, museums, corporate and community events and faith-based organizations. KSOG supports educational programs that encourage children to read and help improve language skills through oral communication and self-expression. We offer professional development workshops and mentor storytellers, both adults and youth.

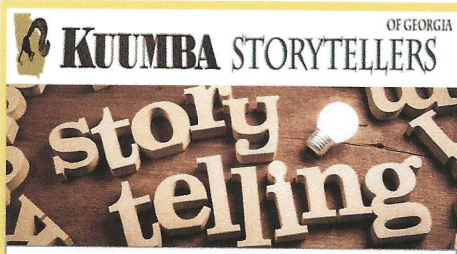

**Mission Statement:** To preserve the African oral tradition, provide awareness of the cultural history of African and African American people, and to serve as an educational resource for the community.

## Event Highlights in 2021

 <p><b>Unknown! Untold! Unsung!</b> Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia Presents <b>Historical Profiles of Color</b> Sunday, February 28, 2021 3pm - 5pm</p> <p><b>The cost is \$20! Use link below to pay and register!</b> <a href="http://kuumbastorytellers.org/product/kuumba-historical-profiles-of-color/">http://kuumbastorytellers.org/product/kuumba-historical-profiles-of-color/</a></p> <p><b>Featured Tellers</b> Ladoris Bias-Davis, Brenda Griffin, Marsha Holden, Akbar Imhotep, Carsie Mason, Sistah Olufemi</p> <p>Program will include both live and prerecorded stories! *Program subject to change*</p> <p>More Information here - <a href="http://kuumbastorytellers.org">kuumbastorytellers.org</a> Email - <a href="mailto:info@kuumbastorytellers.org">info@kuumbastorytellers.org</a> Facebook - <a href="#">Kuumba Do-Tell</a></p> <p><small>This program is funded in part through a grant from the 400 Years of African American History Commission</small></p>	 <p><b>JUNETEENTH</b></p> <p>Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia Presents a first-time combination of stories <b>Mama and Papa Tales</b> <b>Move with Juneteenth!</b></p> <p>Join us Sunday June 13, 2021 (3pm-5pm) EST as we celebrate Juneteenth with stories &amp; music! \$5 Minimum, \$10 Suggested, \$15 Generous Contribution Register below! <a href="https://kuumbastorytellers.org/product/mama-and-papa-theses-move-with-juneteenth/">https://kuumbastorytellers.org/product/mama-and-papa-theses-move-with-juneteenth/</a> <a href="http://kuumbastorytellers.org">kuumbastorytellers.org</a> - <a href="mailto:info@kuumbastorytellers.org">info@kuumbastorytellers.org</a> Facebook – Kuumba Do-Tell</p> 
<p><b>Kuumba's Historical Black Portraits</b> held its first virtual program on February 28, 2021, 3-5PM. The program was a hybrid of half live performances and half prerecorded videos from the 400 Years of African American History Commission grant. See storyteller on the above flyer.</p>	<p>This was an event to remember! Kuumba combined two of its signature programs and tellers told Mama and Papa Tales and included Juneteenth stories. Featured tellers included, Vern Bailey, Opening/Libationist; K. Green, Membership Promotion, C. Arinze Samuel, Emcee &amp; M. Baker, songstress. Storytellers: G. J. Napier, V. Cheeks, P. P. Starks, A. Johnson, J. Doyle &amp; Sistuh Spice.</p>



## Professional Development Workshop

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Storytelling with an Impact</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Professional Development Workshop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, August 14th 2pm - 4pm EST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learn how to create interest and engagement for the listener, use your body to have a commanding presence, and use your voice to reflect sentiment of your words!</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"><div style="margin-left: 10px;"><p style="text-align: center;"><b>Storytelling</b></p><p style="text-align: center;">Facilitator - Paula Hamilton M. Ed. CCC-SLP North Carolina Central University Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist Communication Consultant</p><p style="text-align: center;"><b>with an Impact!</b></p></div></div> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5 Minimum \$10 Suggested Register here - <a href="#">Storytelling with an Impact!</a> For more information about Kuumba visit - <a href="http://kuumbastorytellers.org">kuumbastorytellers.org</a> Facebook: Kuumba Do-Tell</p>	<p>This workshop made a huge impact on all its attendees! See below some of their comments:</p> <p>Thank You. It was an Impactful Workshop to assist New Storytellers and to help reinforce the importance of Stability with the Veterans. Completely "Over the Top". G.J.N.</p> <p>Thanks to all of you. Paula appreciated the energy and engagement. V.B.</p> <p>The PDW "Storytelling with an Impact" was indeed one I declared as a home run where Paula knocked it over the fence. Thank you, Paula! G.E.</p> <p>This workshop included participants from across the U.S. and India!</p>
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## Coming Soon

Kuumba will present a Kwanzaa Program on stories on the Kwanzaa principles and participants will be asked to identify which principles they heard during the teller's presentation. As participants will listen to stories and be invited to talk back to the tellers via "Chat" on Zoom.

## Grant Projects

Kuumba received funding from the 400 Years of African American History Commission (YAAHC) to showcase historical profiles of African Americans who have made contributions that continue to shape the Black narrative. The program's theme was "**Profiles in Color**". A total of seven (7) adult tellers and four Tattle Tales were pre-recorded and presented on YouTube and on the Kuumba website for a period of seven (7) weeks. **Senior Support** As part of our outreach and audience development, 10 senior centers were identified to receive a copy of the DVDs or MP4s presentation. They will be asked to complete program evaluations (See results in Stories of accomplishments section).

Kuumba's Tattle Tales, provided the narration and introduction for each story and teller. The purpose for involving the youth was to have them share in history and to invite them to become active participants in telling these important stories. The youth narrators were: Lorrin Culver, Jerrell A. Smith, Enama Arinze, and Jeremiah Franklin. The following characters were portrayed by:

Donald Lee Hollowell, Civil Rights Attorney - Akbar Imhotep  
Hazel Scott, Musician, Actor – Christine Arinze

Ona Judge, escaped slavery from George Washington – Brenda Griffin  
Robert Smalls, Politician, Publisher, Businessman - John Doyle  
Stagecoach Mary, First African American Female Mail Carrier - Carsie Mason  
Sadie G. Mays, Social Worker, Wife of Benjamin E. Mays - Gwendolyn J. Napier  
Carrie Steele Logan, Founder of oldest Black US Orphanage - LaDoris Bias Davis

## Stories of Accomplishments

### Profiles in Color Results

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several of the senior centers were not open for seniors to participate in the program. Below are the results from some of the participants.

A total of 23 participants completed the survey. Some of the residents at senior centers had issues that prevented them in completing the survey. This was a learning experience for Kuumba and will look at collecting ethnographic interviews at future programs. Only a sampling of question 5 and comments are listed. Participants viewed 2 videos which totaled 46 views.

Survey questions and results are below:

- 1) Which two portraits did you view?  
Hazel Scott, Donald L. Hollowell, Robert Smalls, Carrie Steel Logan and Sadie Mays
- 2) Did you learn about people you were unfamiliar with?  
Yes, 89% of participants who viewed the profiles were unfamiliar with the people they saw.
- 3) Would you like to see more programming of this nature?  
Yes, 91% of participants would you like to see more programming of this nature.
- 4) Have you attended any Kuumba Programming in person?  
No, 91% of participants have never attended any Kuumba Programming.
- 5) Why do you think it is important to involve youth in projects of this type?
  - Young people need to know their heritage at an early age.
  - To learn about native Atlanta's roles, they played to establish organizations and help for others.
  - Opportunity to take pride in Black contributions to the development of the United States.
  - Youth need to learn all Blacks were not poor and always had class and stood for right things
  - They can learn about what famous Blacks did in the community that help us today
  - Because it is important for African American youth to know and understand their history, strengths, talents, and legacy
  - Storytelling and bios generate pride in race and our history. Helps young people assemble a timeline which grows longer and build on itself the more you learn

### Comments

- Donald L. Hollowell - well presented, engaging. Learned something about the various stages of his life, educational accomplishments, courtship, and marriage & military experience. All were little known facts
- Hazel Scott - I enjoyed the storyteller. She embodied the character well
- Donald L. Hollowell - It was very informative, and it was my first time getting acquainted with the role he played in the Civil Rights Movement
- Nice to know Blacks had wealth and education



- Enjoyed it! Very informative. (10)
- Most interesting in history of Sadie G. Mays Care Home. Did not know of Kuumba organization. Thoroughly enjoyed it
- Need to do more of these film (2)
- This was very educational (not a native of Atlanta). Would like to see more.
- Great info-keep it up! Born in Atlanta but did not know some of this info.

## Partnerships

**Light of Hope Presbyterian Church (LOHPC)** collaborated with Kuumba storytellers to provide inspirational and motivational stories and songs themed; "For Such a Time as This" This virtual event posted storytellers and musicians, monthly on its website and on YouTube from January through June. 2021. Kuumba storytellers included Gwendolyn J. Napier, Akbar Imhotep, LaDoris Bias Davis and Gloria Elder.

**Wren's Nest** Kuumba is a longtime partner and collaborator. Many of Kuumba's storytellers performed there this year; Akbar Imhotep, Gwendolyn J. Napier, Chetter Galloway Deborah Strahorn, Josie Bailey Christine Arinze Samuel, Ester Culver and Brenda Griffin. The Wren's Nest, the historic home of Joel Chandler Harris, and the birthplace of the American illustrated storybook is a cultural center in Atlanta, Georgia that promotes literacy and celebrates the heritage of African and Indigenous folklore through the art of storytelling in all of its contemporary forms, including student publishing, concerts, events, tours, and a free children's book program.

Kuumba partnered with the **2021 Mayor's Summer Reading Club (MSRC)** to read selected books to toddlers and preschoolers in early learning centers, day camps, museums, and schools. Pre-selected books were chosen and read to children ages birth-2 years and pre-K- 8 years and after readings were done, the children participated in hands-on activities. Each child received a free book. The Mayor's Summer Reading Club (MSRC) is a program that promotes literacy skills and vocabulary enrichment in children ages birth through eight and their families. The Mayor's Summer Reading Club is a collaboration between the City of Atlanta, GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students), PNC, the United Way and many great public-private partnerships throughout the city of Atlanta.

KSOG partnered with **Juneteenth Atlanta Parade, Inc.**, celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Kuumba storyteller, G. J. Napier portrayed Harriett Tubman and dawned a float along with other KSOG members, Chetter Galloway, Kenneth Green, LaDoris B. Davis. The intent was to share stories along the parade route that ended at the Centennial Olympic Park, however the rainy weather prevented storytelling activity. The parade and celebration were extra special because 2021 Juneteenth was officially designated a National Independence Day: A New Federal Holiday. Along the parade route the streets were lined with thousands of onlookers.

**Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting (AIB)** *Jambo Storytime! Stories from the African Diaspora and Beyond.* As a partner Kuumba is currently providing 12 storytellers to conduct six (6) series 30-minute television show for children ages pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their families. Each storyteller tells a story and conducts a reinforcement summary. The storyteller provides three key points from story they want the viewers to takeaway. The points are integrated with a visual. The storytellers are C. Galloway, B. Griffin, G.J. Napier, K. Green, V. Bailey, C. Arinze Samuel, L. Bias Davis, M. Holden, C. Mason, A. Imhotep, J. Doyle and G. Elder.

**Clarkston Development Foundation (CDF)** Action and Kuumba collaborated to host a Fall Festival titled, *Tell Me A Story Festival*. Kuumba Storytellers Gwendolyn J. Napier, Chetter Galloway, LaDoris Bias Davis and Deborah Strahorn were Emcees and/or Storytellers for this diverse community.

CDF Action organization works to connect and engage the diverse residents of Clarkston, GA by helping residents recognize and develop their assets and assist them in creating activities and services that benefit the community.

**Honorable mention-** It was a pleasure to participate in the NABS Village Tellin' in August. We thank Chetter Galloway for sharing the beautiful story about his village!

### **Other Partnership/Collaborations upcoming**

Rabun Gap, GA – Nacoochee School- a private school in North Georgia, has procured two Kuumba storytellers, A. Imhotep and J. Doyle, who will focus on civil rights for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. The storytellers will represent different aspects of the movement. This two-day event will be on October 19-20, 2021

Easter Seals North Georgia has secured Kuumba Tattle Tales for its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Festival on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Kuumba youth, Madison Jackson, Jerrell Allen Smith, Enama Arinze and Clayton Mayfield will tell stories to children. They will engage the youth through interaction and with hands-on activities.

Triple Tales Festival is a partner with Kuumba and the same Tattles Tales above will be featured at this event on October 30, 2021. This event will take place at The Wren's Nest, the historic home of Joel Chandler Harris, in Atlanta's historic West End.

NABS Youth Telling Kuumba Tattle Tales Madison Jackson, Jerrell Allen Smith, Enama Arinze and Clayton Mayfield will participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival and Conference, virtually on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**New Members** KSOG had a total of 13 new members join in 2021.

### **Board of Directors and Committees**

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>
Gloria Elder, President Chetter Galloway, Vice President/Secretary Gloria Elder & Chetter Galloway Co-Treasurers	Fundraising/Grant Writing, Deborah Strahorn Membership, Kenneth Green Professional Development, Vern Bailey Programs, Rosie Meadows Youth "Tattle Tales", Esther Culver

### **Contact Mailing Address**

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Email: [www.kuumbastorytellers.org](http://www.kuumbastorytellers.org)