The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.,

Annual Affiliate Report for 2022

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, Kwanza Brewer and NABS Board of Directors for your leadership and guidance.

**January 2022**

CABS Executive Board voted to continue to hold bi-monthly membership meetings virtually until CABS meeting space (Karamu House) opens to the public.

CABS began 2022 Membership Drive Campaign which will run through September 2022.

**February 2022**

CABS celebrated Black History Month by recognizing the life and legacy of the courageous and beautiful Cicely Tyson with a book reading and discussion of her book “Just As I Am: A Memoir”.

**March 2022**

CABS Executive Board members held its strategic planning meeting to create CABS 2022-23 budget, project managers responsibility, and plan CABS succession model for leadership roles within the organization.

**June 2022**

Co-Project Managers Kwanza Brewer and Beverly Lloyd created Kuumba CABS, youth storytelling group for youth 6 to 18 years-old who performed at “From Juneteenth to Kwanzaa” at Cleveland History Center.

CABS Storytellers performed in Juneteenth Celebrations at Metro Health Cleveland Juneteenth Freedom Fest, Noble Road Public Library, Cleveland History Center, African American Cultural Gardens

CABS held its first in-person membership meeting in two years due the pandemic. CABS members celebrated with Storytelling and refreshments.

**July 2022**

CABS Storytellers Donna Willingham, Beverly Lloyd, Kwanza Brewer Lois Graham and Michele Rudolph participated in a 5-week residency Summer Enrichment Program focusing on Storytelling for Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students.

**August 2022**

CABS held in-person public Open Mic at Choukouya Resto-Bar which was well received and attended. CABS members and guests shared stories, poems spoken word and songs.

**September 2022**

After two years, CABS returned to the historical Karamu House as artists-in-residence for in-person monthly membership meetings. CABS members prepare and plan to travel NABS Festival and Conference.

Storytellers Judy Bateman, Donna Willingham and Michele Rudolph performed for the Great Lakes African American Writers Conference at Cleveland Public Library.

**November 2022**

CABS travel to NABS Festival and Conference in Baltimore, Maryland

Respectfully Submitted,

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Michele Rudolph, Communications Officer