

# Black Storytellers Alliance



1112 Newton Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN55411



*Makeda Zulu-Gillespie*  
Executive Director  
UROC

## BSA Affiliate Report

November 2018 – November 2019

### November – January

- Special Kwanzaa program presented at Shakopee Women's Correctional Facility
- Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation at local private school
- Presented storytelling workshop for local private school for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Presented stories for the city of Minneapolis Trauma presentation
- 3 storytelling presentations for 3 special groups: The Kofi Program, for adoptive white parents of Black Children and a shelter for women and children who are homeless
- Began work with We-Win students on Black History presentation (The Harlem Renaissance)

### February - April



- Storytelling for Black History Month programs at several elementary and middle schools; Schools Family Involvement Day; Minnesota Television Network (MTN) and Metro State College
- Presented Dred and Emma Scott story for Minneapolis Metro Transit workers;
- Special program with Master Storytellers Dylan Pritchett, Mother Minter and Nothando Zulu; Master Drummer, Brother Ghana M'Baye; a band and recording artists Eddie Robinson and Gwen Matthews at Shakopee Women's Correctional Facility.
- Storytelling workshops for Breck High School; Residency Highland Elementary in Apple Valley, Minnesota
- Presentations for Grand Marais, St. Francis and the ZETAS; also PICA Head Start, Osseo Transition Center and the Cultural Wellness Center.

## May - July

- Opened Karamu Communal Garden
- Juneteenth storytelling presentations at 4 local libraries
- Storytelling presentations at three local libraries
- Began Morning Circle storytelling at the Summer Academy for the Network for the Development of Children of African Development (NdCAD)
- Gave a couple of television interviews for the Karamu Communal Garden
- Continue to work in Karamu Garden and telling stories in the garden for the youth working in the garden
- Continued Morning Circle with NdCAD
- Shared a story/discussion with daughter and granddaughter on StoryCorps



## August - September

- Storytelling presentations at local library, NdCAD graduation and three days of Storytelling at the Minnesota State Fair
- Presented three Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I A Woman?” speeches to commemorate 400 years of Resilience sponsored by the City of Minneapolis.
- KMOJ radio program with Brother Milford sharing some stories and promote the upcoming festival “*Signifyin’ & Testifyin’*”
- Produced 29<sup>th</sup> annual three-day storytelling festival “*Signifyin’ & Testifyin’*” September 26 -28, 2019. Featured: Sister Janice Curtis Greene, Brother Dylan Pritchett, Brother Atiba Kwabena Wilson and Sister Oceana Brown, Brother Oba William King, Sister Toni Simmons Sister Donna (Mama Koku) Buie and Sister Beverly (Auntie Beverly) Cottman. These featured storytellers also attend the Blessing of the UROC facility where Makeda Zulu-Gillespie (daughter of Vusi and Nothando) recently named the new Executive Director!

## October

- Collaborating with some younger artist on an Afro Futurism project;
- Residency with Bright Water Elementary School for Kwanzaa program
- Vusi storytelling at Kente Summit for African American college men.

