The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.,

Annual Affiliate Report for 2019

The Officers and Members of CABS greet you in the spirit of our ancestors and NABS co-founders, Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith and Queen Mother Linda Goss. Thank you to President, Janice Curtis Greene and NABS Board of Directors for your support throughout the year. CABS 2019 programing and activities incorporate and reflect our mission and commitment to Black Storytelling.

**January 2019**

Storytellers, Oluremi Oliver and Michele Rudolph performed “Martin Luther King Jr., Letters from Birmingham Jail “ in the MLK day celebration at Warrensville Public Library honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

CABS Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) Project was formed during CABS Kwanzaa Celebration to support Black Businesses throughout the year. A black business was chosen each month and members collectively shopped with that business on a designated date and encouraged family, friends and other organizations to support the Black Business during the Month.

**February 2019**

CABS celebrated and honored the 100th Birthday of Mother Mary Carter Smith on February 10th with a free event to the public. The celebration commemorating “100 Years of Lighting the Way” included personal stories from CABS members who knew and worked with Mother Mary Carter Smith, storytelling, refreshments and a birthday cake.

CABS celebrated Black History Month with a staged theatrical reading of the powerful words and works of Maya Angelou,” In All Ways A Woman: A Tribute to Maya Angelou” at St. Ignatius Breen Performing Arts Center with Acapella Ensemble “Hue People”. The tribute was an original written, by Oluremi Oliver and Kwanza Brewer.

**June 2019**

CABS held its 14th Annual Sisterhood Luncheon on Saturday, June 8th at Executive Caters at Landerhaven. The Luncheon was themed “Our Elders…Lighting the Way”, as we honored CABS Elder Storytellers who help light the path for Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers. CABS co-founder, Barbara Eady was the featured teller and NABS President, Janice Curtis Greene graced CABS Sisterhood Luncheon with her presence.

The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers recognized and celebrated the Juneteenth Holiday at Euclid Public Library in association with the African American Quilt and Doll Guild on Monday, June 17th.

Storytellers, Kwanza Brewer and Beverly Lloyd performed at the African American Cultural Gardens Juneteenth Celebration.

CABS hosted Common Ground Community Conversation, a region-wide day of community conversations in Northeast Ohio. CABS Common Ground Community Conversation was held on Sunday, June 30th at Maple Heights Library. Thirty-seven guests were provided Sunday dinner as well as thought provoking and call to action conversations. The theme “Our Environment was, Our Environment is and Our Environment will be.” Storyteller, Pam Hubbard was the Facilliator.

**July 2019**

The Cleveland Council on World Affairs asked CABS to meet and have an informal dialogue with a state-sponsored Egyptian Delegation of 7 members on Thursday, July 25, 2019. The Egyptian Delegation consisted of actors, directors and theater directors who were exploring the  "Role of Independent Theater in Promoting Social Change”. The artistic exchange between CABS members and the Egyptian Delegation was an afternoon filled with mutual respect and admiration for each other ‘s culture, history and stories.

**September 2019**

CABS hosted “Voice and Vision Storytelling Conference: A Triumph of HER Stories” in association with Cleveland State University Black Studies Program on September 21st. The one-day Storytelling Conference offered over 100 guests and volunteers workshops facilitated by Storytellers, Tahira, Emily Hooper Lansana and Donna Willingham and a panel discussion with Poet, Author and Playwright, Dr. Mary Weems, Tahira and Emily Hooper Lansana, moderated by Kwanza Brewer. The conference culminated with a Storytelling Concert featuring, Tahira and Emily Hooper Lansana.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Michele Rudolph, President