

2017 BLWS PLANNING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

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Sandy Pérez	Marketing Subcommittee Chair
Jacquelyn Banks	Outreach Subcommittee Chair
Vanessa García	Logistics Subcommittee Chair
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Araceli Diaz, Assistant Director	Tekita Bankhead, Assistant Director
La Casa Cultural Latina	Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center

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BLACK AND LATINA WOMXN SUMMIT 2017

MOSAIC

MAKING OUR SISTERHOOD
AN INDESTRUCTIBLE COALITION

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND
9:30AM UNTIL 4:30PM
I - HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Dear Attendee,

Welcome/Bienvenidos to the 2017 Black and Latina Womxn Summit!

La Casa Cultural Latina (La Casa) and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC) are honored to welcome you to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Black and Latina Womxn Summit (BLWS) was established in the spring of 2015 by womxn of color and allies at the University of Illinois. To preserve and foster cultural growth it was necessary to provide an opportunity for Black and Latina Womxn in the campus community to build coalitions as well as discuss issues of womxnhood. The number of topics discussed during these past few years has positively influenced the status of our Black and Latino students on campus. Now, as we host our 3rd BLWS, we are astounded by the growth and impact that this initiative has had on Illinois students and the many attendees who have come from neighboring universities and states.

This year, we are delighted to have an array of speakers who will share their expertise to ensure a productive summit. This year's theme is ***M.O.S.A.I.C. Making Our Sisterhood an Indestructible Coalition***. This theme highlights the resiliency of Black and Latina Womxn alongside demonstrating the constant strides we take forward amidst internal and external struggles. Whereas mainstream media and recurring statistics may sometimes overshadow our voices and unique experiences, we are grooming some of the brightest Black and Latino womxn at Illinois who will be heard. Our students are committed to their personal growth and to advocating for their home communities regardless of the odds. Their identities will not be deemed invisible.

We truly hope you leave this year's Summit galvanized and ready to tackle the issues and concerns impacting womxn of color. Here's to recognizing all of the work, passion, and magic regularly displayed by Black and Latino womxn—including those in the BLWS Planning Committee.

You make us proud,

Araceli Diaz

Assistant Director, La Casa Cultural Latina

Tekita Bankhead

Assistant Director, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center



2017 BLWS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Inés Nava & Bitanya Gebrekristos

Marketing:

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Sandy Pérez

Lindsey Miller

Matea Larrieu

Evelyn Zepeda

Diana López

Ashli Drummond

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Vanessa Aceves

Amorita Falcón

Alejandra Melesio

Ahrianna Mitchell-Sodipe

Jalisa Jordan

Speakers and Workshops:

Andrea Camarena

Gabriela Garay

Marisol Jiménez

Arianna Adkins Torres

Jade Clayton

Paloma González

Kayla Martínez

Michelle Patiño-Flores

Tymmarah Anderson

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Champaign County Visitor's Center
Black and Latina Womxn's Summit Committee
McKinley Health Center
University of Illinois Counseling Center
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlan (MEChA)
Black Students for Revolution
Mixed Student Union
Pandora's Rag
I-Cause
Crescendo
I-Hotel and Conference Center
University Dining
Atallah Wilson
Weiskamp Screen Printing



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Registration & Breakfast	8:30am—9:30am
Welcome	9:30am—9:50am
<i>Performance by Tasleem Jamila</i>	
Keynote Speaker	9:50am—10:40am
Break	10:45am—10:50am
Workshop Sessions 1	10:50am—11:40pm
Break	11:40am—11:50am
Lunch & Activities	11:50pm—1:20pm
<i>Participants Lunch —> Illinois BC Ballroom</i>	
<i>Performance by Ariana Brown</i>	
Workshop Sessions 2	1:30pm—2:20pm
Break	2:20pm—2:30pm
Workshop Sessions 3	2:30pm—3:20pm
Break	3:20pm—3:25pm
MOSAIC Activity	3:25pm—4:00pm
Closing Session	4:00pm—4:30pm



M.O.S.A.I.C.
***Making our Sisterhood an
Indestructible Coalition***

SUMMIT THEMES

Resisting, Surviving, Thriving – This category explores mental health and the importance of self-care for Black and Latina womxn. This section may include creative outlets through art expression, poetry, dance as well as self-affirmations, forms of self-love, the impacts of mental health, and other healing processes for Black and Latina womxn.

Centering the Silenced – This category centers those who are most marginalized in Black and Latinx communities while paying close attention to the intersections at play in our identities. We seek to emphasize those with disabilities, immigrants (i.e. undocuBlack, undocuQueer, DACAmented students), LGBTQ+, sex workers, and more.

Biting Back: Calling Out the Dangers of Body Shaming and Diet Culture

Catherine Montiel

Location: Humanities Room

This presentation will allow womxn to discuss the dangers behind eating disorders, and its correlation to body shaming, diet culture, and perfectionism in the United States. This presentation will not only allow others to share their experiences with these everyday struggles as womxn, but as well learn how to address the gravity of these mental issues and illnesses head-on among friends and family.

Cuba, Blackness, and a Photographic Journey

Heather A. Hathaway Miranda

Location: Innovation Room

The purpose of this presentation is to offer insight to Cuba through photography and the experience of an educational research immersion trip by the presenter. Often the image of Cuba is Cameron Diaz or Gloria Estefan when the reality is that most of the island is AfroCuban like the Reina de Salsa (the Salsa Queen) Celia Cruz. A historical overview will be provided along with critical reflections using narrative and photography of the history of Africans in Cuba and remnants from slavery. One photograph will be raffled off in the session or at the conference.

WORKSHOP SESSION #2 (Continued)

1:30pm-2:20pm

Women on Fire Get Burned Out: How Black and Latina Women Need More Support in College and the Workplace

Krystle Dorsey

Location: Innovation Room

The road to success is tough, and it can be especially difficult for many women of color to finish the race. Black and Latina women experience the impact of intersectionality, the dynamic of more than one identity influencing personal experiences at a time. As a result, the fire they have to excel burns out from challenges they face with both race/ethnicity and gender. The right support can reignite these women about their educational and professional goals, but support is sometimes hard to find, especially when women of color are often isolated at work and in the classroom. This interactive workshop will facilitate a deeper understanding of intersectionality and how it affects women of color in college and the workplace. With inspiration from the book, *The Five Love Languages*, participants will work in groups to identify meaningful ways Black and Latinx women can foster self-care, support one another, and unite for social change so these women can thrive better in their educational, professional, as well as personal lives.

WORKSHOP SESSION #3

2:30pm-3:20pm

Who Am I?

Melissa Williams, Gabriela Garay, & Jennifer De La Rosa

Location: Lincoln Room

We will first begin with a presentation that provides information on mental health in the Black and Latinx communities. We will also provide information on different methods of self-care. Lastly, we will have an activity that will give the participants some time to develop some self-affirmations and create an art piece with it.

2017 Black and Latino Womxn Summit (BLWS)

African Diaspora – Between 1662 and 1807 colonizers took droves of African slaves to the New World, most of which hit ports in the Caribbean. This category explores the Afro-Latinx identity of the diaspora to provide an intersection in the discussion of blackness as global.

Hidden Narratives – This section is a celebration of Black and Latina radiance. It highlights the ability to survive our experiences and shed light on the underground battle of equality. Within these topics will be historical alliance, resistance, and resilience of Black and Latina womxn.

Not Your Caged Bird – Inspired by Maya Angelou's poem *Caged Bird*, this section promotes unity and activism in this increasingly hostile environment. This category focuses on the contemporary political climate in the United States. It provides support for Black and Latina womxn by creating discussion and reflection in an effort to fuel social change

FEATURED PERFORMER

Tasleem Jamila el-Hakim

Tasleem Jamila aka "The Lyrical Healer" is an internationally renowned poet, vocalist, cultural producer and holistic health consultant. Her sound is a fusion of hip hop, spirituals, mystical chants, and lyrical soul. With performances that include The Kennedy Center, Excel London, Columbia University (NYC) and the African World Festival of the Arts. She has performed her works across the US as well as the UK, Africa, and Canada and continues to tour worldwide.

Tasleem recently published a book of poetry, *Black Baptist Muslim Mystic* which is receiving critical acclaim in addition to her album "Tasleem" and live and unplugged DVD "My Soul Speaks". She is sought after for her captivating energy as a host, professional skills as a cultural producer and educating activist as a workshop facilitator.



WORKSHOP SESSION #2

1:30pm-2:20pm

Demons, Diaspora, & Magic: Collective Healing

Ariana Brown

Location: Lincoln Room

"Demons, Diaspora, & Magic: Collective Healing" is a poetry writing workshop and safe space which asks participants to address a personal/historical demon, such as racism, sexism, erasure, etc. Through poetry prompts and discussion, participants will chart a journey of healing from said demon, creating blueprints for our own liberation.

Taking My Life: The Impact of Power, Love, and the Impact of Abuse

Jacquelyn Banks

Location: Knowledge Room

The purpose of this presentation is to expose the impact of domestic abuse on black and brown women. It challenges the role of the woman in the household and the historical reinforcement of abuse. This presentation is a narrative that tells my story of how love and power and the paradox between the two.

Sharing our Struggles//creating comm[unity] and collaboration

Rubi Conchas, Ana Rodas, Arianna Adkins Torres, Zila Renfro, Deborah Waters, Daisianee Mineger, & Amorita Falcon (Facilitator)

Location: Humanities Room

When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid. – Audre Lorde

By sharing the struggles of womxn of color in activism, this panel aims to uncover our personal battles in an effort to create comm[unity] and collaboration. It is a space to provide support for Black and Latina womxn by creating discussion and reflection in an effort to fuel social change. We will engage in an array of topics such as activism and survival during the current political environment, advocacy, and awareness, amongst others topics in hopes to

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

10:50am-11:40am

Healing as Resistance

Tasleem Jamila el-Hakim

Location: Lincoln Room

This is an interactive PowerPoint presentation and participation through exercises to facilitate self care, speaking your truths to empower the world, finding your inner strength to thrive in today's society and history of Black and Latina Womxn who have used their voices to speak power for change. It will consist of poetry, sacred healing womb movements and energy clearing. Participants will leave feeling connected to self and others, energized to thrive and knowledge of powerful women who went before.

A Glimpse in the Mirror: Overcoming and Surviving Domestic Violence as a Woman of Color

Tristen Johnson

Location: Humanities Room

When I was 19 years old, I experienced something many women of color across the country go through daily. I never thought it would happen to me. I didn't tell many people. This presentation will tell a personal story about being a survivor a domestic violence, how it affected me as a black woman, and how it helped shape me into the woman I am today. According to the Women of Color Network, "African American women are 35% more likely to experience domestic violence than white women...and less likely to report it. 23.4% of Hispanic women have experienced domestic violence." This presentation will also allow for participants to engage in conversation about affirmation and how to support our sisters of color in times of distress.

Women of the Civil Rights Movement

January Boten

Location: Knowledge Room

We will learn and talk about the women of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s in the US. We will listen to their words and learn who they were and what they did.

FEATURED PERFORMER

Ariana Brown

Ariana Brown is an Afromexicana poet from San Antonio, Texas, with a B.A. in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies from UT Austin. She is the recipient of the Andrew Julius Gutow Academy of American Poets Prize and a 2014 collegiate national poetry slam champion. An alum of Brave New Voices, Ariana co-founded the Fresh Ink youth slam in San Antonio and the Spitshine poetry slam at UT Austin. 2-time winner of the "Best Poet" award at the national collegiate poetry slam, Ariana's work has been featured in PBS, Huffington Post, Blavity, For Harriet, and Remezcla.

Ariana, who has been dubbed a "part-time curandera," has performed across the U.S. at venues such as the San Antonio Guadalupe Theater, University of California - Santa Cruz, Tucson Poetry Festival, and the San Francisco Opera Theatre. When she is not onstage, she is probably eating an avocado, listening to the Kumbia Kings, or validating black girl rage in all its miraculous forms. Her work is published in Nepantla, Rattle, Huizache, Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review and is forthcoming in ¡Manteca!: An Anthology of Afro-Latin@ Poets from Arte Público Press. She is currently earning an MFA in Poetry at the University of Pittsburgh.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tanisha King Taylor

9:50am to 10:45am

Illinois BC Ballroom

Tanisha King-Taylor is a two-time alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign obtaining both a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Social Work. She is currently a doctoral student at the same institution, researching Black women and Racial Microaggressions. She also serves as an Adjunct Instructor in their School of Social Work and has taught General Education and Inter-group Dialogue courses. She has 10 years of experience in Student Affairs and 3 years of experience in Social Work direct practice.

Tanisha King-Taylor is a Speaker, Coach, Social Justice Advocate, and women's rights advocate who is passionate about being in the forefront of helping people live up to their full potential both personally and professionally. She is also a writer, activist, wife, and mother who wants to do her part in leaving the world better than she got it.

