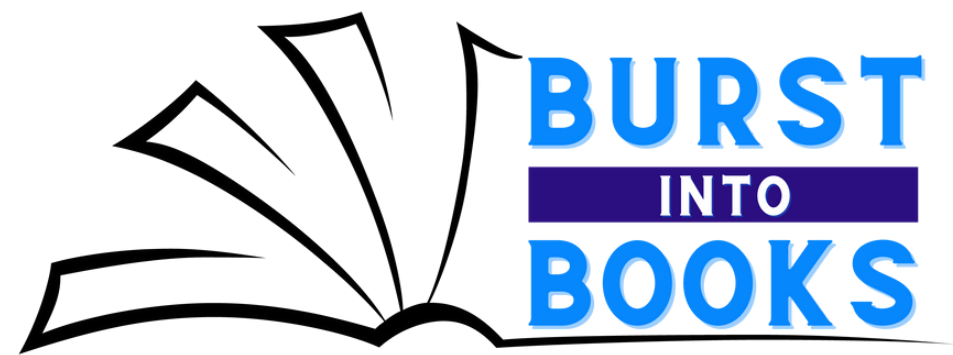


# THE 3RD ANNUAL WORDS OF WONDER LITERARY FESTIVAL

A literary festival on the South Side of Chicago designed with young readers and writers of all ages in mind!







**IMPACTING THE LIVES OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
THROUGH LITERACY**

## **ABOUT US**

Burst Into Books is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to helping the youth deepen their love of reading by integrating the arts, providing opportunities for them to engage with those connected to the literacy field, and creating a space for them to express themselves. We are invested in supporting the whole family unit in order to establish long lasting change.

Burst into Books envisions a world that is transformed through intentional access to culturally responsive literature. Our mission is to provide culturally relevant enrichment opportunities, engage and support the community through access to resources, and leverage the brilliance of Black people to cultivate published authors.

**SINCE 2018, WE'VE IMPACTED OVER 20,000 YOUNG READERS AND HAVE DISTRIBUTED OVER 25,000 BOOKS!**





# Programs and Events

## Monthly Hybrid Book Club Sessions

Families can join in person at UIC Neighborhood Center - Auburn Gresham and online through Zoom.

## After School Writing Lab

FREE writing workshops for 1st to 8th grade students starting December 5th.

## "The Front Row" Virtual Storytime series

We introduce families to amazing individuals in the literary field and they will have an opportunity to ask questions too!

## Community Circles

Parent Workshop series to discuss various topics affecting youth and families.

## Lit Talk!

A workshop series in which various reading specialists provide parents with tips to help their child with their reading and writing skills.

## Holiday Celebration

A great time for the community to come together for holiday festivities and free books.

## Black History Month

An annual celebration about the black history of Chicago. Attendees participate in engaging activities and learn about pivotal moments in black history.

## Spelling Bee & Oratory Competition

An annual event in which students demonstrate their mastery of vocabulary words and oratory pieces.

## Remixing the Narrative Farmer's Market

An annual community event to provide fresh produce, resources and free books.

## Special Events

Curated events and workshops for the community centered around culturally relevant literature.





# How We Get Things Done

Our mission is to use literacy as a tool to help develop a love for literature and provide safe spaces to explore topics that impact the whole family.

Our team brings a wealth of passion, youth and academia experience from some of the most distinguished schools, halls of ivy, organizations, and establishments.

We also get the work done through the help of volunteers who are looking for ways to give back to the community and serve in a variety of ways.

**We all share a unified mission, to serve children and help develop their love for reading and literature.**







## About the W.O.W. Lit Fest

The Annual Words of Wonder (WOW) Literary Festival is a celebration of books-to-be-written and books-to-be-read. Designed with young readers and writers of all ages in mind, this annual festival, hosted on the South Side of Chicago, provides children and their families with unparalleled access to creative, engaged, and book-forward programming during a day-long celebration. With interactive literacy and art programming, opportunities for youth and families to connect with community resources, animated storytelling by Black authors and illustrators, a diverse group of book vendors and installations for all ages, story-based dance, interactive writing workshops, Indigenous and African styled drumming, a wide range of live music, healthy food choices and snacks, giveaways and much more there is no question that every attendee leaves saying "WOW."

Please consider joining us in our pursuit to support creativity, engage students during those crucial summer months, and ensure our youngest readers and writers have access to the events, resources, and community which will ensure they thrive!





# W.O.W. Lit Fest 2023

## Recap

**Date & Time:**

**JULY 29, 2023 | 11 AM TO 5 PM**

**Location:**

**DR. CONRAD WORRILL TRACK & FIELD  
CENTER, 10201 S. COTTAGE GROVE AVE.**

**Author Headliner:**

**JASON REYNOLDS**





# Our Impact

Affirmations Coloring & Activity Book for  
**CONFIDENT KIDS**



**825**

Over  
**90**

**both local  
and national  
authors**

**14**

**Hundreds**

**Total number of  
Attendees at the 2nd  
Annual WOWLit Fest**

**Vendors in  
attendance to make  
this event a success**

**We had both local and  
national authors who  
were a part of the event**

**Sponsors  
for the festival**

**of books were sold,  
given and blessed to  
all attendees**





# Testimonials

What attendees had to say about the Words of Wonder Literary Festival

“

I was happy to attend the WOW Literary Festival because I know I just witnessed something special! I'm already looking forward to next year and I know it will grow exponentially because people will want to go and experience this for themselves, their families, and their organizations!

*- Jessica Smith*

“

The inaugural WOW Lit Fest 2022 was a gathering of some of the most intentional organizations in youth education, advocacy and community advancement. It was an honor to be invited to be in that room and serve youth alongside everyone.

*- Cydney Edwards*

“

The W.O.W. Literary Festival and its venue was steeped in Black excellence along with meaningful exchanges between literary organizations from across our city. Our Southside communities need these kind of events as staples in our community. Keep it up and see you next year!

*- Jami Rhue*

“

I absolutely loved everything about the event and so happy to be a part of it. I was amazed at the amount of resources, performers and services that were provided. I also love that this was on the south side with highlights from Black Excellence in every spectrum. Thank you for having us and would love to work together again in the future.

*- Bria Jackson*

“

This Literary Festival made books come alive for children. The excitement was palpable. Children and families had a lovely time meeting authors and other reading enthusiasts.

*- Attendee*





# Testimonials

What attendees had to say about the Words of Wonder Literary Festival

“

Burst into Books is very inspiring!

*- Camesia Perry*

“

Great family event! First time vendor but I have it already marked on my calendar for next year.

*- Attendee*

“

This festival is a true celebration of the importance of books. A place for people of all ages who appreciate that making great literature accessible for young people can change the world.

*- Emily M. Hooper  
Lansana*

“

The WOW Literary Festival was a great experience, both as a vendor and as a participant. There were so many activities and so many interesting people to speak with.

*- Attendee*

“

The LITerary Fest organized by Burst Into Books was a phenomenal celebration highlighting literary culture and togetherness. It was well executed and we were thrilled to be a part.

*- Chrislin Flanagan*





Our 2023 Headliner Author is

*Jason Reynolds*







ZARAH  
BAKER

EMILY HOOPER  
LANSANA

DR. EVE L.  
EWING

JERRY CRAFT

JASON REYNOLDS

ERICA BAUER

DJ DONNELL &  
LONDON

*Main Stage Performers*





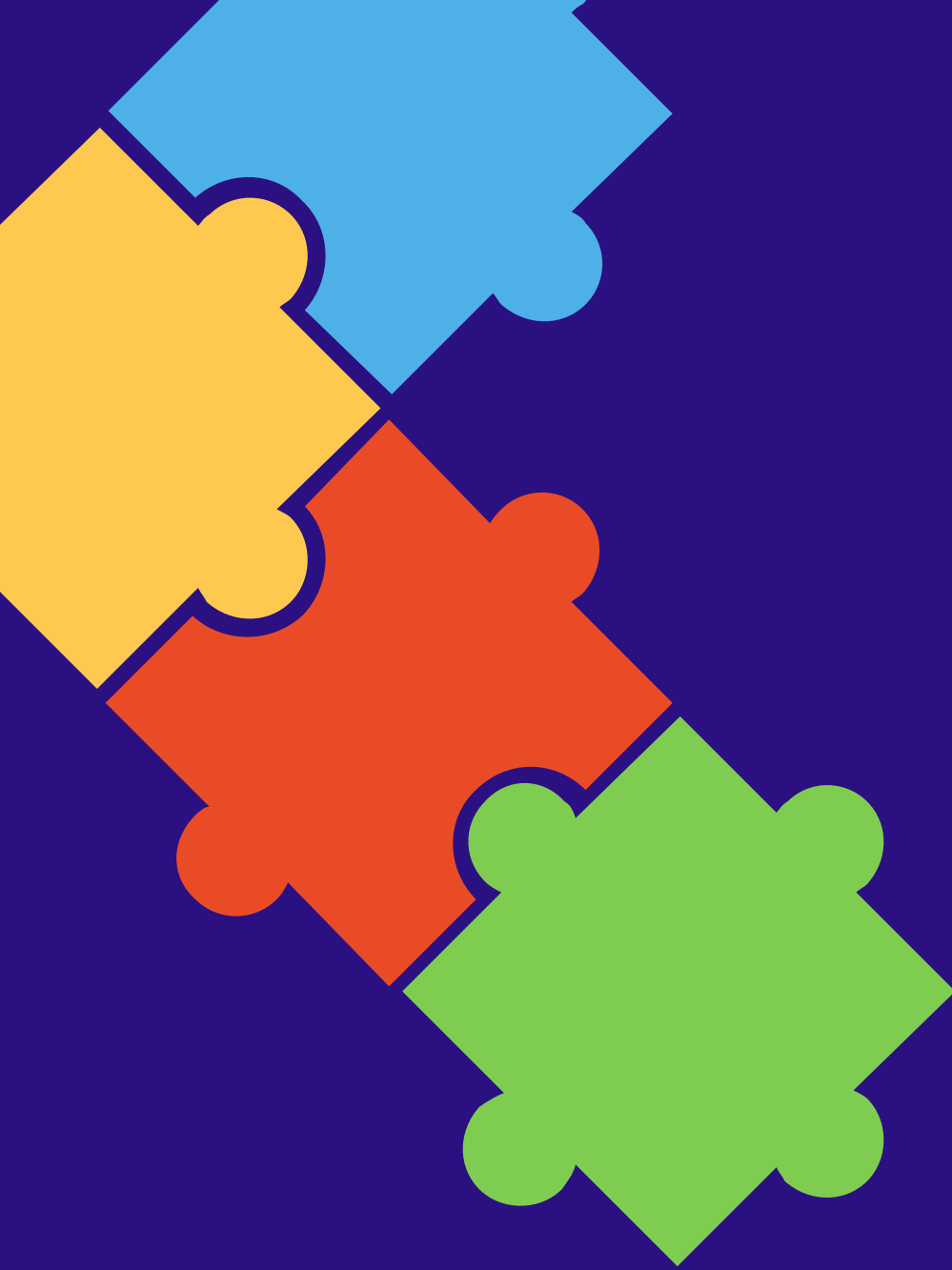
# Main Floor & Outdoor Performers

South Shore Drill Team

Chicago Bulls' Bucket Boys



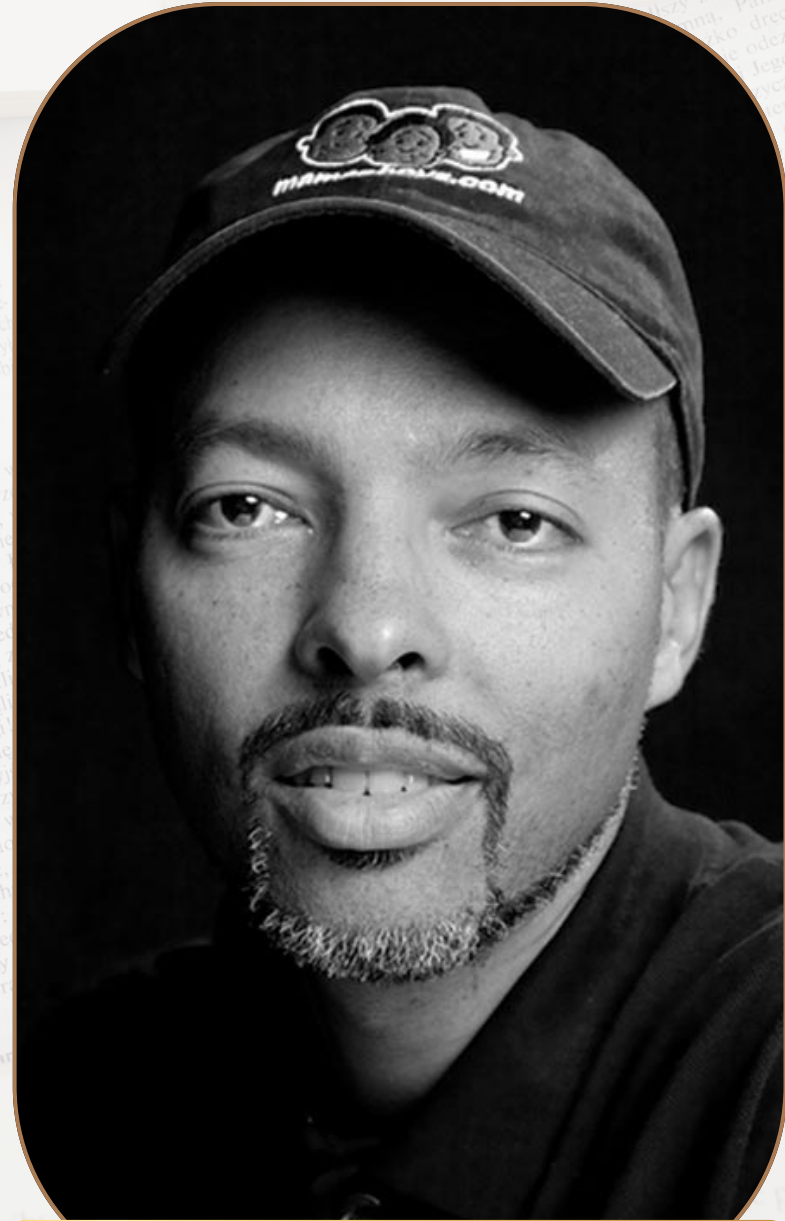




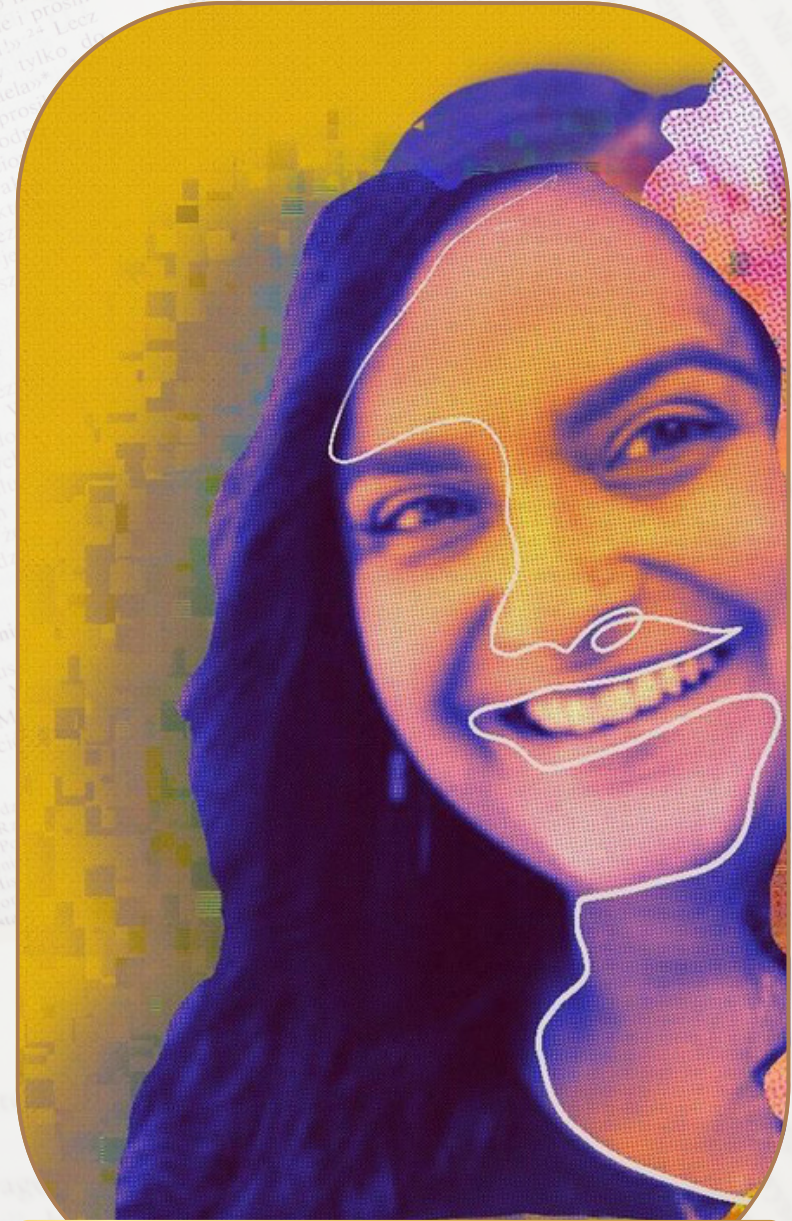
# Dare to Share Workshops Facilitators



**DR. GHOLDY MUHAMMAD**



**JERRY CRAFT**



**DR. SABA KHAN VLACH**



# Youth and Family Area Performers



African Drumming and Dancing



Author Storytimes with Markedia Alston & Clothilde Ewing



Dr. Cartman and Company (Drumming Circle)



# Interactive Stations

**BOOK MAKING  
AREA**

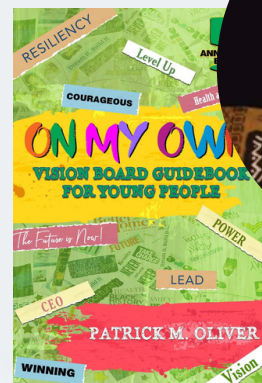


**CULTURAL ART  
EXPLORATION**



**CREATIVE  
WRITING**

*Patrick Oliver*



**MUSIC  
PRODUCTION**



**MOBILE ART  
CART**

*William Estrada*





# 2023 SPONSORS

**POTTERY FOUNDATION**

**davisconnect**  
EXPERIENTIAL MARKETING AGENCY

**Worldreader**

**1921**  
RADIO SHOW

**WGN**  
1690 AM

**LISTEN DEPARTMENT OF LITERACY**  
SPEAK READ WRITE

**Blue Door**  
Neighborhood Center

**DCASE**  
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

**Parker**

**CCR**  
CREATIVE CHICAGO REUSE EXCHANGE

**CHICAGO BULLS**

**JULIAN GRACE FOUNDATION**

**CHICAGO Early Learning**

**Thug Bippie**





# Attendees enjoyed:

- Interactive literacy and arts programming
- Connections to community resources
- Vibrant storytelling by Black authors/illustrators and interactive writing workshops
- A diverse group of book vendors and installations for all ages
- A wide range of live music (including Indigenous and African-styled drumming) and story-based dance
- Healthy food and snack choices, giveaways and much more!!



*Takeaways*



# Event Sponsorship Opportunities

Discover the many  
exciting ways you can  
support this essential  
event.





**This one-of-a-kind sponsorship opportunity will allow you to be a part of history! **WOW!** is guaranteed to inspire and engage.**

**WHO:**

Burst Into Books'  
Community Partners



**WHERE:**

Dr. Conrad Worrill Track & Field  
Center, 10201 S. Cottage Grove,  
Chicago, IL 60628



**WHEN:**

Saturday, July 27, 2024



**GOAL:**

2,000 children, teens, parents &  
educators eager for a cultural literary  
experience







# What will your investment do?

01 Ensure a memorable event for all attendees

02 Stimulate our students' minds during those important summer months

03 Increase access to young people's events which cultivate creativity

04 Provide curated spaces that allow each child to feel included and valued





# Sponsorship Packages

01 PREMIER SPONSOR



02 PLATINUM SPONSOR



03 GOLD SPONSOR



04 SILVER SPONSOR



05 BRONZE SPONSOR



06 COMMUNITY SPONSOR





# PREMIER SPONSOR

**\$25,000**

- Corporate logo placement on posters, banner, program, and event t-shirts
- Two-page color advertisement in program book (11 x 8.5")
- Dedicated corporate recognition story in Burst Into Books e-newsletter
- Dedicated post on Burst Into Books social media platforms
- Sponsorship recognition on all press materials, event advertising and promotional materials
- Corporate logo featured in at least 2 dedicated e-blasts to festival invitees and attendees
- Corporate logo and link displayed on Burst Into Books website for one year
- Vendor table (includes 8 foot table and 2 chairs)
- Formal Premier Sponsor acknowledgement throughout the festival







# PLATINUM SPONSOR

**\$15,000**

- Corporate logo placement on posters, banner, program, and event t-shirts
- Full-page color advertisement in premier placement in program (5.5 x 8.5")
- Sponsorship recognition on all press materials, event advertising and promotional materials
- Corporate logo featured in at least 2 dedicated e-blasts to festival invitees and attendees
- Corporate logo and link displayed on Burst Into Books website for one year
- Vendor table (includes 8 foot table and 2 chairs)
- Mention from the stage throughout the entire event
- Formal Platinum Sponsor acknowledgement throughout the festival





# GOLD SPONSOR

**\$10,000**

- Half-page color advertisement in festival program (5.5 x 4.25")
- Logo placement on banners, signage, event t-shirts and flyers
- Logo featured in at least 2 dedicated e-blasts to festival invitees and attendees
- Corporate logo and link displayed on Burst Into Books website for one year
- Recognition in selected press materials, event advertising and promotional materials (print and electronic)
- Vendor table (includes 8 foot table and 2 chairs)
- Formal Gold Sponsor acknowledgement throughout the festival





# SILVER SPONSOR

**\$5,000**

- Half-page color advertisement in festival program (5.5 x 4.25")
- Listing on banners, signage, event t-shirts and flyers
- Logo featured in at least 2 dedicated e-blasts to festival invitees and attendees
- Listing displayed on Burst Into Books website for one year
- Recognition in selected press materials, event advertising and promotional materials (print and electronic)
- Vendor table (includes one 8 foot table and 2 chairs)
- Formal Silver Sponsor acknowledgement throughout the festival





# BRONZE SPONSOR

**\$3,000**

- Half-page black and white advertisement in festival program (5.5 x 4.25")
- Listing on banners, signage, event t-shirts and flyers
- Listing featured in at least 2 dedicated e-blasts to festival invitees and attendees
- Listing displayed on Burst Into Books website for one year
- Recognition in selected press materials, event advertising and promotional materials (print and electronic)
- Vendor table (includes one 8 foot table and 2 chairs)
- Formal Bronze Sponsor acknowledgement throughout the festival



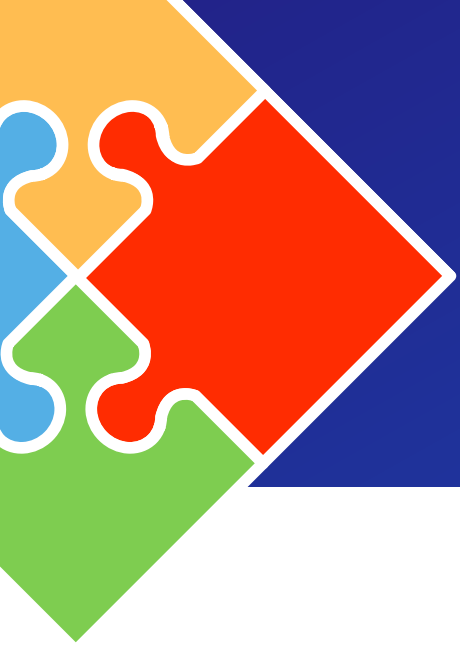


# COMMUNITY SPONSOR

**\$1,000**

- Formal acknowledgement throughout the festival
- Listed on printed materials and website
- Vendor table (includes one 8 foot table and 2 chairs)





# VILLAGE SPONSOR

**\$5 TO  
\$999**

- Name acknowledged on the website



# Planning Committee Members



## PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Name	Organization
Jurema Gorham	Burst Into Books
Eve L. Ewing	Author/Professor/Crescendo Literary
Nora Brooks Blakely	Brooks Permissions
Jeff Deutsch	57th Street Bookstore/Seminary Co-op Bookstore
Ydalmi Noriega	The Poetry Foundation
Duane Davis	My Very Own Library
Heather Byrd	Young Chicago Authors/Byrd's World
Joseph Williams	Mr. Dads Fathers Club
Ken Bigger	American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries
Tressa Jones Beverly	Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature & Creative Writing (CSU)
Clancey D'Isa	57th Street Bookstore/Seminary Co-op Bookstore
Dr. Saba Khan Vlach	Assistant Professor, Elem. Literacy Educ. at University of Iowa
Keona Owens	Executive Director, Touch Gift Foundation
Jillian Abbinanti	Community Engagement Manager, 826Chi
Candice Washington	Brown Books & Paintbrushes
Jane Fleming	Director of Literacy (CPS)
Itzel Blancas	The Poetry Foundation (Representative)

Hosted by: **Burst Into Books**





# GALLERY

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED INDOORS



© Sterling L. Gilmore  
Photographer

© Sterling L. Gilmore  
Photographer

© Sterling L. Gilmore  
Photographer





# GALLERY

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED INDOORS



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# GALLERY

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED INDOORS





# GALLERY

A SNIPPET OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED OUTDOORS





# SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Words Of Wonder Literary Festival



SATURDAY

DAY



27

DATE



JULY

MONTH



2024

YEAR

*Stay tuned for more updates!*

[www.burstintobooks.org/wowlitfest](http://www.burstintobooks.org/wowlitfest)








Our 2024 Headliner  
Author is

*Derrick Barnes*

[WWW.DERRICKDBARNES.COM](http://WWW.DERRICKDBARNES.COM)







Our 2024 Illustrator  
Headliner is

*Vanessa Brantley-Newton*

[WWW.VANESSABRANTLEYNEWTON.COM](http://WWW.VANESSABRANTLEYNEWTON.COM)





# Thank you for your time...

We hope you'll join and  
support this essential event.



## PHONE NUMBER

312-970-9551



## EMAIL ADDRESS

wowlitfest@burstintobooks.org



## WEBSITE

www.burstintobooks.org

