

ANNE FRANK PROJECT'S 13TH ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 13, 14, & 15
REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT
WWW.ANNEFRANKPROJECT.COM



AFP 2021: Believe. Inspire. Achieve.

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About the Anne Frank Project

The Anne Frank Project is a social justice initiative of SUNY Buffalo State. What began as a theater department production in 2006 has evolved into a distinctive reflection of the college's diversity, community, and global mission, articulated throughout the year with local, national, and international programming. Using story-building as its primary vehicle, AFP provides tools and vocabulary for conflict resolution, community-building, and identity exploration. AFP strives to honor and continue the stories of Anne Frank and the countless victims of oppression whose stories were unjustly cut short. AFP welcomes you to *believe, inspire, and achieve* in the spirit of the project's namesake, with open eyes, open ears, and open hearts.

Our Theme

The Anne Frank Project's thirteenth annual social justice festival supports the theme for the 150th Anniversary of SUNY Buffalo State: "Believe. Inspire. Achieve." These three words symbolize the storyline of our students' journey through college, and the people and experiences that strengthen them. The workshops, artwork, and speakers at AFP 2021 will focus this storyline through the lens of social justice: Who or what pushes us toward excellence amidst the multiple odds and obstacles against us? This year's festival seeks multidisciplinary workshops and artworks that define and expose the Belief and Inspiration required to Achieve an improved world.

"How wonderful it is that we need not wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world."

— Anne Frank

www.annefrankproject.com

Campus Spotlight at AFP 2021

It has been a tradition for AFP to highlight the excellent research, scholarship and creative activity accomplished by Buffalo State faculty and staff. It is our pleasure to spotlight the Exceptional Education Department for the 13th annual social justice festival. *AFP 2021: Believe. Inspire. Achieve.* focuses on the who and what that drives us to succeed. The Exceptional Education Department provided two sessions that speak to the tools and vocabulary that inspire us to believe in and achieve an improved world.

Friday, October 15

12:00-1:00pm

Believe, Inspire, and Achieve through Project-Based Learning

Nell K. Duke, Ed. D., University of Michigan

Remote - ZOOM

1:00-2:50pm

Spoken Word Book Study

Dr. Douglas "Sage" Hoston and Judi Harris, MS. Ed., Lecturer, Exceptional Education, and Buffalo State Learning Community Students

We are pleased to spotlight the work of our students and colleagues and look forward to featuring a different department or office on campus each year.

The featured speaker session *Believe, Inspire, and Achieve through Project-Based Learning* with Nell K. Duke, Ed.D., University of Michigan, is made possible by the Horace Mann Exceptional Education Endowed Chair, Dr. Larry Maheady. We are grateful for your support!

A Welcome from President Katherine Conway-Turner

Welcome to Buffalo State's 13th annual Anne Frank Project Social Justice Festival!

This year is especially memorable to the Buffalo State extended community. We not only again come together to lift our voices in dialog and connective conversation, but we convene our festival in the year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of our great institution. This year will be a time of reflection of the past, a close look at our current situation and to explore the promise of the future. Our 150 years has reflected the changes of our times and the growth and development across campus. It is clear that AFP is an important part of our Buffalo State history.

During this year's festival, we will have conversations as we continue to manage the worldwide health crisis that encircles us and the recalcitrant racial disparities that our communities face. Again, I remind us that these are not easy times, but together "when spiders unite, they can tie down a lion". Change that has seemed impossible can occur.

As we participate in the 2021 Anne Frank Project Social Justice Festival, I encourage all participants to believe in themselves and the power of a diverse group of people when open and authentic to see new solutions to what seem like intractable problems. As you sit together and listen and learn, it is important to be open to inspiring others around you as you will be inspired by the life histories, knowledge, and passion of others. I have so many times received a tremendous burst of energy and inspiration by even what might have seemed to others a casual exchange. Embrace the value in your discussions and networks during the festival. And finally, may together we achieve significant and long-lasting movement toward realizing our goal of a more just and equitable community -- free of the biases that linger.

I wish you all a rewarding, energizing festival that will raise your commitment and work to new heights.

Sincerely,
Kate Conway-Turner

Featured Speakers and Artists

In order of appearance

Samantha Turner, PMP

Wednesday, October 13 at 9:00am, Social Hall, Campbell Student Union.



Samantha Turner (She/Her) is an appointee in the Biden-Harris Administration as a Senior Advisor in the US Agency of International Development (USAID). Sam is an inclusive leader, international speaker, expert facilitator, and change maker with expertise in gender equality, diversity equity & inclusion, national security, public and foreign policy, STEM, and organizational change management. A West Point and Stanford University graduate with more than 14 years of leadership experience, first leading Soldiers and now leading at the executive level, fostering innovation within the US government, NATO, allies, and partners all over the world. Sam excels in leading cross-cultural teams to accomplish goals utilizing technical, military and business acumen to bridge the understanding gaps within those teams to drive innovative solutions from ideation to implementation.

Featured Fusion Performance Artists:

Naila Ansari, Marquis Burton, Curtis Lovell, Omni Prism, Edreys Wajed

Thursday, October 14. 12:30pm. Czurlis-Nelson Gallery, Upton Hall.

We are tied into a chronological braid rooted to the past, a braid, a legacy, a culture that is woven through the hands of action and artifact. This performance is a happening that brings presence to the interplay of this phenomenon, creating a contemporary conversation of Black experience. From spontaneous moments of dance, spoken word, music, and mark making, artists will create a dialogue that spawns a tangible object, lived in the present, and recorded for posterity as a visual artifact.



Nell K. Duke, Ed. D.
University of Michigan

Friday, October 15 at 12:pm, Remote Session – ZOOM.



Nell K. Duke, Ed.D., is a professor in literacy, language, and culture and also in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Duke's work focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in economic poverty. She has served as Co-Principal Investigator of projects funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, and the George Lucas Educational Foundation, among other organizations. Duke has been named one of the most influential education scholars in the U.S. in EdWeek. In 2014, Duke was awarded the P. David Pearson Scholarly Influence Award from the Literacy Research Association, and in 2018 she received the International Literacy Association's William S. Gray Citation of Merit for outstanding contributions to research, theory, practice, and policy. Among other roles, Duke serves as the informational text advisor for Molly of Denali available at <https://pbskids.org/molly/>.

At-A-Glance Schedule

Register online at www.annefrankproject.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Time	Session	Resources
9:00-10:50 a.m.	<p>Festival Welcome <i>Dr. James Mayrose, Provost, SUNY Buffalo State</i></p> <p>Featured Speaker Samantha Turner, PMP Inclusive Leadership in Action Social Hall, Campbell Student Union</p> <p>Hybrid: ZOOM URL</p>	Padlet: Inclusive Leadership in Action
11:00-12:50 p.m.	<p>The Movement of Joy <i>Assistant Professor Naila Ansari and Marquis Burton</i> "Ten Thousand" Social Hall, Campbell Student Union</p> <p>Hybrid – ZOOM URL</p>	<p>The Movement of Joy</p> <p>Ten Thousand Poetry</p>
1:00-2:50 p.m.	<p>Living the Journey from Genocide to Education: 180 Years of Collective Wisdom <i>Sophia Veffer and Mama Arlene Brown</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union</p> <p>Hybrid – ZOOM URL</p>	Hope Made Real
3:00-4:30 p.m.	<p>Words Matter: The Power of Inclusive Language <i>Kara Oliver-Perez</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union</p> <p>Hybrid – ZOOM URL</p>	https://nfjcwny.org/
3:00-4:30pm	<p>Poetry for Protest <i>Dr. Gunilla Kester</i> Campbell Student Union 419</p> <p>Hybrid – ZOOM URL</p>	<p>Handout – Poetry for Protest</p> <p>http://www.gunillakester.com</p>
5:00-7:00 p.m.	<p>Donor Reception <i>Donn Youngstrom, Professor Emeritus, Drew Kahn,</i> <i>Director, Anne Frank Project</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union</p>	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

Time	Session	Resources
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Exploring Movement, Music, and Storytelling <i>Gaitrie Subryan</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union Hybrid – ZOOM URL	www.devibollywooddance.com instagram.com/devibollywood
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Intrepid Storybuilders: An Interactive Behind the Scenes with Artpark Bridges Anne Frank Project <i>Cynthia Pegado</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union Hybrid – ZOOM URL	Artpark Bridges
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	The Creative Process: Writing as Form of Social Justice, Personal and Global Healing Maria Perez-Gomez Campbell Student Union 419 Hybrid – ZOOM URL	The Magical Closet Mystery Series
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Contemporary Artifacts of Black Action <i>Featured Performance Artists: Naila Ansari, and Marquis Burton “Ten Thousand,” Curtis Lovell, Omni Prism, Edreys Wajed</i> Czurlles-Nelson Gallery, Upton Hall Hybrid – ZOOM URL	@omni_prism @edrys @naila_moves_joy @tenthousandpoetry
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Changing the World Via Podcast: Let's Create! Derick Sherrier and Adalisse Perdomo Remote – ZOOM URL	@thenewyorkdose
1:45-3:15 p.m.	Letters From Anne and Martin Anne Frank Center USA Alexandra Gellner, Mario Haynes, Parish Bradley, Olivia Konteatis Social Hall, Campbell Student Union Hybrid – ZOOM URL	www.annefrank.com @annefrankcenter
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	#MyStory Immigrant Narratives <i>Bridges from Borders, Yan Liu, Michael Mondolfo, Suny A., and Shir Paz.</i> E. H Butler Library Lobby Hybrid – ZOOM URL	https://bridgesfromborders.org/ Facebook: Bridges from Borders
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Artist Reception <i>Naila Ansari, and Marquis Burton “Ten Thousand,” Omni Prism, Edreys Wajed.</i> Upton Hall Lobby	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Time	Session	Resources
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Changing Spaces: Exploring Community Transformation through Conservation and Art <i>Nicole Mostert, EDU Africa</i> Remote – ZOOM URL	https://edu-africa.com/ A History of Apartheid in South Africa bring paper, pencil/pen and coloured pens, crayons, pastels, coloured pencils
9:00-10:50am	Inner Star: a new AFP play written by students, for students <i>THA 470 Ensemble Theatre students, Buffalo State</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union Hybrid – ZOOM URL	www.annefrankproject.com
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Break	
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Believe, Inspire, and Achieve through Project-Based Learning <i>Nell K. Duke, Ed. D</i> <i>University of Michigan</i> Remote – ZOOM URL	https://www.nellkduke.org/
1:00-2:50 p.m.	Spoken Word Book Study <i>Dr. Douglas "Sage" Hoston and Judi Harris, MS. Ed.,</i> <i>Lecturer, Exceptional Education, and Buffalo State Learning</i> <i>Community Students</i> Social Hall, Campbell Student Union Hybrid – ZOOM URL	Padlet: AFP Social Justice Festival Spoken Word

Session Descriptions

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Time, Title, Description

Location

9:00-10:50 a.m.

Festival Welcome and Featured Speaker Samantha Tuner: Inclusive Leadership in Action

Dr. James Mayrose, Provost, SUNY Buffalo State
Samantha Turner, PMP

Equitable and inclusive leadership is key to developing collaborative teams. How do leaders foster environments to make sure every voice is heard? Part one of this workshop shares stories about inclusive and exclusive leadership, and its effect on national security, public, and foreign policy. Part two of the workshop engages participants in the practical application of justice, equity, and inclusion work necessary to lead cross-cultural teams. The skills you learn may be applied in your next leadership experience.

[Remote: ZOOM URL](#)

11:00-12:50 p.m.

The Movement of Joy

Assistant Professor Naila Ansari and Marquis Burton “Ten Thousand”

Join Professor Naila Ansari and spoken word poet Marquis "Ten Thousand" Burton, as they explore joy through play, resistance, community, and self. “The Movement of Joy” defines and imagines joy through the archiving of performance, looking and shifting through the concept of oral histories to movement histories. This project is an exploration and series of embodied mediations of storytelling from an improvisational practice deriving from the African American experience. There is an emphasis on remembering and understanding the histories that live in our own physical bodies and words. “The Movement of Joy” is an ongoing practice aimed to amass joy testimonials through community, individual, honesty, and authentic artistry.

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM URL](#)

1:00-2:50 p.m.

Living the Journey from Genocide to Education: 180 Years of Collective Wisdom

Sophia Veffer, Mama Arlene Brown, and Drew Kahn

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM URL](#)

Sophia Veffer and Arlene “Mama” Brown are special members of the AFP family. Long before they joined our journey they were quite busy with journeys of their own...journeys that would shape their lives and the lives of thousands of others for over 180 years! To be more specific, 183 years! While living on opposite ends of the world both Sophia and Mama experienced the horrific and unexplainable darkness of Genocide: Sophia as young Jewish girl in Holland watching millions perish in Hitler’s death camps; Mama as a young, impassioned American whose Christian heart pulled her unwittingly into a front seat for the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. How did these two ‘normal’ women make sense of the senseless? Create meaning out of human destruction? Turn the awful into beautiful? The answer for both of them: Education. You now are a witness to a once in a lifetime experience to over 180 years of knowledge turned to wisdom via the heartfelt bridge of stories.

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Words Matter: The Power of Inclusive Language

Kara Oliver-Perez

This workshop takes an in-depth look at the power of words and the importance of using and developing a common language in order to build and empower communities. Language is important as it is how we communicate with one another across all lines. By using inclusive language we can create a better, and safer community spaces for all people

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Poetry for Protest

Dr. Gunilla Kester

First, we will study excerpts of three generations of Poets of Protest—such as Majakovsky, Neruda, Lorca, Edith Södergran, Lucille Clifton, Nikki Giovanni, and Jericho Brown—to accumulate a list of techniques and devices which we will put into practice. Once we have a toolbox, everybody will write a Poem of Protest addressing an issue they are concerned about, local or global. Finally, we will share what we wrote with our new writing community.

Campbell Student
Union 419

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Donor Celebration: Donn Youngstrom Featured Speaker Series

Donn Youngstrom, Professor Emeritus, Theatre, Drew Kahn, Director Anne Frank Project

‘How Wonderful it is that we need not wait a single moment before starting to improve the world’—Anne Frank. Donn Youngstrom has lifted those words from Anne Frank’s diary and made them a reality for the Anne Frank Project today. Mr. Youngstrom, a retired theater professor at SUNY Buffalo State, has made a generous gift of \$1,000,000 to the Anne Frank Project. With this amazing donation Mr. Youngstrom has single-handedly extended the reach of AFP’s programming locally, nationally and internationally. Specifically, the Donn Youngstrom gift will provide additional AFP staffing (in perpetuity), a state-of-the art remote learning and teaching laboratory and a distinguished speaker series bearing his name. Mr. Youngstrom’s extreme altruism will equip AFP with the tools to help bring us closer to Anne Frank’s audacious dream of an ‘improved world.’ Join AFP in celebrating the start of the Donn Youngstrom Featured Speaker series for upcoming Social Justice Festivals. *Light refreshments will be served.*

Campbell Student
Union Social Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

Time, Title and Description

Location

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Exploring Movement, Music, and Storytelling

Gaitrie Subryan

Step into the world of Indian dance. With its complexity, beauty, and detail. We will dive into the fundamental techniques of dance led by Gaitrie Subryan. Gaitrie has a background in Bollywood, Folk, and Kathak dance. She will share the basic understanding of hastaks (hand gestures), Tat Kaar (footwork), and storytelling through movement. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a short poem with recitation and movement. Performance, Lecture, and Interactive workshop taught by Choreographer and Founder of Devi Bollywood Performing Arts, Gaitrie Subryan.

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Intrepid Storybuilders: An Interactive Behind the Scenes with Artpark Bridges Anne Frank Project

Cynthia Pegado and Workshop Participants

The grit of compelling stories grows from confronting and surmounting obstacles. In this session participants will witness how two groups honor the courage of Anne Frank by stepping beyond their own physical and cognitive challenges to weave individual strengths into communal stories through the AFP process. After sharing the backstories of our AFP journey, we'll invite you, our audience, to practice elements of the story-building work through a collaborative style of physical and vocal expression to reflect on our time together.

The Creative Process: Writing as Form of Social Justice, Personal and Global Healing

Maria Perez-Gomez

I would like to present and discuss the evolution of El Closet from a 10 minute children's musical to a full length children's musical to a children's book series. In said presentation I would like to cover issues such as the creative process as well as those specific to the book's themes such as: cultural and emotional intelligence, environmental justice and personal and global healing through writing.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Contemporary Artifacts of Black Action

Featured Performance Artists: Naila Ansari, and Marquis Burton, Curtis Lovell, Omni Prism, Edreys Wajed

We are tied into a chronological braid rooted to the past. A braid, a legacy, a culture that is woven through the hands of action and artifact. This performance is a happening bringing presence to the interplay of this phenomenon. Creating a contemporary conversation of Black experience. From spontaneous moments of dance, spoken word, music, and mark making, artists will create a dialogue that spawns a tangible object, lived in the present, and recorded for posterity as a visual artifact.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Changing the World Via Podcast: Let's Create!

Derick Sherrier and Adalisse Perdomo

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

Campbell Student
Union 419

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

Czurles-Nelson
Gallery, Upton Hall

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

[Remote – ZOOM
URL](#)

Using The New York Dose brand as the lens, hosts will re/introduce participants to podcasting basics & guide them on how to produce their own. Participants will learn what TNYD is & how it operates as well as learn about podcast production (pre & post). Participants will walk away having created a mock version of their own podcast via break out groups.

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Letters From Anne and Martin

Anne Frank Center USA: Alexandra Gellner, Mario Haynes, Parish Bradley as Dr. King
Olivia Konteatis as Anne Frank

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

"Letters from Anne and Martin" is a theatrical production that combines the iconic voices of Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Developed from excerpts from "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" and Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," this piece showcases important messages from these legendary figures, as they write of their hopes and plans for a peaceful and unified world. This powerful performance touches both students and adults and demonstrates the universality of the human experience. A talkback occurs after the performance in which actors and audience members can begin to discuss themes of power, prejudice and resilience in the play. This will then be followed by a workshop where everyone in the space will engage in tableau work based on Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed.

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

#MyStory Immigrant Narratives

Bridges from Borders, Yan Liu

E. H Butler Library
Lobby

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

In our presentation, we will introduce the #MyStory project and the team working behind it. We will present the organization that runs this program, Bridges from Borders and understand its mission. Through an interactive experience, the session will expose the audience to the immigrant story, especially that of a family who moved to the United States and started a restaurant. The audience will have a chance to understand the hardships and the process that newcomers go through and the arduous journey they take to establish a successful business. Afterward, we will share a story we gathered from a co-owner of Taste of Siam, Mimi Sysomboune. With this, we will then stress the importance of sharing immigrant stories. Then, we will talk about how we have already done this with the #MyStory project and the effect we have created and will continue to create with the continuation of this project. We will give many opportunities throughout the presentation to discuss various prompts with the audience. We will leave 10-15 minutes at the end of the presentation for questions and a discussion about the presentation and any topics the audience may wish to reflect upon.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Artist Reception

Omni Prism, Edreys Wajed, Naila Ansari, and Marquis Burton "Ten Thousand"

Czurlen-Nelson
Gallery, Upton
Hall Lobby

Celebrate the collaborative performance artists at this years festival! *Light refreshments will be served.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Time, Title and Description

Location

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Changing Spaces: Exploring Community Transformation through Conservation and Art

Nicole Mostert, EDU Africa

This session focuses on the significance of spaces in the identity of a community and the power of nature and art to inspire the reclaiming of these spaces and as well the revival of community custodianship. In 2019, the World Bank recognised South Africa as the world's most unequal country: its economy does not equally benefit all of its citizens, and the richest 20% of people in South Africa control almost 70% of the resources. This inequality is a legacy of colonial and Apartheid history, and speaks to years of state sanctioned displacement of Black South Africans. This session highlights two South African activists who are using their passion for conservation and the arts to help communities rise up against these injustices and their spaces. Denisha Ananda is a masters student in environmental anthropology, from which she draws her theory to fulfill her role as Biodiversity Manager at Princess Vlei Wetlands in Cape Town, South Africa. Njabulo "Dirty Native" Hlophe is a three times Loerie Award Finalist (2019/20), a contemporary storyteller, a creative director, an illustrator and an artist with a particular talent and passion for street art. These South African voices share their own personal stories of overcoming obstacles and how their inspiration has impacted their communities to reclaim a sense of unity, pride and purpose amidst the challenges. Facilitated by Nicole Mostert, the session will incorporate pre-session as well as in-session videos to build visual and historical context, setting the foundation for interactive discussions with the local activists. Participants will then be guided through a creative art workshop looking at their own local spaces and how a community journey of art and conservation can transform space and overcome local challenges.

[Remote – ZOOM URL](#)

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Inner Star: a new AFP play written by students, for students

THA 470 Ensemble Theatre students, Buffalo State

Imagine a time in the not-too-distant future, where a not-so-unfamiliar virus has consumed the world. Now, imagine a time in the not-too-distant future where not-so-different social injustices have negatively controlled people all over the world. Finally, imagine being a not-so-happy teenager in the middle of this heavily oppressed world--what's a teen to do?! Top it all off with the typical pressures of adolescence: insecurity, anxiety and the desperate search for finding one's identity. What does all of this add up too? Say hello to Star, a bright 15-year-old girl whose unique appearance keeps her in a self-imposed social prison. Despite her parent's encouragement, she prefers not to be seen and resides in a lonely place where bullying is impossible. Until one day when she is magically lifted from her isolation and dropped into an astonishing land of segregation, hate and enslavement. The inhabitants of this dark world see Star as their bright light towards a world of Unity, Love and Freedom. The big question: How does Star see herself? Witness her amazing journey as struggles to find her Inner Star.

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

[Hybrid – ZOOM URL](#)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Believe, Inspire, and Achieve through Project-Based Learning

Nell K. Duke, Ed.D.
University of Michigan

Project-based learning is a long-standing approach to education, but it has never seemed more well-suited to preparing students for the future. In this presentation, Duke will share examples of project-based units that have been shown to foster achievement, inspire community engagement, and help us believe that students can contribute to creating a more socially just world.

[Remote – ZOOM URL](#)

1:00-2:50 p.m.

Social Hall,
Campbell Student
Union

Spoken Word Book Study

Dr. Douglas "Sage" Hoston and Judi Harris, Ms. Ed., Lecturer, Exceptional Education, Buffalo State and Learning Community Students

[Hybrid – ZOOM
URL](#)

Buffalo State's School of Education Teaching to Transform Lives Learning Community and the Urban Teachers Academy at McKinley High School (UTA) are programs designed to nurture and develop future educators. Our learning community engaged in a critical book study of *Black Appetite. White Food: Issues of Race, Voice, and Justice Within and Beyond the Classroom* by Jamila Lysicott, Ph.D. In addition, we utilized "spoken word" (Poetic Inquiry) in *Exe 100 Nature and Needs of Individuals with Special Needs and SPF 203 School and Society*. These two practices provide a space in classrooms today to address "criticality" one Gholdy Mohammad's framework as a tool to build literacy for all students. Both are dependent upon collaboration, are culturally relevant, and critically engaging. Using evidence-based practices that meet the needs of urban schools, these collaborative efforts promote student voice and engagement through storytelling. This workshop engages participants in a way that positions their cultural identity and perspectives of social inequalities. The book study and poetic inquiry address social justice issues, empower urban students, and effect the social change they want to see.

Biographies

Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D. was confirmed as the ninth president of Buffalo State College by the SUNY Board of Trustees on June 16, 2014. She is a lifelong learner, educator, scholar, author, and humanitarian. During her 31-year career, she has served in a variety of leadership and administrative positions as well as holding the rank of professor of psychology at five universities.

Most recently, Dr. Conway-Turner was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, from July, 2010 until July, 2014. From 2004 to 2009, she was provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY Geneseo. Dr. Conway-Turner was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware, where she also served as director of the women's studies program and graduate program coordinator.

She was an American Council on Education (ACE) fellow at the College of New Jersey, and she has held teaching positions at Santa Clara University and California State University, Long Beach.

In addition to her administrative responsibilities, teaching, and research, Dr. Conway-Turner regularly travels to Haiti to perform humanitarian work as a member of H.O.P.E., a nonprofit, volunteer organization based in Rochester, New York. Through this organization, she and her colleagues assist the people of Borgne, Haiti, in achieving equitable, just, and sustainable living conditions. Dr. Conway-Turner received her Ph.D. and M.A. in psychology and her B.A. in microbiology, all from the University of Kansas. As a first-generation college student, she embraces the transformative power of education. She has experienced firsthand the potential of schools like Buffalo State, and she views the college as a special place that does incredible work to move its students forward. In short, Buffalo State transforms lives.

Dr. Conway-Turner is married to Dr. Alvin L. Turner, a psychologist licensed in New York and Delaware and engaged in the independent practice of psychotherapy, supervision, training, and forensic psychological services. They have three daughters, Shana, Anya, and Jameela.

James Mayrose, Ph.D. Dr. Mayrose received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University at Buffalo. Dr. Mayrose joined the Buffalo State family in 2006 as an assistant professor in the Engineering Technology Department. He went through the academic ranks and was promoted to full-professor in 2015. He has served as Chair of the Engineering Technology Department, as Dean of the School of the Professions, as Interim CIO and VP for Enrollment, Marketing and Communications and now, since 2019 serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has been the recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2009), the Outstanding Faculty Member Award from the Campus Life Student Group (2010), and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2015). Outside of the world of academia, Dr. Mayrose was the founder and CEO of Tactus Technologies, Inc., a software company that specialized in virtual reality applications. Dr.

Mayrose was named "*Inventor of the Year*" by the Niagara Frontier Intellectual Property Law Association and Technical Societies Council in 2004, he received the small business *Innovation Award* from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce in 2011, and in 2014 he received the *Tibbetts Award for Innovation* from the U.S. Small Business Administration during a ceremony at the White House.

Anne Frank Center USA is committed not only to bringing Holocaust and human rights education to under-served schools, but also to using arts-based programming and theatrical performance as a tool to bring complex issues to the forefront. The Center works to combat all forms of injustice and champion the kinder and fairer world of which Anne Frank dreamed. We inspire every generation to build the more compassionate world Anne Frank envisioned and deserved.

Naila Ansari, a native of Buffalo New York, is a cum laude graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts program. She graduated with her MFA in Dance from the University at Buffalo with a departmental distinction for her thesis, "The Movement of Joy." Most recently, Naila has two publications in *Theatre Journal* and has had her choreography performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Naila is an assistant professor in Theatre at SUNY Buffalo State College.

Bridges from Borders Bridges from Borders is a non-profit organization located in Buffalo, New York. We work with a culturally diverse population to help them achieve their mental wellness by acknowledging and managing their quality of life. We provide immigrant mental health advocacy, counseling, and education. We engage the community in research and apply evidence-based practice for each immigrant community. We thrive to creatively advocate and empower the immigrant community and contribute to social justice.

Marquis Burton "Ten Thousand" Poet, Educator & Curator. Just Buffalo teaching artist Marquis "Ten Thousand" Burton is a spoken word poet, educator and curator. Working with Shea's Performing Arts, C.A.O.(Community Action Organization), Say Yes Buffalo and other non-profit and educational institutions he has taught young writers to discover their voice through poetry while celebrating their stories for more than a decade. He has represented Buffalo in National Poetry Slams for the past decade and has been the official team coach for 3 years. Marquis has also held the position of curator of poetry talent for the Music Is Art Festival for the past 6 years.

Arlene Brown Well, let see, where to start? I was born in 1930, That means this December I will have lived 91 years. Wow, that's a long time. My dad was Jacob a fun-loving Welsh coal miner my mom Ada was the daughter of a strong strict German farmer. Pennsylvania was the state of my birth and as you know in December Pennsylvania is extremely cold. So, I was born in the dead of winter and have been cold ever since. Reason number 3 as to why I moved to Rwanda. There is no winter there. I am the oldest of seven with 3 sisters and 3 brothers. I married at age 19. I am the mother of 5 two boys and 3 girls, grandmother of 17, and great gram of 26. Oh yes, lest I forget I am Great-Great Gram of 5. In my early years, I finished 12 years of Primary education, attended nursing school, Married, raised my kids, worked in an electronic establishment (GTE Sylvania / Primus electronics) for 21 years, was widowed, retired from the workforce at age 63. Traveled to Zaire, Africa at age 66 my second journey this time to Rwanda, Africa at age 72. Moved permanently to Rwanda at age 76 and established Urukundo Home for Children / Urukundo Learning Center. Thus began my golden years serving the vulnerable children of Rwanda with a purpose. That purpose is to provide quality education and a firm foundation on which they can build a better future.

Nell K. Duke, Ed.D., is a professor in literacy, language, and culture and also in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Duke's work focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in economic poverty. She has served as Co-Principal Investigator of projects funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, and the George Lucas Educational Foundation, among other organizations. Duke has been named one of the most influential education scholars in the U.S. in EdWeek. In 2014, Duke was awarded the P. David Pearson Scholarly Influence Award from the Literacy Research Association, and in 2018 she received the International Literacy Association's William S. Gray Citation of Merit for outstanding contributions to research, theory, practice, and policy. Among other roles, Duke serves as the informational text advisor for Molly of Denali available at <https://pbskids.org/molly/>.

EDUAfrica develops and facilitates Transformative Learning Journeys through Virtual Exchange, Faculty-led, Service Learning, School and Individual Study Abroad programs in Southern and East Africa.

Alexandra Gellner (Anne Frank Center, Educational Programming, NYC) is an actor and teaching artist who hails from Northern California and is now based in Brooklyn. She holds a MFA in Acting from The New School and a BA in Dramatic Arts and Psychology. Alexandra's professional work in theatre and film spans 20 years, having appeared on multiple off-Broadway and independent theatre stages throughout New York City. As a teaching artist, she has led workshops at The New School's Summer Stage Acting Intensive and collaborated with youth theater groups around the country. Ever since

Alexandra first read Anne Frank's diary at a young age, she has endeavored to spread the practice and importance of empathy through theatre and film. She is delighted and humbled to be working alongside partners like the Anne Frank Project to carry out that mission and honor Anne's legacy.

Judi Harris, MS Ed., is a retired Buffalo Public School special education teacher (30 years), 20 spent as a professional development specialist with the NYS VESID Special Education Training and Resource Center. For the past nine years, Judith has been a lecturer with SUNY Buffalo State's School of Education Exceptional Education Department.

Douglas "Sage" Hoston, Ph.D., earned his Ph.D. from SUNY, University at Buffalo, College of Education, Department of Learning and Instruction. As a graduate student under the advisement of Dr. Richard Lamb, he taught courses in Introduction to Higher Education and Education Research. He served as a Neurocognition Science Laboratory research assistant facilitating research projects involving neuroimaging and psychosocial measurement. The purpose of Dr. Hoston's research is to enhance the healthy negotiation of vulnerable students through higher education spaces. His research is at the intersection of Urban Education, Higher Education, and Science Education focusing on the conceptual framework and coping technique, John Henryism. He examines chronic stress's resulting harmful health effects within higher education systemic barriers through culturally specific interventions. His research also entails Culturally Responsive Poetic Inquiry which is the use of poetry to examine culture. This interpretive qualitative research method fuses aspects of Critical Race Theory, Arts Based/Informed Research and Post Colonialism. Consequently, this approach is particularly useful in urban educational settings, due the popularity of spoken word and slam-poetry among the youth in open communicative spaces. In this instance, words and presentation are the text that inform the poetic response.

[On the verge of expression- culturally responsive poetic inquiry: Douglas Hoston Jr. at TEDxWSU 2014 - Bing video](#)

Kara Oliver-Perez A seasoned diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and racial-equity consultant, coach, influencer, programmer, author, facilitator, and educator, Kara Oliver-Pérez, M.S. is passionate about creating opportunities for individuals and groups to discover new ways of thinking about diversity, develop anti-racist and social justice frameworks, and create strategies that will support them in achieving their DEI goals. With over 10 years of experience partnering with for-profits and non-profits, academic institutions, government, and law enforcement agencies, Kara has a wealth of knowledge that has inspired her clients to develop effective DEI programming, best practices, and anti-racist tactics. As an extension of her organizational work, Kara continues to use her creativity and passion for DEI to develop children's books and merchandise. In 2019, she published her first award-winning children's book, *You Go Girl: A Letter to Young Queens* to help inspire children of color to understand the beauty of sisterhood and diversity, and has since established her own publishing company, Native Pens Collaborative Publishing. Kara holds B.A. in Communications from Niagara University and an M.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Creative Problem-Solving. She is a talented speaker who has presented at several conferences including TEDx Buffalo. Kara is a facilitator and consultant for the National Federation for Just Communities of Western, NY as well as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Tapestry Charter School an inaugural role.

Michael Mandolfo is a fine art photographer based in Buffalo, New York. He holds a BFA in Fine Art Photography from SUNY at Buffalo. He has won numerous national and international awards for commercial photography and video production. In 2010 Michael designed the The Arcangel Gallery at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens and was the solo artist in its inaugural show. His work explores coexisting cultures in America and he enjoys discovering the way elements of culture can be expressed as a unifying force rather than a dividing one.

Nicole Mostert Nicole grew up in Vancouver, Canada where she completed her degrees in Psychology and Social Work. After graduation, she travelled to South Africa and fell in love with the richness and depth of this beautiful country and its people. Cape Town has now been her home for the last 16 years where she has spent her time working in the areas of education, social justice and community development. Her work with EDU Africa perfectly unites her passion for serving in local communities, her love of working with people and her belief in the transforming power of inter-cultural education.

Drew Kahn, Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Buffalo State, has taught acting, devised theater (*President's Award for Excellence in Teaching/SUNY*) and directed productions (*Kennedy Center Award*) for 26 years. He taught K-12 populations for 10 years previous to his work in higher education. He is the founding director of *The Anne Frank Project*, a multi-layered social justice initiative at SUNY Buffalo State that utilizes the wisdom of Anne Frank as a springboard for the examination of genocide and intolerance through the lens of story and performance. He presents and teaches internationally on the universal language of theater and the intersection of story, conflict resolution, and community-building—most recently in Rwanda, Kenya, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Vietnam, Morocco, New Zealand, Greece, Croatia and Turkey (*Toby Ticktin Back Award for Holocaust Education, Community Leader Award, National Federation for Just Communities*). Professor Kahn's book, *Story Building: A Practical Guide for Bringing the Power of Stories into the Classroom*, is used by teachers and community leaders all over

the world. Professor Kahn has extensive acting experience in professional theater (Andre' DeShields' original cast of *Saint Tous*), feature film (Paramount Pictures' *Necessary Roughness*) as well as several television and commercial credits. In Buffalo, New York, he was the host of WKBW-TV's (ABC) *AM Buffalo* for six years, hosted the WNED (PBS) documentary, *Saving a Landmark: The Darwin Martin House (National Telly Award)*, and has numerous local stage credits including *In a Dark, Dark House*, *Lobby Hero*, *A Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and *Baltimore Waltz (ArtVoice Artie Award)*. He received an MFA from Southern Methodist University and a BA from San Diego State University. His favorite roles are husband to his wife, Maria, and dad to his children, Sam and Nate.

Gunilla Kester, Ph.D. A native of Sweden, Gunilla Theander Kester, Ph.D. came to America on a Fulbright Scholarship. She's the author/editor of six books in three genres and an accomplished classical guitarist. Recent projects includes a new book of poetry and a 350 page Memoir.

Cynthia Pegado is director of Artpark Bridges, a community engagement program dedicated to empowerment, healing and creative expression through the arts. Cynthia designs custom-made programs for adults of diverse backgrounds and abilities. Her work empowers people to find their voices, showcase their talents and gain a sense of inclusion and purpose. Specific priorities and needs of community groups and people served by human services agencies in Erie and Niagara Counties are woven into creative interaction with art and nature at Artpark. Cynthia holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts cum laude in Dance Performance from University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. As a dance artist, her professional performance career took her to stages and audiences across the world. Unique local settings now inspire her to create and perform site-specific work and immersive performance. On the SUNY Buffalo State College campus, her award-winning program Art Moves Me at Burchfield Penney Art Center inspires people with neurological movement disorder disease to interpret art through dance in the galleries and perform on the museum's Front Yard. As a visual artist in sculpture and photography, Cynthia's work has been exhibited at the Burchfield Penney, the Castellani and at Artpark as Artist in Residence.

Adelisse Perdomo Adaloso is an Afro-Latina, NYC native from Washington heights! And the Cofounder/COO/media-maven for TNYD. She started sharing her mind, advice and laughs on the mic back in 2016 on "the Bodega Podcast" which was rebranded into The New York Dose. She is also a professional dancer with training in ballet, modern, African fusions and salsa, Performing with artists in NYC & internationally.

Maria Perez-Gomez graduated with a BA in Communications and a Minor in Vocal Technique from Sacred Heart University of Puerto Rico and Buffalo State College in 1992. She's an honorary founding member of Raíces Theatre Company where she first wrote the children's musical El Closet soon to be published as a children's book, The Magical Closet Mysteries. In her children's book, she addresses issues such as cultural and emotional intelligence, environmental justice and healing through story telling.

Derrick Sherrier DJ is an Afro-Latino, NYC-native from Brooklyn who has a Life-Focus in Arts & Entertainment. He is the Co-founder/host & CEO of The New York Dose brand and Founder of the Carbon Dioxide Network. His other artistic mediums include: Acting, playwriting, poetry, & directing. Other places to catch him podcasting are: @WoodMorningTP & "614 Things".

Gaitrie Subryan is an Educator, Performer, Choreographer, Teaching Artist, and Yoga Instructor. She founded Buffalo's first Bollywood dance classes, Devi Bollywood Performing Arts in 2013. Gaitrie's training with Indian dance consists of Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Garba, Bhangra, and Semi-Classical dance. Gaitrie's work has evolved through her continuous dedication to learning Indian Classical dance which has given her a very unique style of choreography. She is currently studying Kathak dance.

THA 470 Ensemble Theatre Students write new plays about social justice issues based on specific prompts. The Spring 2021 class created a play that reflected the quarantine experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Plays are then toured to local K-12 schools where students watch the play and participate in an AFP Story-Based Learning workshop with the college students. THA 470 is taught every semester by Professor Drew Kahn, Director of the Anne Frank Project.

Sophia Veffler, a survivor of the Nazi campaign that orchestrated the systematic slaughter of more than six million European Jews during World War II, was born in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1929. Her father was a stamp dealer and the family lived in a middle-class neighborhood where Veffler attended school with Anne Frank. Veffler became a special education teacher, receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Buffalo and her master's degree in special education from Buffalo State College. She also raised three sons, all of whom are now successful attorneys. Veffler began publicly sharing her story several years later. She has taught thousands of students and young adults the important lessons of the Holocaust and other mass atrocities. In January, 2006, Veffler received the National Conference for

Community and Justice Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award for outstanding leadership in promoting goodwill and understanding in the community. That same year she was contacted by Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, who requested her assistance with his theater production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and became a founding member of the Anne Frank Project. Sophia is a past president of the Women of Studio Arena Theater and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo where she currently serves on its Executive Board. In addition, Sophia serves on the Advisory Committee of the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York. In May, 2019, she was named an honorary doctor of humane letters by the State University of New York.

Edreys Wajed, American, born 1974 Edreys Wajed is an artist, educator, performer, and entrepreneur based in Buffalo. Wajed was one of the four artist that completed *The Freedom Wall* and is currently working on a yet to be titled downtown mural with the Albright-Knox Public Art Initiative. He shows extensively in Buffalo and currently has an exhibition on view at Buffalo Art Studios. Wajed is well known locally as a multi-talented artist expressing his talents through the creation of jewelry, spoken word, music, and educational activities. Wajed has said of his artistic ambition that his “inspiration is to actually BE an inspiration. I want to be an inspiration to others through my thoughts, words and actions.” Wajed’s unyielding positivity and generous spirit result in a visionary practice that is the culmination of a committed and sensitive observation of the world. This provides Wajed with purpose larger than himself; one that he shares generously to inspire those around him to “get real for real results.”

Yan Liu is the founder and president of Bridges from Borders. Yan positions herself as an entrepreneur with a mindset of a global citizen. She dedicates herself to advocating for social justice, to promote culture diversity, and develop youth leadership. This passion led Yan to found Bridges From Borders, in July 2020, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to assist all those who immigrate to the United States. As president, Yan ensures that her nonprofit is poised to support mental health advocacy, culturally appropriate counseling and social justice promotion to their target populations who are immigrants, refugees, international students and oversea employees who are undergoing cultural transition. Born in China, Yan was educated in China and US, worked in Asia, Europe, Africa and America with over 20 years experience in diverse consulting fields. She earned an M.S in Mental Health Counseling from the University at Buffalo in 2020; an MBA degree from University of Illinois at Chicago in 2014 and a bachelor’s degree in International Economic Law in China. She has been a certificated Lawyer in China since 1998.

Donn Youngstrom Donn Youngstrom joined the faculty at Buffalo State in 1994 following an extensive theatrical career. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in history from Lewis & Clark College, he studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts/West. He began his career acting and directing in semi-professional theaters in LA and later Seattle. He relocated to New York City, where he joined CSC Rep, a classical repertory company. In 1984 he played the lead in *Comus* directed by Donald Savage as part of a Milton Festival at Buffalo State. There he met Donna and Dennis McCarthy, as well as Horace (Hank) Mann. At the urging of Dr. Savage and Dr. Mann, Donn completed a master’s in fine arts in directing at Brooklyn College. He subsequently taught as a Lecturer at East Carolina University for four years before returning to New York City as an adjunct professor. In 1994 he was invited by the Chair of the Theater Department, Donna McCarthy, to return to Buffalo State, this time initially as a full-time temporary faculty and later tenured faculty member. Mr. Youngstrom retired in 2018. As a member of the Buffalo State faculty, Mr. Youngstrom left a lasting impression on countless students, in his classes and as a director of 22 student productions. He served as chair of the Theater Department and was a member of the Faculty Senate. He has also been a long-time member of the Anne Frank Project advisory board.

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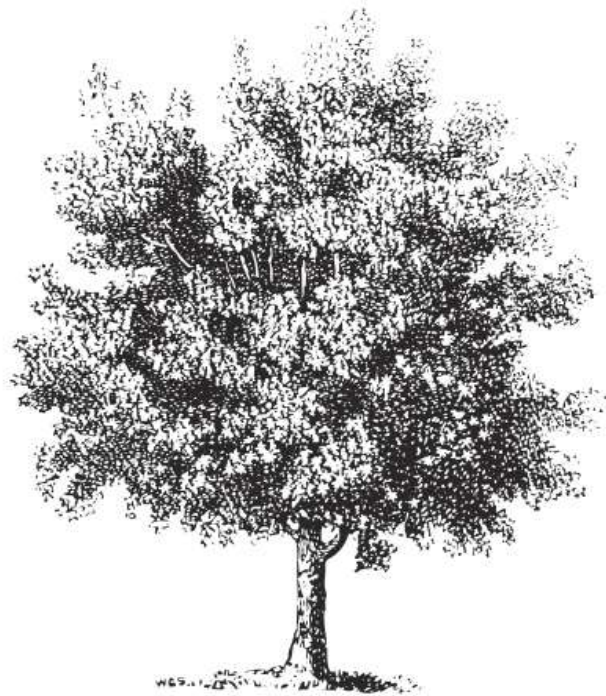
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