

# ACTIVITY REPORT

HISTORY OF  
BLACK WRITING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

JULY 2018 - DECEMBER 2021

*The History of Black Writing (HBW), founded in 1983 at the University of Mississippi and located at the University of Kansas since 1998, has promoted research and inclusion in higher education for nearly 40 years. Guided by a collaborative work model, HBW is best known for literary recovery and preservation; digital scholarship and access; professional development and curriculum innovation; and public humanities programming. The project staff is composed primarily of undergraduate and graduate students with one full-time staff member, all led by a faculty director.*

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## Leadership

**Ayesha Hardison**  
*Director, 2021 - Present*

**Maryemma Graham**  
*Founding Director, 1983-2021*

### Advisory Board

Kathleen Bethel, *Northwestern University*  
 Amy Earhart, *Texas A&M University*  
 Howard Rambsy II, *Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville*  
 Kenton Rambsy, *University of Texas at Arlington*  
 Joyce Hope Scott, *Wheelock College*  
 Jerry W. Ward, Jr. (Emeritus), *Central China Normal University*  
 Doretha Williams, *National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## From the Director

*Now entering its 39th year of recovery work, preservation, and public humanities, HBW continues to support talented graduate and undergraduate students, provide professional development opportunities for faculty, and plan programs to promote and critically engage Black writers.*

As the new director of the History of Black Writing, I am delighted to introduce the many programs and accomplishments the project has implemented and achieved in the past three-and-a-half years. During this time and under Dr. Maryemma Graham's dedicated direction, HBW has grown exponentially in terms of both human resources and external funding. I am enjoying working with Maryemma as she phases into retirement. As you can imagine, I have learned much from her knowledge, experience, and leadership. I am honored to continue the legacy she has built with HBW.

While I have served as the University of Kansas representative to HBW's Advisory Board since 2016 (which is just one year short of my time at KU), my extensive work with the project truly began this past summer when I co-directed the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute *Hurston on the Horizon: Past, Present, and Future* with Maryemma. Our July convening with 25 Institute participants entailed three weeks committed to intensive study, which covered everything Hurston, from her classic novels and ethnographies to her lesser-known plays and film work. We also

continued our collaborative engagement into the fall semester with three webinars featuring the late Hurston biographer Valerie Boyd, writer Tayari Jones, and philosophy scholar Dr. Lindsey Stewart.

At that time we did not know how very fortunate we were to have Valerie Boyd share with us her research journey with Hurston, an affinity she viewed as a higher calling, before her passing on February 12, 2022. We are grateful to have recorded her conversation with fellow Hurston scholar Dr. John Lowe so that people can continue to learn about Hurston as well as Valerie's critical contribution to a wider appreciation of Hurston's immense enrichment of American letters: [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_q34jtfrh](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_q34jtfrh).

In January 2022, HBW concluded *Hurston on the Horizon* with a mini conference attended by Institute participants and invited speakers Dr. Irma McClaurin, Dr. Marcus L. Harvey, and artist/curator Candice Hoyes. We also debuted HBW's interview with fiber artist Marla Jackson: [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_pucmqn0q](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_pucmqn0q).

## From the Director, cont.

As NEH Institute participants have planned panels for two academic conferences this year, I look forward to discovering how Hurston on the Horizon shapes the new wave of Hurston studies with generative scholarship and teaching. Whereas the Institute and its related programming exemplify the various ways HBW connects with scholars, students, and broad audiences, they are only a few of the ways HBW attempts to honor Black writers and, in turn, readers and scholars of the tradition.

Within these pages you will learn more about the programs HBW continues to deliver as we promote the recovery and widespread access to African American literature, including the Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP), Black Literary Suite (BLS), and Gems. You will also learn about our inter-institutional partnerships, including working relationships with Dr. Howard Ramsby, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Dr. Kenton Ramsby, University of Texas Arlington; the Textual Optics Lab, University of Chicago; HathiTrust Research Center; and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. You will also discover some of our new initiatives, such as the Black Books Network, internships, and fundraising campaigns, to support and facilitate students' academic learning, research training, and professional development. I hope you will feel and sense HBW's steady momentum-building for growth and innovation, which is not only demonstrated in the expansion of our staff from 8 to 22 graduate and undergraduate students, who bring new ideas and talents to the project, but is also signaled in our refined name, new branding,

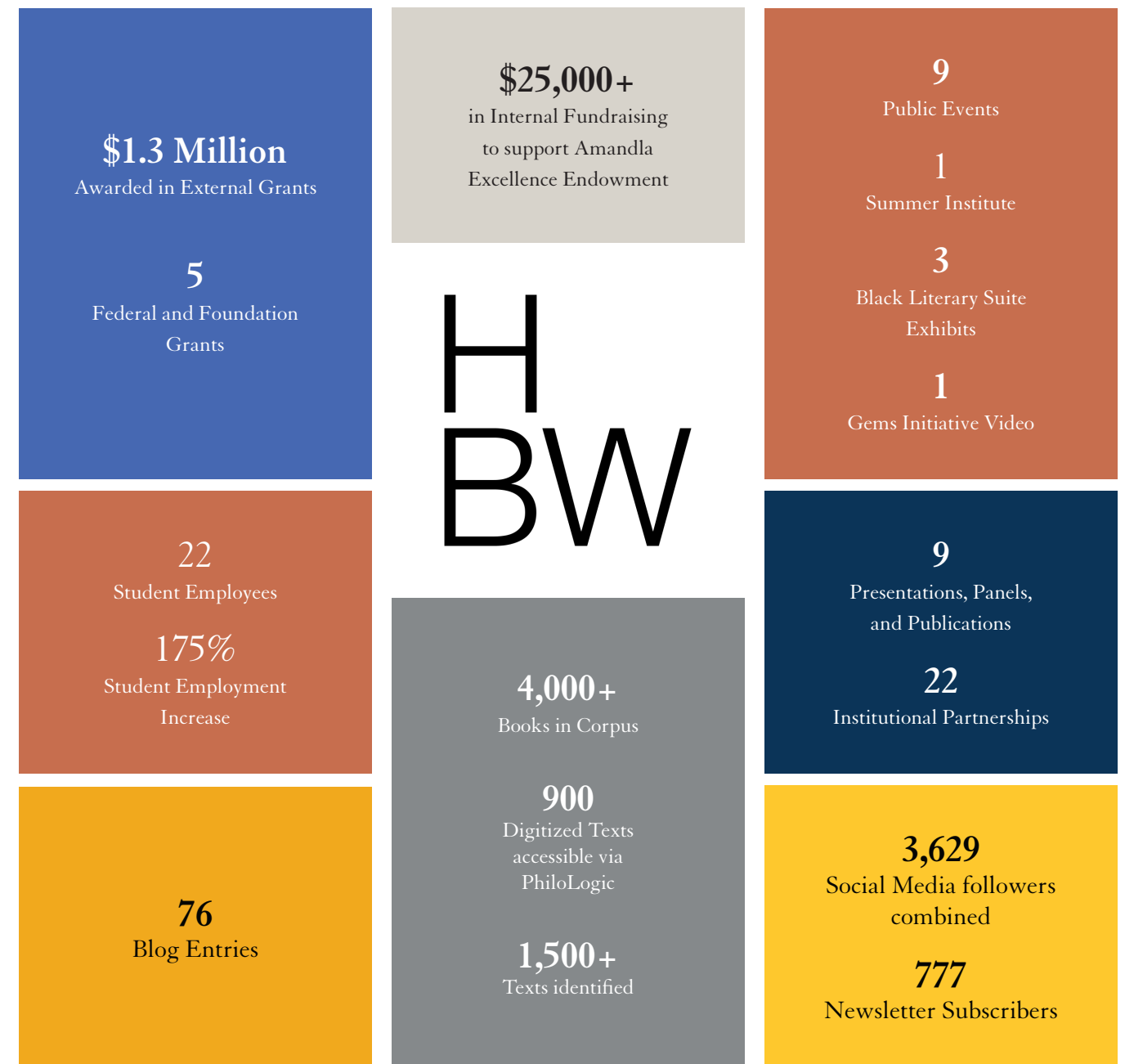
and forthcoming renovated website.

HBW is presently in transition—in all the exciting ways transformation promises. We are cataloguing our own history, reviewing our infrastructure and practices, and envisioning future directions with intention. We remain committed to HBW's longstanding mission and principles. We remain inspired by our aim to be at the forefront of higher education's research and inclusion efforts since HBW's founding at the University of Mississippi in 1983. I seek your ideas and support in this undertaking. Moreover, I hope you will accompany us as we forge HBW's next steps in celebrating 40 years of literary preservation, public programming, and community building as well as in planning for the decades to come.



— Dr. Ayesha Hardison, Associate Professor of English and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Director, History of Black Writing

## Numbers at a Glance: July 2018-Dec. 2021





## Activities

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### HURSTON ON THE HORIZON: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*NEH Virtual Summer Institute, July 2021*

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**Hurston on the Horizon: Past, Present, and Future** focused on Zora Neale Hurston's impact on American literature and culture as an author, anthropologist, journalist, filmmaker, and precursor to the applied humanities. It invited 25 participants to deepen their appreciation of this prolific writer and foster new directions for teaching and research.

- *Three-week virtual summer Institute.*
- *Leading scholars served as faculty and provided asynchronous lectures and synchronous discussions.*
- *Scholar-participants engaged in intensive study, rigorous discussion and collaborative work.*
- *Series of public post-Institute webinars with top Hurston scholars provided outreach to a broader audience.*
- *Virtual mini-conference January 28-29, 2022 reconvened the Institute participants to present on their work and featured a keynote address and artist interviews.*

#### Links

- *Schedule* ( <https://hurston.ku.edu/schedule> )
  - *Faculty* ( <https://hurston.ku.edu/faculty> )
  - *Scholars* ( <https://hurston.ku.edu/neh-summer-scholars> )
  - *Public Webinars* ( <https://hurston.ku.edu/news/webinars> )
  - *The Keynote Address*  
( [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_9cs645ke](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_9cs645ke) )
  - *Artist Interviews*  
( [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_pucmqn0q](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_pucmqn0q) )
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# THE GARRIES

AND

# THEIR FRIENDS.

BY

FRANK J. WEBB.

With an Introductory Preface by

MRS. HARRIET B. STOWE,

AUTHOR OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

Activities, cont.

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**The Black Books Network** is a new digital initiative that will house HBW's expanding Novel Corpus (6,000+ titles) and create web resources that derive from and function in relationship to the Corpus:

Black Literature Network:

- *The Novel Generator Machine* – a virtual assistant providing book recommendations for user queries.
- *The Literary Data Gallery* – a collection of data visualizations derived from quantitative information about African American fiction.
- *The Multithreaded Literary Briefs* – a webpage that presents keywords and topics about Black fiction produced by participating scholars of literature.
- *The Remarkable Receptions* podcast – a series of audio narratives concentrating on popular and critical responses to prominent African American writers.

B<sup>2</sup> Digital:

- *An online platform to house HBW's expanding*

*digital inventory and provide a repository for completed and in-process digital publishing projects as well as DH training webinars and resources*

Funded by the Mellon Foundation and an NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, the Black Books Network builds upon models developed by project partners Howard Rambsy, Kenton Rambsy, and the IRIS Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. An additional project component is the Data Rangers Fellowship, a series of virtual workshops that equips undergraduates and graduate students with digital skills applicable across a range of disciplines, including: building websites, formatting media, and creating online exhibits.

Additional project partners include: Drew Davidson, KU's Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC), Afro Publishing Without Walls 2 (AFRO-PWW 2) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Marilyn Thomas-Houston; with special contributions by Hannah Park.

## Activities, cont.

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The Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) is an ongoing, multi-phase project that fills a notable void in the digital landscape as the largest database of African American novels, the HBW Novel Corpus, and its creation of a metadata schema that specifically accounts for race.

The Black Book Interactive Project – Extending the Reach (BBIP-ER, 2018-2020), sought to expand the HBW Novel Corpus in terms of the number of novels and also widen our network of users. We met and/or exceeded our grant benchmarks:

- 900 texts digitized and uploaded to the PhiloLogic user interface, and 1,500+ new texts identified
- Launched two cohorts of the BBIP Scholars Program in 2019 and 2020 for scholars, educators and students outside the Digital Humanities (DH) community

to receive DH training and access to HBW's Novel Corpus. This DH training included a total of 7 webinars and presentation of BBIP Scholars' work at a virtual mini-conference in April 2020

- Hosted a metadata workshop at KU with DH scholar Julian Chambliss in October 2019

The Black Book Interactive Project III (2021-2023) is the next phase of BBIP, and continues where BBIP-ER left off in the creation of the HBW Novel Corpus, by expanding the network of digital humanities scholars working with our collection.

Deliverables:

- 2,100 texts to be digitized and uploaded to the PhiloLogic user interface.

## Activities, cont.

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- Create a PhiloLogic user guide
- Launch two new cohorts of the BBIP Scholars Program "Introduction to Digital Humanities" in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

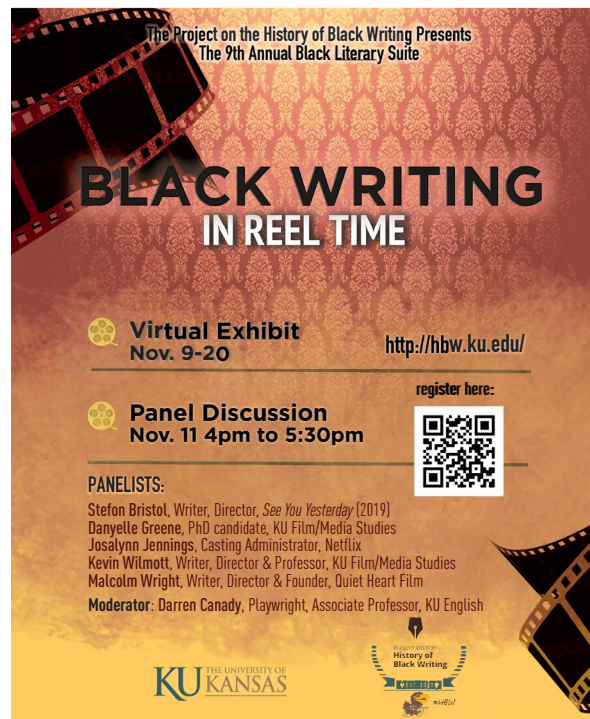
Links

- History of Black Writing Novel Corpus ([https://textual-optics-lab.uchicago.edu/black\\_writing\\_corpus](https://textual-optics-lab.uchicago.edu/black_writing_corpus))
- Scholars I (2019) (<http://bbip.ku.edu/scholars-i-2019>)
- Scholars II (2020) (<http://bbip.ku.edu/scholars-ii-2020>)
- Scholars III (2022) (<http://bbip.ku.edu/scholars-iii-2022>)
- Webinars (<http://bbip.ku.edu/webinars>)

### Scholar-Curated Worksets for Analysis, Reuse & Dissemination (SCWAReD, 2020-2022)

BBIP partners with the HathiTrust Research Center (HTRC) and serves as the flagship project on this collaborative endeavor where scholars create, analyze and reuse curated digital library collections, along with research data derived from these collections, with a particular emphasis on historically under-resourced and marginalized writings currently hidden among the vast collections of today's digital libraries.

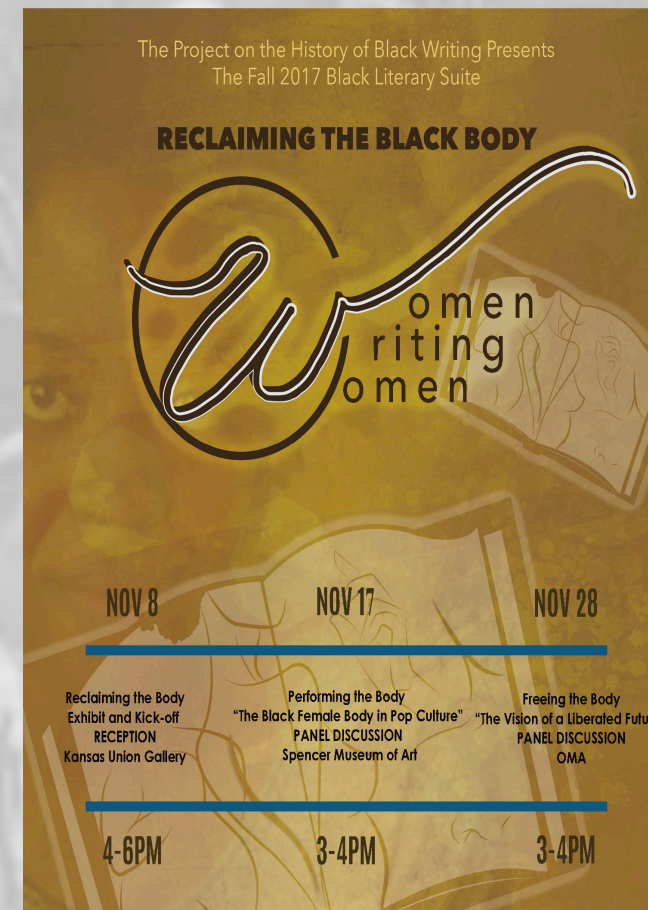
## Activities, cont.



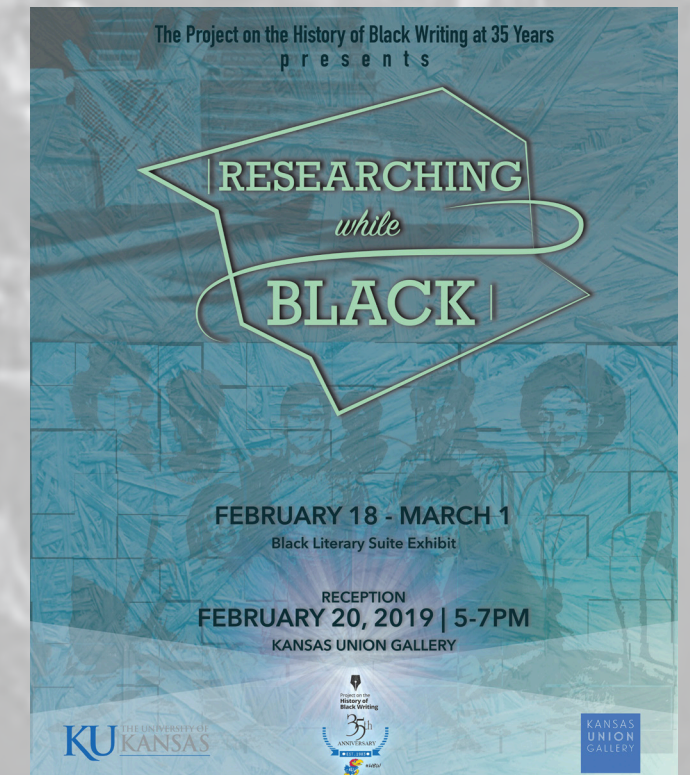
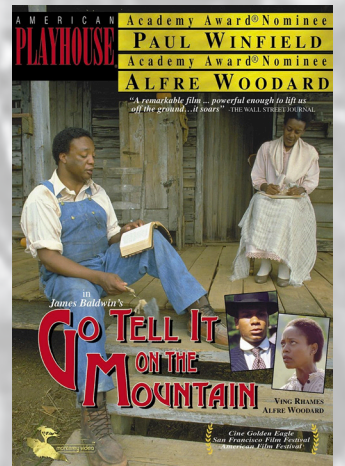
Since 2011, HBW's annual **Black Literary Suite** exhibit has the goal of educating a public audience on lesser-known figures in Black literature and the arts. This project also serves as an opportunity for members of the HBW student-staff to learn and refine their research skills through the planning and execution of the exhibit and accompanying program. After the public exhibit, the BLS is archived in KU's Digital Repository KU ScholarWorks.

- 2018 "Reclaiming the Black Body: Women Writing Women"
- 2019 "Researching While Black"
- 2020 "Black Writing in Reel Time"
- 2022 "Afro-Latinx Writers" currently in process

## Activities, cont.



- "Researching While Black" (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/28739>)
- "Black Writing in Reel Time" (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/31556>)



### Links

- [KU ScholarWorks](https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/26177) (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/26177>)
- "Reclaiming the Black Body: Women Writing Women" (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/26177>)



## Activities, cont.

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### Zora! Festival Internship

This annual January festival, which is held in honor of author Zora Neale Hurston and is hosted by the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community in her hometown of Eatonville, FL, includes academic conferences, exhibitions and cultural events. HBW has sponsored a student intern to support this event in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

#### Links

- [ZORA! Festival Season](https://zorafestival.org/) ( <https://zorafestival.org/> )

### Gems

In 2012, HBW launched its Gems media initiative to promote rigorous scholarship and to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of “forgotten” or “less-than-well-known” African American writers.

To date, our four *Gems* video presentations bring these writers’ lives and works to the foreground of discussion and remind us that recovery efforts are always ongoing.



Naomi Long Madgett

#### Links

2019: [Naomi Long Madgett: Poet, Editor and Educator](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WKhnjw1gU) ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WKhnjw1gU> )

### Blog

Launched in 2011, HBW’s blog celebrated 10 years of digital publishing in 2021. Guest contributors to the blog include leading scholars and writers, but the majority of the posts are conceived of, researched and written by undergraduate and graduate students. Its content includes book reviews, memorials, and coverage of HBW programming.

Number of blog entries published:

- 2018 (July-Dec): 27
- 2019: 26
- 2020: 23
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing – Preserving and Promoting Black Writing Since 1983](http://www.projecthbw.ku.edu/) ( <http://www.projecthbw.ku.edu/> )

## Activities, cont.

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### Social Media

HBW’s social media serves as the bridge between our academic research and a broader audience. Our social media gives us the ability to share the work we do by utilizing digital tools and platforms. We also regularly share and promote information about Black writing from other organizers and users in our effort to expand the visibility of Black writing. As of January 2022, HBW’s social media engagement is as follows:

- *Twitter*: 1,198 followers
- *Facebook*: 1,945 followers; 1,874 page likes
- *Instagram*: 486 followers

#### Links

@ProjectHBW on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

- <https://twitter.com/projecthbw/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/projecthbw/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/projecthbw/>

### Newsletter

Conceived of as a way to highlight blog content and provide updates on current projects, the HBW Newsletter published four issues each in 2019 and 2020. HBW staff plans to revive the newsletter in 2022 with a new format, look and focus on project updates.

- *Subscribers*: 777

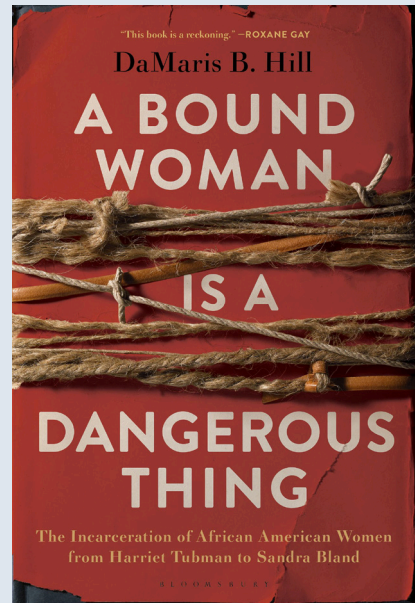
#### Links

- [The Project on the History of Black Writing June 2020 Newsletter](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing April 2020 Newsletter](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing February 2020 Newsletter](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing January 2020 Newsletter](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing December 2019 Newsletter, Edition #5](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing December 2019 Newsletter, Edition #4](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing October 2019 Newsletter, Edition #2](#)
- [The Project on the History of Black Writing Inaugural Newsletter September 2019](#)

## Special Events: Outreach and Public Programming

### A Bound Woman is a Dangerous Thing – Reading and Book Signing and Writers Workshop with DaMaris Hill, March 23-24, 2019.

HBW hosted author, scholar, and HBW alum DaMaris Hill for a public reading and book signing for her poetry collection *A Bound Woman is a Dangerous Thing*. Hill also conducted a writers workshop at the Lawrence (Kansas) Public Library that was free and open to the public.



### Symposium on Mass Incarceration March 23, 2019.

HBW hosted a Symposium on Mass Incarceration at the Lawrence (Kansas) Public Library. Speakers included Patrick Alexander (Prison-to-College Pipeline Program, Mississippi); Jerry W. Ward (New Orleans Justice Center, Louisiana); Brian Daldorph (Douglas County Jail, Kansas); and

Jennifer Wilmot (Criminalizing Girlhood Project, Kansas); as well as a quilt exhibit by Marla Jackson.

### Black Boy @ 75 Webinar April 23, 2020.

Marking the 75th anniversary publication of Richard Wright's autobiography *Black Boy*, scholar Howard Rambsy presented a webinar examining the ways that publishers sought to represent Wright's book to readers in ways that situate the book in different historical and aesthetic contexts.

Links  
• [Dr. Howard Rambsy II Webinar on Wright's Black Boy](#)  
([https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_zxe0zst9](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_zxe0zst9))



## Presentations, Panels, and Publications

Chakraborty, Arnab (BBIP Project Manager). "The Black Book Interactive Project: Methods, Applications, Refinements, and Hurdles." Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black Conference, October 2018, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. Presentation.

Wolfe, Erin (BBIP Consultant and KU Metadata Librarian). "Topic modeling: human vs machine." Digital Library Forum, October 2018, Las Vegas, Nevada. Presentation.

Graham, Maryemma (BBIP Project Director). "Digital Humanities, Inclusion, and Community Collaboration." Pre-Conference Workshop for the National Association of African American Museums Conference, August, 2019, Jackson, Mississippi. Panel.

Chakraborty, Arnab (BBIP Project Manager). "Rethinking Nature: Environmentalism and the Black Book." Written in collaboration with Erin Wolfe. Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities Forum, October 2019, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Presentation.

Wolfe, Erin (BBIP Consultant and KU Metadata Librarian). "The NLP Assistant: Computational text analysis as a helper for manual metadata creation." Access, October, 2019, Edmonton, Canada. Presentation.

Harrison, Jade (BBIP Project Manager) and Hamza Rehman (BBIP Staff). "Digital Tools, New Narratives: Lessons from the Black Book Interactive Project." From Lists to Links: New Directions in Black Bibliography, November 2019, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Presentation.

The Project on the History of Black Writing (PHBW) Special Session on Reading and Teaching Narratives, College Language Association Convention, April 2019.

Chair: Maryemma Graham, The University of Kansas

"Senior Readers and African American Narratives" Jerry W. Ward, Jr., Independent Scholar

"A Race in My Arms: Ida B. Wells, Autobiography, and the Problem of Reconstruction" Stefan Wheelock, George Mason University

"Frederick Douglass and African American Book History" Howard Rambsy II, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

## Presentations, Panels, and Publications, cont.

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"Narrating Black Womanhood in Poetry, Fiction and Film." College Language Association Convention, April 2019.

Chair: Ayesha Hardison, University of Kansas

"Did Frederick Douglass's mother/brush his hair in the morning?: Innovative Black Poetics and Black Womanhood in Contemporary Black Poetry"  
Morgan McComb, University of Kansas

"Biracial Identity in Contemporary Film: Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*"  
Mona Ahmed, University of Kansas

"Embodiment, Textuality, and Performativity in Southern Women's Fiction"  
Alysha Griffin, University of Kansas

Wolfe, Erin (BBIP Consultant and KU Metadata Librarian). "Natural Language Processing in the Humanities: A Case Study in Automated Metadata Enhancement." *The Code4Lib Journal*. Issue 46, 2019-11-05. Article. <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/14834>.



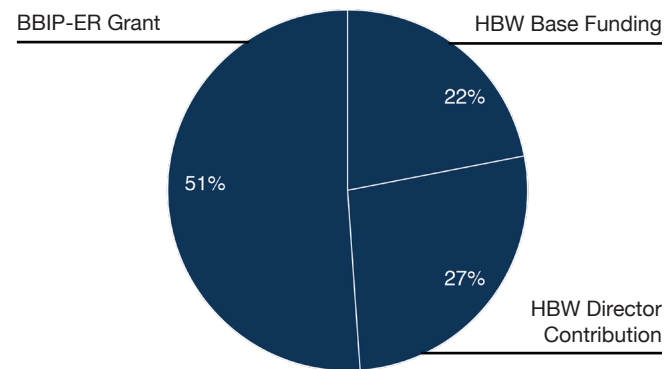
# Financial Report

## FISCAL YEAR JULY 2019

July 2018-June 2019

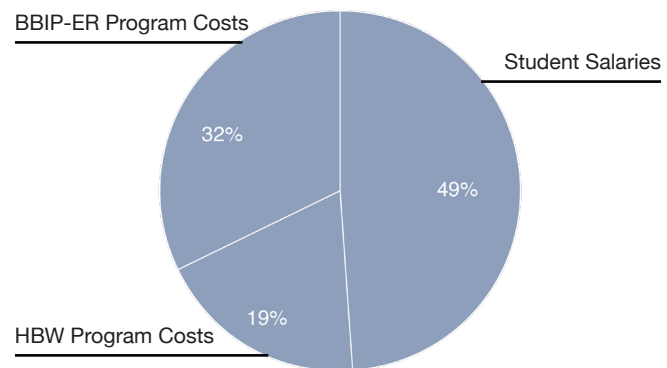
University of Kansas Base Funding	\$25,000
BBIP-ER ACLS Grant	\$56,579
HBW Director Contribution	\$30,714
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$112,293</b>

### TOTAL SUPPORT



Student Salaries	\$55,472
HBW Program Costs	\$20,995
BBIP-ER Program Costs	\$35,826
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$112,293</b>

### TOTAL EXPENSES



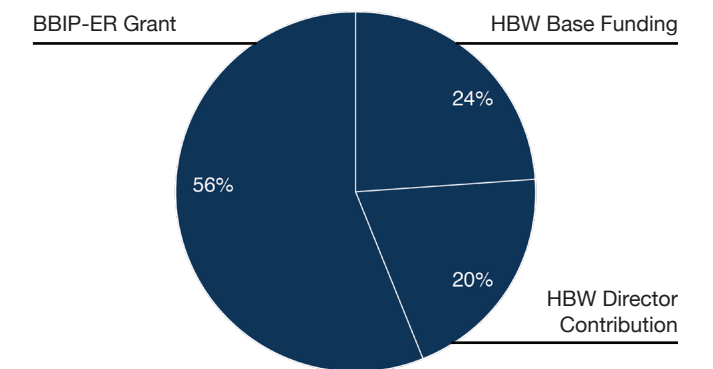
# Financial Report, cont.

## FISCAL YEAR JULY 2020

July 2019-June 2020

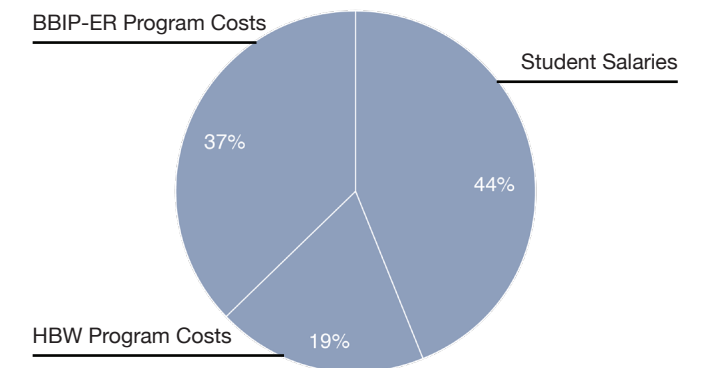
University of Kansas Base Funding	\$25,000
BBIP-ER ACLS Grant	\$60,079
HBW Director Contribution	\$21,678
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$106,757</b>

### TOTAL SUPPORT



Student Salaries	\$47,419
HBW Program Costs	\$20,012
BBIP-ER Program Costs	\$39,326
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$106,757</b>

### TOTAL EXPENSES

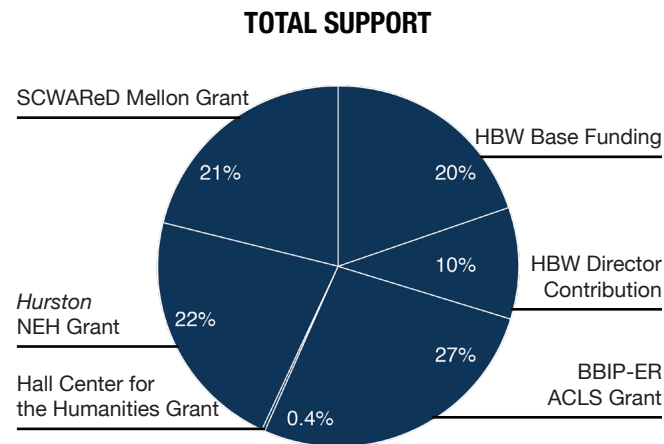


# Financial Report, cont.

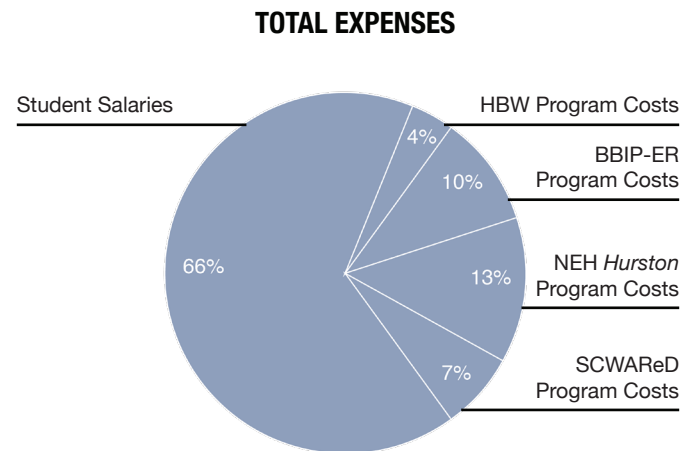
## FISCAL YEAR JULY 2021

July 2020-June 2021

University of Kansas Base Funding	\$25,000
HBW Director Contribution	\$11,803
BBIP-ER ACLS Grant	\$32,550
Hall Center for the Humanities Grant	\$500
Hurston on the Horizon NEH Grant	\$27,336
SCWAReD Mellon Grant	\$25,490
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$122,679</b>



Student Salaries	\$80,674
HBW Program Costs	\$5,240
BBIP-ER Program Costs	\$11,797
Hurston on the Horizon Program Costs <sup>1</sup>	\$16,334
SCWAReD Program Costs	\$8,634
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$122,679</b>



<sup>1</sup> Hurston on the Horizon funding dates were 10/2020-6/2022 with the bulk of the work completed and funds expended during the Summer Institute in July 2022 (outside the dates of this report).

# Grants, Endowments, and Funding

**University of Kansas**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, annual funding to support student salaries, outreach and public programs, and travel, \$25,000 (Ongoing).

### KUEA (Endowment Association) Current Balances

- *History of Black Writing Development*, \$23,525
- *Amandla Excellence Fund*, \$49,878

### Fundraising

- 2020, \$7,295 (toward the *Amandla Excellence Fund*)
- 2021, \$8,865 (toward the *Amandla Excellence Fund*)

### Grant Funding

**American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)**, "Black Book Interactive Project: Extending the Reach," \$150,000 (7/1/2018-9/30/2020), PI Maryemma Graham

**Hall Center for the Humanities**, University of Kansas, Supplementary Funding to support the Black Book Interactive Project, \$500 (10/2020), PI Maryemma Graham

**Mellon Foundation**, "Scholar-Curated Worksets for Analysis, Reuse & Dissemination (SCWAReD)," HathiTrust Research Center sub-award, \$78,432 (10/1/2020-9/30/2022), Co-PI Maryemma Graham

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR)**, "Black Book Interactive Project III," \$316,177 (7/1/2021-12/31/2023), PI Maryemma Graham

**Mellon Foundation**, "Stories for All: A Digital Storytelling Project for the Twenty-First Century," \$20,000 (9/1/2021-6/30/2024), Hall Center for the Humanities and the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, PI Richard Goodbeer with Co-PIs Najarian Peters, Sylvia Fernández, Ayesha Hardison, Nishani Frazier, Ignacio Carvajal, and Kent Blansett

**Mellon Foundation**, "The Black Literature Network: Building Knowledge through a Digital Media Datasphere," \$800,000 (10/1/2021-12/31/2024), PI Maryemma Graham, Co-PIs Howard Rambsy, Drew Davidson, and Kenton Rambsy

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Office of Digital Humanities**, "Building Literacy and Curating (Critical Cultural) Knowledge in Digital Humanities (BLACK DH)," \$325,000 (1/1/2022-12/31/2024), PI Maryemma Graham and Co-PI Marilyn Thomas-Houston

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**, "Hurston on the Horizon: Past, Present, and Future" Summer Institute, \$200,000 (10/1/2020 – 6/30/2022), PI Ayesha Hardison and Co-PI Maryemma Graham

# 2021: 23 Years at the University of Kansas



# Institutional Partners, July 2018-Dec. 2021

- Afro-PWW (Publishing Without Walls)
- American Council of Learned Societies
- Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community
- College Language Association
- English Department, KU
- Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center, KU
- Hall Center for the Humanities, KU
- HathiTrust Research Center
- HBCU Library Alliance
- Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, KU
- KU Endowment Association
- KU Libraries
- KU Union Galleries
- Mellon Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Office of the Chancellor, KU
- Office of the Provost, KU
- National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution
- Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
- Spencer Museum of Art, KU
- Spencer Research Library, KU
- Textual Optics Lab, University of Chicago
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, KU

## Current HBW Staff, 2021-2022

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Ayesha Hardison, *Director*  
Maryemma Graham, *Founding Director*  
Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt, *Research Project Manager*  
Storm Alicie, *Social Media, undergraduate Human Services and Education double major, Emerging Scholar*  
Amy Billings, *Black Books Network, English PhD student*  
Robert Cajas, *BBIP, undergraduate Anthropology and Latin American & Caribbean Studies double major, accelerated masters in Latin American Studies*  
Ross Copeland, *Black Books Network, undergraduate Computer Science major*  
Petre Dimitriu, *BBIP, undergraduate English major*  
Kai Hansen, *HBW Archive and Social Media, undergraduate English and Biology double major*  
Jade Harrison, *BBIP Coordinator and Hurston on the Horizon, English PhD student*  
Mahala Higginbotham, *BBIP, undergraduate English major*  
Sandra Jacobo, *BLS Coordinator, English PhD student*  
Amar Kamalulrahim, *BLS, undergraduate Finance and International Business double major, Emerging Scholar*  
Venkat Karasani, *Black Books Network, Computer Science MS student*  
Onat Kolcu, *BBIP, Political Science PhD student*  
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# Website and Contact Information

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## *Active Websites*

### **History of Black Writing**

<http://hbw.ku.edu>

### **Black Book Interactive Project**

<http://bbip.ku.edu>

### **Hurston on the Horizon** (2021 NEH Summer Institute for College Faculty)

<http://hurston.ku.edu>

## *Website Archives*

### **Language Matters**

<http://www2.ku.edu/~langmtrs/>

### **Language Matters II: Reading and Teaching Toni Morrison** (2005 NEH Summer Institute for High School Teachers)

<http://www2.ku.edu/~langmtrs/lmII/index.html>

### **Making the Wright Connection** (2010 NEH Summer Institute for High School Teachers)

<http://wrightconnection.ku.edu/blog>

### **Don't Deny My Voice: Reading and Teaching African American Poetry** (2012 NEH Summer Institute for College Faculty)

<http://dontdeny.ku.edu>

### **Black Poetry After the Black Arts Movement** (2015 NEH Summer Institute for College Faculty)

<http://blackpoetry.ku.edu>

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