

**Deadline Extended to January 10, 2025**

**Call for Proposals  
August Wilson Society's Biennial Colloquium**

**Celebrating 20 Years: August Wilson's Legacy and The  
Confluence of Voices in Literary and Cultural Expression**

**April 2-5, 2025**

**The Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA**

The year 2025 will mark August Wilson's 80th Birthday. It also marks the 20th anniversary of his death. As one of the nation's foremost literary figures, his body of work has and continues to influence literary figures and artists while simultaneously expanding audiences as a result of his lasting critical and commercial success. In honor of Wilson's secured legacy and his continuous renewal of one of America's greatest documentarians of the African American experience, the August Wilson Society invites proposals for its upcoming 2025 colloquium, **Celebrating 20 Years: August Wilson's Legacy and The Confluence of Voices in Literary and Cultural Expression**.

August Wilson's work is deeply rooted in the black experience, drawing from the blues, the cadences of Black speech, and the weight of historical memory. This gathering seeks to celebrate and interrogate Wilson's continued role as a towering figure in American literature and a connective thread to the broader tapestry of literary, artistic, and cultural production. Yet, his legacy also provides fertile ground for investigating intersections with other literary figures, artists, and thinkers who engage with similar themes of identity, resistance, community, and liberation. Additionally, Wilson remains a critical subject in recent and forthcoming scholarship, biographical sketches, and institutional archivation.

This colloquium calls on artists, scholars, educators, and cultural workers to consider how August Wilson's plays and philosophies serve as a lens to examine, engage, and expand other creators' works today. What conversations emerge when Wilson is in dialogue with contemporary literary and artistic figures? How does teaching Wilson's American Century Cycle and artistic ethos resonate across existing and emerging disciplines, generations, and cultural movements? How do new and forthcoming examinations of Wilson's life and body of work further expand our understanding of his contribution to arts and letters? By positioning Wilson within a more expansive and contemporary network of literary works and cultural voices, we seek to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and creative exchange.

The August Wilson Society welcomes proposals for papers, panels, performance pieces, and roundtable discussions that embrace this central theme through the prism of Wilson's art and politics. These approaches can include but are not limited to any one of the following:

- **Artistic Lineages:** Investigating how Wilson’s work influences or converses with others (i.e., playwrights, novelists, poets, or musicians).
- **Interdisciplinary Dialogues:** Exploring the intersections of Wilson’s plays with visual art, music, dance, or film.
- **Pedagogical Innovations:** Sharing teaching approaches and pedagogical methodologies that bring Wilson into conversation within classrooms, workshops, and public programming.
- **Comparative Connections:** Examining how Wilson’s works engage with or reflect the traditions and themes of other literary or dramatic works.
- **Community and Activism:** Investigating how Wilson and other cultural figures have used art to address systemic injustices and inspire social change.
- **Future Directions:** Speculate how Wilson’s legacy influences forthcoming artistic and scholarly works due to the advent of newly established archives and digital humanities.

**Submission Details:**

Please send your 250 to 500-word proposal in the body of an email to [awscolloquium2025@gmail.com](mailto:awscolloquium2025@gmail.com) by January 10, 2025. Responses will be acknowledged upon receipt, and final notifications will be sent out by January 30, 2025. Proposals should include each participant’s name, title, institutional affiliation (if relevant), email address, and preferred telephone number.

The 2025 Biennial Colloquium is in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Library System.

If you have any questions, please email Khalid Y. Long, Colloquium Coordinator, at [awscolloquium2025@gmail.com](mailto:awscolloquium2025@gmail.com).



**The August Wilson Society (AWS)**, a vibrant, nationally recognized organization, was founded in the spring of 2006 after the passing of August Wilson in 2005 at age 60. AWS is dedicated to commemorating Wilson’s life and work by promoting the study, teaching, performing, researching, and safeguarding of the rich legacy that he bequeathed to the world in the form of his American Century Cycle: 10 plays that chronicle the stories of African Americans from 1904 to 1997. AWS continually seeks ways to keep relevant this major writer who dedicated much of his artistry to rendering into poetry and drama the history – decade by decade – of African Americans in the 20th century.