



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

CO-PRESENTED BY The University of Pittsburgh Library System

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Opening Reception

Welcome Remarks from Kornelia Tancheva, Director, University of Pittsburgh Library System

Location: Hillman Library, Archives and Special Collections, 3rd Floor

Thursday, April 3, 2025

9:00 AM: Registration

10:00 AM – Opening Remarks & August Wilson Archive Overview

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

- Michael Dinwiddie, President, August Wilson Society
- Ed Galloway, Bill Daw, and Brenden Peifer, University of Pittsburgh Library System

11:00 AM – 12:30 AM: Activating the Archive: Meditations on the August Wilson Archive

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists

1. Gillian Johns, Oberlin College, “August Wilson’s Critical Pedagogy: The (Interdisciplinary) Century Cycle in the Classroom”
2. kb saine, Shepherd University, “To the Hill from the Holler: August Wilson as Affrilachian Canon”
3. Edwin Brown, Howard University, “Pedagogical Innovation: *Embodying August Wilson’s Text*”
4. Aviva Helena Neff, Denison University, “After the Reckoning: Revisiting “The Ground on Which I Stand” in the Wake of Black Lives Matter”
5. Zachary Price, University of California, Irvine, “Lloyd Richards Way”

12:30 PM- 2:00 PM – Lunch on-your-own

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM – Studying August Wilson’s Century Cycle: Bridging Pedagogy and Scholarship Toward Future Research

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists

Stacey Akines, Carnegie Mellon University

Christopher Wright, University of Pittsburgh

Robin-Renee Allbritton, University of Pittsburgh

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM: August Wilson & the Confluence of Voices in Literary Expression

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists

1. Jennifer Riddle Harding, Washington and Jefferson College, “The Ethics of Listening in Chesnutt and Wilson”
2. Jeff Westover, Boise State University, “Competing Forms of Value in Two Later Works of August Wilson”
3. Benji De La Piedra, Independent Scholar (Washington, DC), “Comparing the Shamanic Cores of *Gem of the Ocean* and *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone* with Ralph Ellison’s *Three Days Before the Shooting*”

6:00 PM: Dinner & Performance by Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company

Archives & Special Collections Reading Room, 320 Hillman Library, 3rd Floor

Friday, April 4, 2025

9:00 AM: Registration

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM: Beyond the Script: August Wilson and the Creative Imagination

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists

1. Michael Young, University of Pittsburgh, “Shall I Compare Thee to a High Fastball: Finding What Unifies yet Defines Shakespeare and August Wilson”
2. Simone John, Independent Artist (Interactive Institute), “motherwit myths: the legacy of Wilson’s spiritual themes”
3. Malik Washington, Independent Artist and Writer, “City of Bones / Gem of the Confluence”

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM: August Wilson and the Confluence of Voices in Cultural Expression

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists

1. Janice Macopson, Blue Ridge Cardiology, “Blood Memories: The Legacy of Ella Cutler and August Wilson”
2. Sandra Jowers-Barber, University of the District of Columbia Community College &
3. Michelle A. Banks, “V.O.C.A. (Visionaries for the Creative Arts): Adding New Voices and Stories from the Deaf and BIPOC Community”

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM: Keynote Luncheon, Omiyemi (Artisia) Green, William and Mary, “Teaching August Wilson’s American Century Cycle for the Public Good”

Archives & Special Collections Reading Room, 320 Hillman Library, 3rd Floor

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM: In Good Hands: Forthcoming August Wilson Scholarship

Location: A&SC Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

Panelists:

1. J. Ken Stuckey, Bentley University, “Black Masculinity and Homosocial Bonding in August Wilson's Dramas”
2. Donald P. Gagnon, Western Connecticut State University “Uneasy Lie the Heads that Wear the Crowns: Constructing a Spiritual Center in *The Emperor Jones* and *King Hedley II*”
3. Rashida Z. Shaw McMahon, Wesleyan University, “August Wilson and the Chitlin Circuit”
4. Laurence Glasco, University of Pittsburgh, *The Power of Place: August Wilson and Pittsburgh*

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Reception at Rivers Club (Transportation will be provided for those lodging at the Hilton Garden Inn University. Shuttle pick up at 5:30 PM on McKee Place near Hilton Garden Inn.)

Saturday, April 5, 2025 – Explore August-On-Your-Own

8:30 AM – 4:45 PM: Explore the August Wilson Archive

Hillman Library. Session times are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The registration site includes a link for those researching the archive.

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Explore the August Wilson African American Cultural Center

A guided tour, with Wali Jamal, of the *August Wilson: Writer’s Landscape*, the first-ever exhibition dedicated to the life and works of August Wilson, along with *August Taught Us...*, an exhibition by D.S. Kinsel, the August Wilson Archive Artist-Scholar in Residence.

(Please note that you must arrange transportation to the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, 980 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA.)