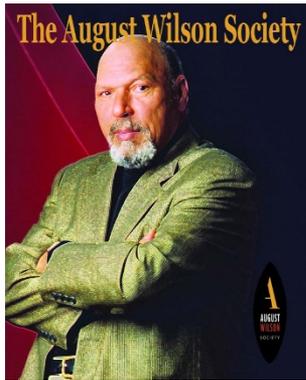


AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY



THE AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY



HISTORY

The August Wilson Society (AWS) was founded in 2006 within Howard University's College of Arts and Sciences, shortly after the passing of August Wilson at age 60. In the wake of the death of this major voice on African American cultural history, this organization became the brainchild of a group of Howard University professors and students—many of whom had been inspired by the April 2005 national conference, *Situating August Wilson in the Canon and in the Curriculum*, that was convened at Howard University by English Department Professor and nationally recognized Wilson scholar, Dr. Sandra Shannon.

MISSION

AWS defines itself as a cross-disciplinary learning community dedicated to commemorating August Wilson by promoting the studying, the teaching, the performing, the researching, and the ultimate safeguarding of the rich legacy that Wilson has bequeathed to us in the form of 10 plays that chronicle the stories of African Americans from 1904 to 1997.

AWS also considers its major objective to be keeping in the forefront for current and future generations a major writer and artist who dedicated his life and genius to chronicling and rendering into poetry and drama, the history, decade by decade, of African Americans in the twentieth century. From the 1980s through the beginning of the twenty-first century, Wilson made America and the world more aware of the saga of a people struggling to gain status in a culture that they had helped to build. Through the immensity and ambition of his vision, Wilson crafted a series of linked narratives that not only captured many of the untold stories of the black experience but that also increased the presence of African American performers and theatrical talent in theatres throughout the United States as well as beyond its borders. Because of August Wilson, the doors of mainstream theaters opened wider than before to the voice and perspectives of African descended people, many of whom are involuntary immigrants in this country.



© August Wilson Society

AGENDA

August Wilson Society Board of Directors Meeting

12 to 2 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 2020

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting (5 mins.)

Board Member Introductions & Responses (20 mins.)

Review Material in Meeting Packet (10 mins.)

Agenda

August Wilson Society Mission Statement

*AWS Draft of Bylaws

AWS Board Member Consent Form

The Charge (5 mins.)

Breakout Sessions (15 mins.)

Breakout Session Reports & Discussion (30 mins.)

Action Items (10 mins.)

Subcommittee Assignments (10 mins.)

Next Steps? (10 mins.)

Adjourn

*Come prepared to vote on the adoption of this document, with any suggested amendment

AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY

Meet Your August Wilson Society Board Members!



Deimoni Brewington is a senior in Howard University's BFA Musical Theatre program. This Las Vegas, Nevada native and Helen-Hayes nominated performing artist has volunteered and worked in several youth mentorship programs and initiatives for arts education across the nation. deimoni.brewington@bison.howard.edu



Marc Curry is a federal administrative judge with the Department of Defense for the past 14 years. Judge Curry is a passionate advocate of the arts, having served on the Bowie Committee for the Arts in 2003. His interest in literature as a vehicle for cultural expression among other things attracted him to August Wilson. mec_sr@yahoo.com



Olga George is an assignment desk editor at KDKA-TV 2. She was previously employed by WQED-TV 13 as the producer of the award-winning weekly series Black Horizons. George produced or co-produced several Emmy nominated or winning documentaries for WQED. She taught Electronic News Gathering and Reporting at Point Park University, her Alma Mater. ogearge@kdk.com



Denise J. Hart, a tenured professor of theatre at Howard University, serves as the coordinator of the Playwriting minor. She holds her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and a BFA in acting from Howard University. Hart is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, The Dramatist Guild and managing editor for *Continuum: The Journal of African Diaspora Drama, Theatre and Performance*.
denisetheatre@aol.com



Ernest C. Jackson, a retired financial services executive and former division head at Dollar Bank. Under Jackson's leadership, Dollar Bank established the Heritage Center, a museum showcasing the bank's pivotal role in urban development and Pittsburgh's African American community since 1855. He served as President of the Fairview Park Association, among other volunteer work. ukonj@msn.com



Keryl McCord is President and CEO of EQ, The Equity Quotient, a national training and organizational development firm supporting nonprofits interested in being more just and equitable community partners. EQ provides Dismantling Racism training grounded in an analysis of the history, policies, and practices of the nonprofit sector. McCord is a veteran arts manager and administrator with four decades of experience in many facets of nonprofit management.
macpeach2510@gmail.com



Dr. Monica Ndounou, Associate Professor of Theater at Dartmouth College. The award-winning author, actor, and director is also Vice President of Advocacy for ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education), founding executive director of The CRAFT Institute, and the convener of The International Black Theatre Summit. Ndounou's current multi-media project is *Acting Your Color: The Craft, Power and Paradox of Acting for Black Americans*.

Monica.W.Ndounou@dartmouth.edu



Ronald Lee Newman is a passionate arts manager, producer and educator, with over twenty years of experience in the performing arts and arts education. He served as the Director of Operations and Collaborative Programming at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and as Managing Director for the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. RonaldLeeNewman@gmail.com



Dr. Sandra G. Shannon, Professor Emerita of African American Literature at Howard University. Widely acknowledged as *the* leading authority on playwright August Wilson, she is the Founder of the August Wilson Society and author of two book-length studies. Shannon is the recipient of the Winona Lee Fletcher Award for Excellence by the Black Theatre Network and a Fellow of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.
awilsonsociety@gmail.com



Dana A. Williams is Professor of African American literature and Interim Dean of the Graduate School at Howard University and current President of the Toni Morrison Society. She served as Chair of Howard University's Department of English for nine years, as chair of the Executive Committee of the African American Forum of the Modern Languages Association and as president of the College Language Association. d_williams@howard.edu

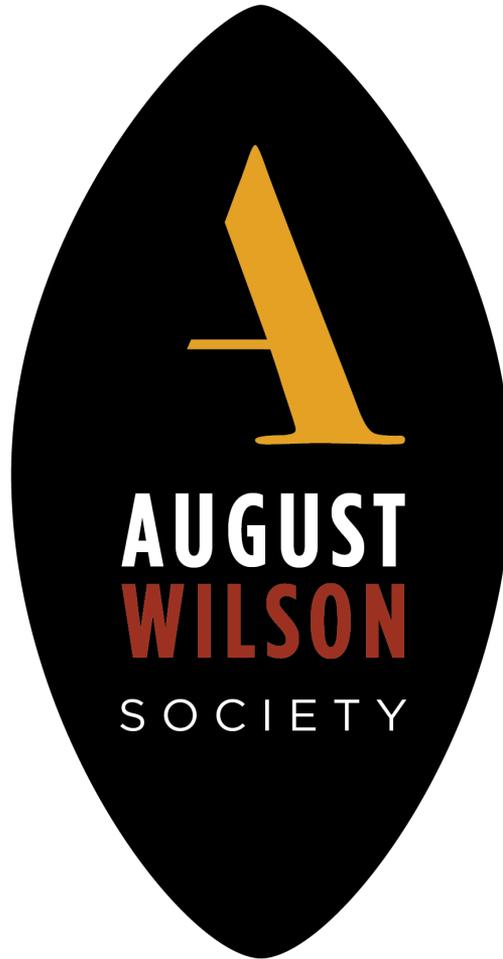


Lauryn Williams is a rising Junior Acting Major, Education minor from Los Angeles, CA. She has held leadership positions impacting both Howard University and the D.C. Community as a HUSA Senator, an Apprentice at Shakespeare Theatre Company, and a Howard Players Executive Board Member. She is excited and honored to begin!

lauryn.williams@bison.howard.edu

AWS

The August Wilson Society By-Laws



AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY BY- LAWS

I. Organization Name. The August Wilson Society

The August Wilson Society (AWS) Bylaws that follow shall serve as the

organization's basic rules of operation to be both adhered to and enforced by the August Wilson Society's Board of Directors. AWS Bylaws cover only the highest level of management governance and oversight of the Board amendments as most of the Board sees fit.

. AWS Bylaws can be subject to

II. Purpose. Since 2006, the August Wilson Society has worked to preserve the legacy of one of America's—indeed the world's—greatest playwrights: August Wilson. This national organization founded on the campus of Howard University in the wake of Mr. Wilson's death has not only enjoyed the endorsement and respect of this revered institution and its leadership, but it has also garnered the trust and cooperation of key stakeholders at the August Wilson Estate. But perhaps the organization's greatest achievement since its inception has been the multiple programs it has offered to introduce Wilson to a new generation of learners and to oblige others who seek more intense engagement with his works.

The August Wilson Society; College of Arts and Sciences, Locke Hall, Howard University; 2441 Sixth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20059; (202) 642-9659.

IV. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

A. Board of Directors. Individuals appointed to the Board of Directors have served with distinction in their respective professions and have demonstrated qualities that are in

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AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY BY- LAWS

line with the August Wilson Society's (AWS) mission. Members of the AWS Board of Directors will keep the organization on track for a more sustainable future through effective immediate and long-range planning, fundraising measures, and financial stewardship. In addition to assuring that AWS remains on solid financial ground and becoming AWS ambassadors for the organization, the AWS Board of Directors will devise and implement measures to increase the organization's memberships and promote its work within the larger national and global community.

Members of the AWS Board of Directors will commit to serve a minimum term of two (2) years. Any Board of Director member can serve a second term of two years, subject to unanimous Board approval. Members of the AWS Board of Directors shall abide by the following requirements.

o Quorum

To conduct official business, a quorum of AWS Board of Directors shall constitute one half of the current members of the AWS Board of Directors.

o Meetings

Participate in all quarterly meetings (in person, via conference calls or zoom sessions).

- o Subcommittees

Participate in a minimum of 1 sub-committee and no more than 2 sub- committees.

- o Contribution

Contribute \$5000 annually to support the organization's financial stability by petitioning donors, securing grants, fundraising, etc.

NOTE: University/College Student Representatives to the Board are exempt from this requirement.

- o Marketing

Market AWS to other executives and other community interests for collaborative partnerships to achieve common goals.

- o Promotion

Promote attendance at AWS events and support for AWS's programs and services to the community.

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- o Sponsorship

Promote the value of sponsorship of AWS programs to other organizations, corporations, foundations, individuals, etc.

B. Board of Advisors. Individuals appointed to the Board of Advisors will have served as immediate past members of the AWS Board of Directors and will serve as a bridge to

transition Executive Leadership. Advisors will provide institutional knowledge to the Board of Directors and will continue to serve as AWS ambassadors for the organization, increasing its memberships and promoting its work within the larger community. Members of the Board of Advisors will commit to serve one two (2) year term.

C. Officers.

Initial AWS officers are elected by the board, typically during a vote at the first meeting. The AWS will start out with at least four officer positions:

- o Board President

The board president oversees the work of the board and the organization's senior

management team. The president is responsible for appointing all committee chairs and recommending committee members. Responsibilities also include working with the governance committee to recruit new board members; serving as an alternate spokesperson for the organization and helping board members assess performance.

- o Vice President

The vice president is also a vital part of the leadership team. The vice president carries out special assignments as requested by the president and fills in for the board president if necessary.

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o Secretary -- The secretary attends all board meetings and is responsible for maintaining complete and accurate meeting minutes. The secretary is also tasked with monitoring compliance with the organization's bylaws.

o Treasurer -- The treasurer keeps track of the organization's financial condition

and typically serves as the chair of the finance committee. He or she must understand financial accounting for nonprofit organizations and work with the AWS President to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the board on a timely basis.

V. Establishing Board Committees

The AWS board of directors will accomplish much of its work through committees, which undertake work delegated by the board, make recommendations to the board for discussion and action, and enhance board productivity. Committee size depends on the needs of the board and the organization and a commonsense assessment of how many people are needed to carry out the committee's work. Committee members should be

selected based on their experience, skills, and interests. Every board member should serve on at least one but preferably no more than two committees or task forces. It is the full board's responsibility to regularly assess how each committee is functioning. Common standing committees include:

- o Governance committee. Also known as the nominating committee, this group recruits and orients new board members and develops ongoing educational opportunities for the entire board.

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AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY BY- LAWS

- o Finance and/or audit and risk committee. This group reviews the organization's accounting policies and internal financial controls. It also works with the organization's audit firm, reviews the auditor's reports, and makes the board aware of key risks facing the charity – and the strategies for dealing with risks.

- o Executive committee. This group is empowered to deal with issues that arise between the full board meetings. It also formulates the agenda for full board meetings. Membership of the executive committee is typically limited to board officers.

Other standing committees may include:

- o Fundraising
- o Marketing
- o Communications o Programs

VI. Using Ad Hoc Committees

The AWS board may appoint ad hoc committees, also called task forces, as needed. These committees are different from standing committees because they are time limited. Ad hoc committees may be created to oversee specific projects, such as an AWS major conference, event, or fundraising campaign.

VII. Conflict of Interest.

It is in the best interest of The August Wilson Society (AWS) to be aware of and effectively manage all conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest. The AWS Conflict of

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AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY BY- LAWS

Interest Policy is designed to help members of the Board of Directors officers, employees and volunteers of the AWS identify situations that present potential conflicts of interest and to provide the AWS with a procedure to appropriately identify and manage conflicts in accordance with legal requirements and the goals of accountability and transparency in the AWS' operations.

VIII. Amending Bylaws.

These Bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority vote from the full AWS Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting.

Effective Date: _____ Name: Sandra Shannon,
PhD _____ Title: President & Founder August Wilson
Society Signature: _____

August Wilson Society's Board Commitment Form

As a nominee or current director to The August Wilson Society's (AWS) Board of Directors, I have reviewed The AWS's Bylaws and Board responsibilities Bylaws. Accordingly, I am willing to make every effort to fulfill these responsibilities.

Overview

Individuals appointed to the Board of Directors have served with distinction in their respective professions and have demonstrated qualities that are in line with the August Wilson Society's (AWS) mission. Members of the AWS Board of Directors will keep the organization on track for a more sustainable future through effective immediate and long- range program planning, fundraising measures, and financial stewardship.

Terms of Service

Members of the AWS Board of Directors are appointed for two-year terms. Members may be re-elected according to the bylaws.

Financial Commitment

Members of the AWS Board of Directors will contribute \$5,000 annually to support the organization's financial stability by petitioning donors, securing grants, fundraising, etc.

Benefits of Leadership Service

Personal Commitment (Please sign, date, and return form no later than June 12, 2020).

I (print name) _____, am willing to make every effort to fulfill the AWS's Board of Directors responsibilities as outlined above and in the AWS's Bylaws.

Signature Date

The AWS views leadership on the Board of Directors as an opportunity to preserve the legacy of one of America's—indeed the world's—greatest playwrights: August Wilson. Leaders will be provided the opportunity to identify needs, collaborate with stakeholders, as well as, support and achieve AWS and professional goals.



"2020" AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY'S CHARTER MEMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE LEVELS

LEGACY CIRCLE: \$10,000+

NAME LISTED AS A LEGACY CIRCLE CHARTER MEMBER ON PLAQUE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE "LULU CHILDERS HALL" FINE ARTS BUILDING AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AT THE AWS VIP RECEPTION, GROUNDBREAKING LECTURE, BI-ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM AND INNER CIRCLE COLLOQUIUM RECEPTION

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND LUNCH WITH AWS BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS

SIGNED COPY OF "THE DRAMATIC VISION OF AUGUST WILSON" BY SANDRA SHANNON, HOWARD UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON WEBSITE AND IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN ANNUAL REPORT

2020 AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP WAIVER

CHAMPION CIRCLE: \$1,000-\$9,999

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AT THE AWS VIP RECEPTION, GROUNDBREAKING LECTURE, BI-ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM AND INNER CIRCLE COLLOQUIUM RECEPTION

SIGNED COPY OF "THE DRAMATIC VISION OF AUGUST WILSON" BY SANDRA SHANNON, HOWARD UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON WEBSITE AND IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN ANNUAL REPORT

2020 AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP WAIVER

PARTNER CIRCLE: \$500-\$999

INVITATION TO ATTEND AWS VIP RECEPTION, GROUNDBREAKING LECTURE AND BI-ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN ANNUAL REPORT

2020 AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP WAIVER

AMBASSADOR CIRCLE: \$100-\$499

CHOICE OF INVITATION TO ATTEND AWS VIP RECEPTION, GROUNDBREAKING LECTURE OR BI-ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN ANNUAL REPORT

2020 AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP WAIVER

YES!!! I WANT TO JOIN AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY'S CHARTER MEMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

VISIT US ON THE WEB [HTTPS://WWW.AUGUSTWILSONSOCIETY.ORG/](https://www.augustwilsonociety.org/)
SUPPORT-US OR RETURN FORM BELOW TO: AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY,
C/O SANDRA G. SHANNON PHD, 2441 6TH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON,
D.C. 20059, 301-943-9511

NAME _____ TITLE _____

COMPANY _____

PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

CHECKS: PAYABLE TO AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A GENEROUS ONE-TIME COMMITMENT TO
AUGUST WILSON SOCIETY'S CHARTER MEMBER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE.
YOU HAVE GONE FAR BEYOND THE ORDINARY, HELPING TO ADVANCE
OUR MISSION OF PROMOTING THE STUDYING, THE TEACHING, THE
RESEARCHING, THE PERFORMING AND THE ULTIMATE SAFEGUARDING
OF THE RICH LEGACY THAT WILSON HAS BEQUEATHED TO ALL
AMERICANS.

