

HoCoPoLitSo

Howard County Poetry and Literature Society
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway • Horowitz Center 200 • Columbia, MD 21044
www.hocopolitso.org

Date: October 23, 2018
Phone: 443-518-4568

Contact: Pam Kroll Simonson
Email: hocopolitso@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HoCoPoLitSo Establishes Advisory Group

For many long and lucky years, HoCoPoLitSo treasured Lucille Clifton's service to the organization as artistic advisor. HoCoPoLitSo initiated the Lucille Clifton Reading Series to memorialize Clifton, a National Book Award Winner and HoCoPoLitSo board member and artistic advisor until her death in 2010. To fill her shoes and to meet the need she left behind, HoCoPoLitSo has established an Advisory Group of distinguished writers and noted guests to provide programming advice, to help seek out quality writers from around the world, and to assist reaching more diverse audiences.

Members of the Advisory Group have agreed to use the knowledge they have gained through their individual contributions and connections to further HoCoPoLitSo's mission to cultivate appreciation of contemporary literature. The knowledge and connections of these accomplished writers will help HoCoPoLitSo achieve its goal of presenting high-caliber, innovative literary programs that celebrate diverse literary heritages and foster literary appreciation in diverse populations, including varying gender, ethnic and cultural identities, age groups, and income levels. The Advisory Group will allow the community to benefit from the knowledge of distinguished writers and assist HoCoPoLitSo in improving diversity and inclusion in program offerings and outreach. As Clifton said: "Poetry is a matter of life, not just a matter of language."

Members of HoCoPoLitSo's Advisory Group include: Sandra Beasley, Derrick Weston Brown, Carrie Brown, John Gregory Brown, E. Ethelbert Miller, Joseph Ross, Laura Shovan, Edgar Gabriel Silex and Truth Thomas. Links to further information about the Advisory Group and its writers may be found at <https://hocopolitso.org/about/advisory-group/>.

HoCoPoLitSo, a private, nonprofit literary organization, receives funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts; Howard County Arts Council through a grant from Howard County government; The Columbia Film Society; Community Foundation of Howard County; and individual contributors. For more information visit www.HoCoPoLitSo.org or facebook.com/HoCoPoLitSo.