

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc., Annual Affiliate Report for 2024

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers Executive Board and Members greet you in the spirit of our ancestors, NABS co-founders, Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith, and Queen Mother Linda Goss. Thank you to NABS President, Dr. David Fakunle, Executive Director, Vanora Leagux and NABS Board of Directors for your leadership and support.

January 2024

CABS Executive Board Members and invited CABS members met for our annual all-day strategic planning meeting to establish CABS budget, fundraisers, 2024 calendar of events and programming. CABS began 2024 Membership Drive Campaign which will run through September 2024.

CABS Youth Storytellers Kuumba CABS created a video “Living the Dream” in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., in collaboration with Cleveland Municipal School District and funded by African American Cultural Gardens.

CABS Storytellers Kwanza Brewer and Beverly Lloyd performed at Maltz Museum Martin Luther King Jr Day Celebration. Storytellers Michele Rudolph and Jackki Boyd performed at Martin Luther King Jr Cleveland Citywide Celebration at Severance Music Center.

February 2024

CABS Storyteller Sharnell Wood performed in MetLife Legal Plans Black History program. Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers celebrated Black History Month with Storytime with Mama Awan’s “Pass it On Maat”.

April 2024

CABS hosted a public Open Mic at Black-owned Flava Catering Restaurant welcoming new Storytellers and new Poets to share their works while supporting a new black-owned business.

May 2024

Kuumba CABS Project Managers Beverly Lloyd and Kwanza Brewer chaperoned Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers to Cleveland Playhouse to see Municipal School District All-City Musical “Dreamgirls”. The cast are students from various schools throughout the Cleveland area.

June 2024

CABS held its 16th Annual Sisterhood Luncheon fundraiser at Cleveland East Marriott Hotel featuring CABS Storytellers, Barbara Eady, Judy Bateman and Beverly Lloyd. The Luncheon included a southern buffet, marketplace of area vendors and the African American Grand March. There were over 200 guests in attendance.

Storytellers Judy Bateman, Linnette Lawson, Regina Abernathy, Lois Graham, Michele Rudolph performed in Juneteenth Celebrations throughout the Cleveland area. CABS members and Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers marched in the Umoja Day Juneteenth Parade.

Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers performed a play for African American Cultural Gardens Association's Juneteenth Celebration which included singing, poetry, and drumming. Kuumba CABS Youth received a stipend for their participation.

August 2024

Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers participated in Hoops After Dark Program with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

September 2024

CABS Storytellers Michele Rudolph and Lisa Dodson performed in Willowick Public Library's Around the World Celebration which featured Cultural Arts Organizations from the Greater Cleveland area.

October 2024

CABS hosted an Open Mic and reception at ThirdSpace Action Lab inviting new and experienced Storytellers to share their stories and poems.

Twenty CABS Members will be traveling by bus to NABS 42ND Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference in Buffalo, New York.

Kuumba CABS Youth Storyteller Jacora Goode is receiving NABS Baba Jamal Koram Youth Award at NABS 42ND Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference.

Kuumba CABS Youth Storytellers are under the leadership of Beverly Lloyd and Kwanza Brewer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. Michele Rudolph, Communications Officer