



KALAMAZOO
POETRY
FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

2024 NEWSLETTER

**Open
Mic**

Hosted by
Kalamazoo Poetry Festival
kalamazoopoetryfestival.com

**October 10
6-8pm**

**First
Congregational
Church**



THIS THURSDAY!

The Kalamazoo Poetry Festival is hosting an Open Mic on October 10, 2024 in downtown Kalamazoo, at the First Congregational Church. The event takes place from 6-8pm.

Although we are (obviously) going for a spooky theme, the work you share does not need to be spooky in nature! However, costumes are greatly encouraged!

Come along, bring a friend, read your own work, or one of your favorite poems!

The event is FREE and open to the public. Sign up is in person. Get your spot while they last.

PLEASE RSVP and share widely!

No hate speech of any kind will be tolerated

[RSVP Here](#)

Denise Miller Signs On For Guest Poet



Denise Miller has joined Aaron Coleman as one of our featured readers for the 2025 April Festival Week!

Denise Miller, born in Martins Ferry, Ohio, and raised in Cadiz, Ohio, is an artist, poet, community activist, and instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. They earned a BFA in Creative Writing from Bowling Green State University (1992) and an MA from Central Michigan University (1995). Their work has been supported by an Emerging Artists Grant from the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and the Gilmore Foundation.

As co-owner of Fire, a Kalamazoo-based arts nonprofit, Miller promotes authentic expression and social justice through art. They believe poetry should tell the truth, whether personal or societal, as a form of public art that gives voice to marginalized stories.

Miller's research explores the intersections of domestic violence, slavery, and oppression. Their poetry and visual art have appeared in numerous publications, including *Terror and Transformation* and *Growing Up Girl*. They have exhibited work in various galleries and have received many awards, including the 2015 Willow Books Emerging Poet Award.

Their books include *Core* (2015), nominated for the 2016 American Book Award and Pushcart Prize, and *A Ligature for Black Bodies* (2020), winner of the Sexton Prize for Poetry. They have also adapted *Ligatures* for the stage and produced *Before the Shooting*. Miller's fellowships include residencies at Hedgebrook, Storyknife, and Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. Their pronouns are they/she. If you would like to learn more about Denise and their work, check out their website:

[Visit Denise's Website](#)

The Kalamazoo Poetry Festival Welcomes Two New Board of Directors Members! Shonda Buchanan and Hananiah Hardin

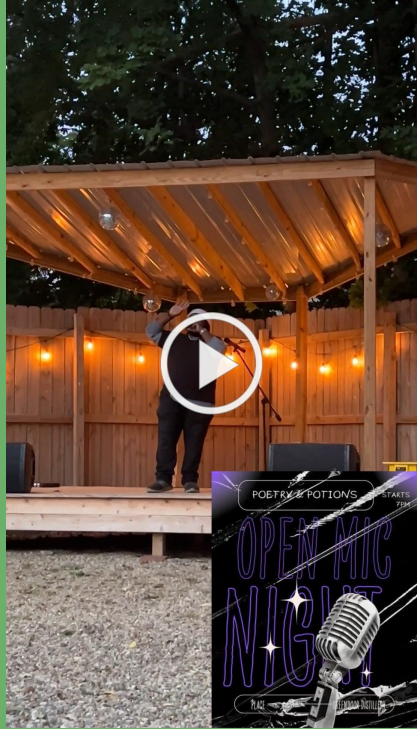


Partnership Confirmed With Black Magic Media



Black Magic Media and The Kalamazoo Poetry have partnered as co-hosts for upcoming Open Mics! Thank-you to Green Door Distilling & Tasting Room for providing a venue for the October Poetry and Potions Open Mic!





Black Magic Media Facebook Page



Dreamscene Placemaking and Move With Joy Studio are partnering with The Kalamazoo Poetry Festival for our 2025 Ekphrastic Artwork Event! At the event, participants will use provided art materials to create designs based on our 2025 theme of "Gratitude". The pieces of artwork will help The Friends of Poetry write our festival Community Poem. The event will take place at Move With Joy February 8, 2025 from 3-6pm.

WORKSHOPS SUBMISSIONS CLOSED AND FACILITATORS ANNOUNCED SOON!

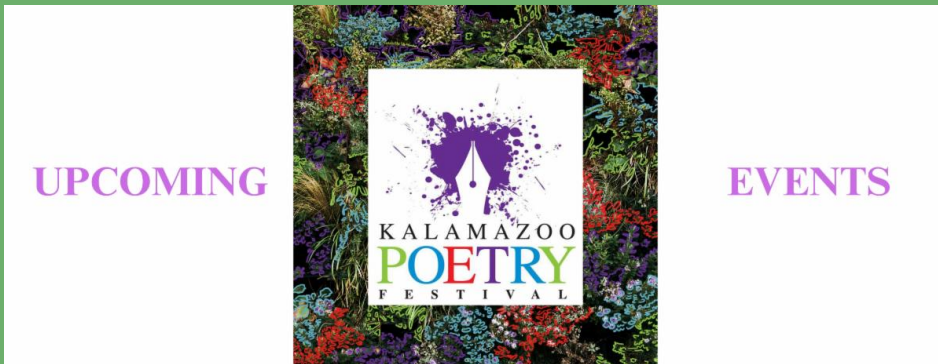
KPF had over 20 different workshop proposals submitted for our 2024/2025 festival season. The board of directors had a tough job picking, but are ready to make their announcement soon. Keep an eye out for an extra Newsletter this month with the

confirmations!



We have partnered with Fire on Portage Road to offer a workshop in March of 2025. The workshop will be hosted by interdisciplinary artist and scholar Tasleem Jamila, and center around the theme of "Gratitude". This workshop is focused on individuals 18-25 years old. Please keep your eye on our social media for more announcements regarding this workshop! This event will take place March 8, 2025 at Fire from 6:30-8pm.

[Tasleem's Website](#)



We have quadrupled our programming from last year, and our excited to serve the community in this way. Please check out our Upcoming Events Page. Dates are confirmed for future events, and more details and visuals will be added as they are completed!

[Upcoming Events Page](#)

PLEASE GIVE!

The Kalamazoo Poetry Festival is growing. Your support is more important now more than ever!

THANK YOU!

[SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL](#)



Kalamazoo Poetry Festival | P.O. Box 19621 | Kalamazoo, MI 49009 US

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