



THE BOTTOM KNOXVILLE ANNUAL REPORT



**THE
BOTTOM**

2022

COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CREATIVITY



CREATING A SPACE WHERE WE CAN TAKE UP SPACE.

OUR STORY



The mission of the Bottom is to build community, celebrate culture, and engage the creativity of Black people through curated events, community- projects, ongoing programming, shared resources, and physical space. At the Bottom, community leaders, artists, educators, students, cultural workers, activists, and entrepreneurs blend culture, politics, and social issues in strategic and engaging ways. We strive to cultivate a sense of belonging and safety for Black people who come from different class, religious, sexual orientation, and gender backgrounds.

Named after the Black neighborhood and business center in East Knoxville that was demolished by urban renewal in the 1950s, The Bottom was established in January 2020 as a multi-use community space. Dr. Enkeshi El- Amin, a local sociologist studying race and place, was inspired to build The Bottom after research on Black Knoxville revealed resounding themes of Black dispossession and displacement. The Bottom was conceptualized as a justice and equity project centered on reclamation, reimagination, and transformation. Given the historical obstacles for Black Knoxvilleans to claim space, a collective effort is required to hold Black space in Knoxville and to engage in place-keeping practices. Recognizing historic and systemic injustices that have indirectly impacted Black people and places are also required to respond and heal trauma from displacement and disempowerment.

OUR MISSION



OUR TEAM

Enkeshi El-Amin is a researcher, and culture worker in Morgantown, West Virginia. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at West Virginia University. Her research, exploring the link between race and place, is focused on how racial practices shape Black places and how Black people in turn are involved in practices that define, contest, and reimagine places.

In response to finding feelings of displacement and loss of space for Black communities in her research, Dr. El-Amin founded “The Bottom” in East Knoxville as a hub to build community, celebrate culture, and engage in the creativity of Black people.

Enkeshi El-Amin



FOUNDING DIRECTOR

E. Jewell



**COMMUNITY &
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER**

Elisha is a Delaware native and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a Masters of Science in Information Sciences. Elisha has worked in a variety of roles in libraries, archives, special collections, and non-profit and community organizations. As the Community & Development Manager, Elisha is taking charge of the Community Podcast Studio and the Elandria Williams Reading and Research Room.

Elisha is also a musician, singer-songwriter, engineer, and producer who received her Bachelor of Arts from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis Tennessee. She's always looking for a jam session! In her free time, she rock climbs, camps, builds websites; and is the founder of a Web3 startup.

OUR TEAM

London Martin



**FACILITY SERVICES
MANAGER**

London was born and raised in Chicago, IL. She briefly studied ceramics at College of Dupage before moving to Puerto Rico for two years, where she started and operated a food truck.

During her time in Knoxville, London has worked at Emerald Youth as a Learning Facilitator for grades K-5 and became a trained Paddle Sports Facilitator, as well as a member of the ACA (American Canoe Association). In her free time she loves to cook as well as try new foods, tend to her plants, watch movies and enjoy outdoor activities.

Ty Murray is a multi-faceted creative, digital communications director, radio DJ and community activist in Knoxville, TN. Ty has elevated The Bottom towards being an arts and cultural center for creatives. She is the muscle of the center's mission and existence, helping to oversee day-to-day operations & communications.

Additionally, her photography has been recognized by Appalshop for amplifying cultural diversity in Appalachia and she has participated in the Appalachian Community Fund Affinity Fellowship, working to advance grassroots change in Central Appalachia.

Ty Murray



**DIRECTOR OF ART &
COMMUNICATIONS**

OUR TEAM

Pumpkin Starr is cultural worker, popular educator, musician, land justice and proud Queer Black Appalachia woman. For many years she has dedicated her time, energy and talents to the betterment of Black communities in Appalachia and the South. Her work, however, expands beyond these regional boundaries and she has been recognized by movement organizations nationally who often employ her skills as a trainer of People Movement assemblies & land justice workshops.

Though Pumpkin has transitioned from this position with The Bottom, we are proud to see her pursuing a new journey of her own. Pumpkin brings joy and expression to people across the region through her songwriting and musical performances of saxophone, banjo, drums and guitar.

Pumpkin Starr



**DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT**

Annastasia Williams



**BOOKSTORE
MANAGER**

Annastasia has always enjoyed reading from an early age, and is an avid reader and lover of books. As the Bookstore Manager, Annastasia curates the inventory at the Bookshop to highlight Black authors and Black-centered stories for all ages. She also manages the monthly Book-It subscription.

Outside of The Bottom, Annastasia works for a non-profit study abroad organization called CIEE, assisting college students with realizing their dreams of having an international experience. In her free time she enjoys reading (of course), traveling, playing board games and The Sims, musicals, spending time with friends, looking at houses she can't afford on Zillow, and hanging out with her dog, Scrappy.

OUR TEAM

Kalil White realized at an early age that she had a passion for nature and community development. She received her Bachelors of Science in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Sustainability from Georgia Southern University in 2018 and her Masters of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications from University of Tennessee in 2021. During her grad program she was recognized for her academic achievements by being inducted into the Gamma Sigma Delta Agriculture Honor Society in Spring 2020.

Her experience includes serving within several nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to environmental sustainability, community outreach, and serving marginalized communities. look forward to seeing what lies ahead

Kalil White



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jazmin Witherspoon



**DIRECTOR OF
LITERARY PROGRAMS**

Jazmin Witherspoon is a local rising star in theater and poetry. She previously hosted The Bottom's creative writing workshop for middle schoolers before stepping into leading the Bookshop. As the Director of Literary Programs, Jazmin is the powerhouse for the Bookstore, hosting authors, book clubs, and other literary programs that seek to foster a love of diversity in reading. She is our in-house bibliophile and liberal arts enthusiast.

Though Jazmin has transitioned from this position with The Bottom, we are proud to see her pursuing a new journey of her own.

Bookshop at The Bottom

"OPEN BOOKS. OPEN MINDS"



Our Bookshop at the Bottom grew exponentially from a small collection of Black affirming literature. In addition to our monthly subscription program, we host author talks, story time events led by local artists and musicians, writing workshops, and keep our shelves stocked with Black empowering merchandise. The Bookshop's collection has grown over five times as large with works from local authors, used books, and local vendors/makers. The Bookshop has cultivated relationships with schools, publishers, businesses, and higher education institutions that have benefited from our no-cost initiatives for youth summer reading, book giveaways, literary studies, and author events.

The Bookshop has also focused on engaging different styles of learning and literary interest. This has been accomplished through offering audiobooks and hosting movie screenings. Not only has the Bookshop established itself as a community resource for Black literary and cultural engagement, it has also grown a regional presence. Through our website and Bookshop.org collaboration, our Bookshop has an expansive supply to offer an alternative from companies that threaten local independent bookstores and Beyond supply, our Bookshop makes Black history, culture, and critical thought accessible while encouraging literary engagement.



SEW IT SELL IT

Sew It Sell It, our inaugural program, is an annual 4-week Summer entrepreneur program for adolescents and teens to develop goods, build their own micro-businesses, and acquire creative, practical, and business management skills to utilize in real-world circumstances. This program provides local middle and high school students with creative, practical, and business management skills that they may apply outside of the program.



Students develop professional business skills such as branding, marketing, and pitch delivery through a series of seminars and curricula taught by company executives, local entrepreneurs, community leaders, and university teachers.

Upon completion of the program, each participant receives a sewing machine, business cards, a website, and other marketing material.

In 2022 there were 9 participants from surrounding schools. Some creations included: headbands, lip gloss holders, bags, bonnets and more!



Black Creatives Meetup



Black Creatives Meetup is a long-term investment into Black artists and makers in our community.

As an on-going program, we will continuously provide support, resources and a safe space for our creative community to incubate and develop. We meet monthly, hold various artistic events, and offer workshops and developmental opportunities.

Through our Black Creatives Meetup Initiative, we are listening and responding to creative voices and helping emerging artists further establish themselves by providing resources and a safe space to learn, develop and create.

The mission is to offer free or low cost creative development programming led by Black artists/Black arts and cultural organizations that will supplement our general monthly meetups, and ensure that we're offering new ways and opportunities to grow throughout the year.

By providing programming for Black creatives to develop themselves as artists, and by intentionally seeking to work with Black artists/Black-led arts and cultural organizations, we are directly investing into a community that has been historically underrepresented. We are cultivating a sense of artistic pride in Black communities that live in Knoxville. We are listening and responding to creative voices that have long been unheard. We are helping emerging artists to expand and establish themselves.



Ceramics at the Bottom



Ceramics at The Bottom is an ongoing community workshop to develop and transmit ideas regarding ceramic culture and craft to help foster the next generation of BIPOC Appalachian ceramic craft culture. These ceramic arts-focused classes meet once a week for three hours, three times a month, starting in August 2022 until June 2023. Over the course of a year, this project will provide experiential education the equivalent of an MFA course to a traditionally unsupported community.

The class covers the following ceramic techniques:

- Pinch Pots
- Coiling and Slab Building
- Hump Molds and Slump Molds

Classes are offered offered to the community free of charge. taught by Maggie Connolly, funding for the workshops were made possible by the Arts & Culture Alliance, the City of Knoxville, and the Department of the Treasury.



Community Fellowship Program

The Bottom partnered with the University of Tennessee Knoxville's Division of Diversity and Engagement to offer a community fellowship. We believe that the work of scholars and other professional staff can enrich civic and community life. And by pursuing such work in dialogue with the public, university research, teaching, and creative expression is elevated. In a semester-long fellowship, Black faculty/staff serve as a resource and collaborator on a public facing, community identified or agreed upon project. The fellow works directly with The Bottom's team to develop a project moving it from ideation to completion.

The projects produced by this program aim to document and/or advance the local Black community. The final project could include recurring programming, public forums, advocacy campaigns, workshops, events, publications or public exhibitions among others. This fellowship is especially designed for Black junior faculty (non-tenure and tenure track) and professional staff who might benefit from deliberate connections and invested liaisons with the multifaceted local Black community. Each semester one fellow is chosen.

Spring 2022

Dr. LaToya Eaves



This project is the product of several important collaborations. Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin, Founding Director of The Bottom worked closely with Zimbabwe U. Motavou and other former residents to develop the personal histories of The Bottom. Dr. LaToya Eaves along with students in her Black Geographies graduate course at University of Tennessee Knoxville helped to conceptualize and gather archival material for this project. Dr. Eaves was The Bottom's Fall 2021 Community Fellow. Dr. El-Amin, Eaves and their students are working on a journal article of which The Bottom will also be highlighted as a contributor.

Elandria Williams Research Room

The Research Room is named after visionary and social justice activist Elandria Williams (1979 – 2020). With extensive experience administrating and teaching information sciences, Dr. Ericka Patillo has worked to equip The Research Room with several options for the Knoxville community: a computing station, co-working, research, study, and collaboration space. This space supports scholarly and community work and research, and is also available for general public use. Dr. Patillo has also worked to create a Guest Curator Program, where respective individuals can build a small, themed collection of published works that have meaningfully influenced their lives and work

Fall 2022

Ericka Patillo



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

59

TOTAL EVENTS!

Our space is a place to gather, connect, showcase, fundraise, exhibit, empower and and exchange. In addition to hosting our own events, we also partner with local organizations, artists, and individuals to offer community programming as well as private events.

HIGHLIGHTING: STORY TIME WITH SANTA



Back by popular demand! 2022 marked the second year of Story Time with Santa. We had a great turnout and the event was also accompanied with professional photos provided by Ty's Eye. The children stole the show, both Santa and parents were pleased!


EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

AUTHOR TALK WITH DANTE STEWART

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL READING OF **Shoutin' In The Fire** DISCUSSION + Q&A FACILITATED BY JOE TOLBERT

RSVP ONLINE FOR VIRTUAL MEETING LINK!

THE BOTTOM




YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

SISTER CIRCLE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16
12:00 - 2:00 PM

The Bottom
2340 East Magnolia Avenue



BLACK CREATIVES MEET UP 2022 MEET & GREET

VIRTUAL EVENT

5PM-7PM | FRI. 1/28 | RSVP IN BIO

ATTENDEES RECEIVE VOUCHERS FOR A FREE CUP OF TEA!

THE BOTTOM



BLACK HISTORY SATURDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY FROM 10AM-11AM

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY FROM AFRICAN KINGDOMS TO RECONSTRUCTION!

FIRST CLASS: SATURDAY 2/5 AT 10 AM

2/5 + 2/12 WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY | RSVP FOR ZOOM LINK

THE BOTTOM



DOGWOOD ARTS

HOUSE & GARDEN SHOW

February 11-13, 2022
Knoxville Convention Center



2022 PODCAST TRAINING COHORT

PODCAST PREVIEW

2340 EAST MAGNOLIA AVE | 2/26 12:00PM

THE BOTTOM



TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE:
CERAMICS FROM A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

FEATURING WORK BY:
BRANDY ALLEN
JORDAN BUTZINE
GEORGE HABEIB
VANESSA HARTMAN
TY MURRAY
JEREMY MYLES
NATALIE WARD

WORKSHOP LED BY:
MAGGIE CONNOLLY AND JAKE INGRAM

ON VIEW AT THE BOTTOM MARCH 4TH - 31ST
2340 MAGNOLIA AVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

OPENING RECEPTION MARCH 4TH, 5-9 PM
MASKS REQUIRED

THE BOTTOM **TRI-STAR ARTS** **Mighty Mud**



Yum Yums Patisserie Pop Up at The Bottom

Sat. 3/5 • 11am-2pm

THE BOTTOM



SPRING BREAK AT THE BOTTOM

A week of mentorship, creative workshops, & learning how to lead a community center!

Tuesday, March 15 - Saturday, March 19
Knox County school students ages 12-17 years old

Application link in our bio!



HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?

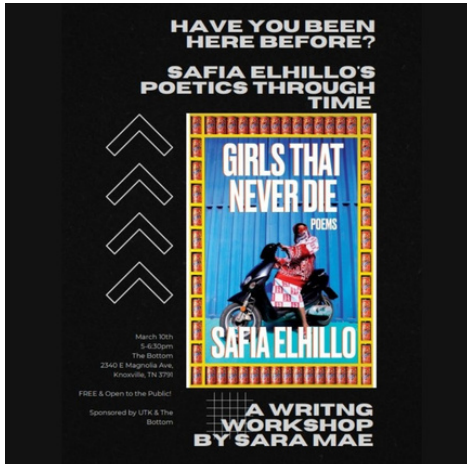
SAFIA ELHILLO'S POETICS THROUGH TIME

GIRLS THAT NEVER DIE
POEMS
SAFIA ELHILLO

March 30th
5-6:30pm
The Bottom
2340 E Magnolia Ave,
Knoxville, TN 37917

FREE & Open to the Public!
Sponsored by UTM & The Bottom

A WRITING WORKSHOP BY SARA MAE



Green Thumb
Family Support & Nutrition Assistance

Stop by The Bottom to receive free seeds and sign up for the community garden program for plants, tools and assistance!

THE BOTTOM **CAC** **BEARDSLEY**



JOIN US SAT. 3/26 AT 2:00PM FOR A DOUBLE BOOK TALK WITH

Malaika Adero

READING:

A Black Woman Did That
Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House

THE BOTTOM



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Black Creatives Meetup
Friday 3/25 • 5pm-7pm

Book Binding at The Bottom with George Habieb



2340 E Magnolia Ave • Masks Required
LINK TO RSVP IN BIO!

THE BOTTOM

1619 PROJECT STUDY GROUP

A NEW ORIGIN STORY

The 1619 Project

As part of our Community Fellowship program, The Bottom is hosting a 7-part study group covering Niko Hannah-Jones' 1619 Project.

Study groups will take place in person at 10am on Saturdays in April & May. Groups will include engaged discussions with community educators, food from local vendors will also be available to purchase.

Dates & Facilitators:

- 4/2 - Cornelius Eady* (virtual event)
- 4/16 - Aris Clemmons
- 4/23 - Michelle Brown
- 4/30 - DeLisa Hawkes
- 5/7 - Black Atticus
- 5/14 - Aisha Brown
- 5/21 - Rhea Carmon

RSVP TODAY
Link in Bio!

2340 E. Magnolia Ave.

THE BOTTOM

Meet Plant Kween, Christopher Griffin and celebrate the release of YOU GROW, GURL!

March 30th, 2022
8 PM ET

Virtual Event in Partnership with:

- Cafe con Libros
- Community Book Center
- Cafe Noir
- The Bottom
- Kindred Stories
- SOA Co.

For more information go to hc.com/pages/YouGrowGurl



Healing Circle Support Groups

First group is next Tuesday on April 12th virtually from 6pm-7pm

A confidential and non-judgemental space for support and healing for Black Knoxvilleans and our surrounding community, all ages are welcome.
Link to join in our bio!

Questions? email thebottomknox@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:
April 12th
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th

THE BOTTOM

CATFISH & COMEDY

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
SUNDAY APRIL 10TH • 3-6PM



Join The Bottom for a Catfish & Comedy birthday party celebrating our Founding Director, Dr. El-Amin!

- Pop up by Get'cha Po-Boy Louisiana Style Cuisine
- Laughs courtesy of comedian Brandi Augustus

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE.

THE BOTTOM

1619 PROJECT STUDY GROUP SCHEDULE

A NEW ORIGIN STORY

The 1619 Project

Facilitators & Vendors:

- 4/16 - Aris Clemmons
Topic: Race
Food by: Hood Palate
- 4/23 - Michelle Brown
Topic: Punishment
Food By: Yum Yums
- 4/30 - DeLisa Hawkes
Topic: Dispossession
Food By: Getcha Po-Boys
- 5/7 - Black Atticus
Food By: Yum Yums
- 5/14 - Aisha Brown
Topic: Traffic
Food By: Hood Palate
- 5/21 - Rhea Carmon
Topic: Capitalism
Food By: Yum Yums

RSVP TODAY
Link in Bio!

2340 E. Magnolia Ave.

THE BOTTOM

Youth Week at The Bottom!



Tues. April 26th - Sat. 30th

- FREE BOOKS
- STORY TIME
- LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK FAIR

2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE. KNOXVILLE, TN 37916


THE BOTTOM

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP
KARAOKE KICKBACK AT THE BOTTOM



APRIL 29, 2022 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

#IndieBookstoreDay
LOCAL AUTHOR BOOKFAIR
Sat. April 30th | 1pm - 6pm



Corey Hodges, Karyssa Hartsell, Octavia Yvonne Webb, Dr. Ron Brown, Via Jackson

THE BOTTOM
2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

Spring Essentials Swap

Come ready to swap gently used clothing, hair care products, and more!

As well as:

- Skincare Products
- Shoes
- Bags
- Accessories

Sunday
May 1, 2022
1pm - 4pm



THE BOTTOM

Black Creatives Meetup presents...

Michelle Gore




Join us First Friday to celebrate and welcome our featured artist of Final Critique Artwork!

Friday, May 6 // 6pm - 8pm
2340 E. Magnolia Ave

THE BOTTOM

THE LOVE SONGS OF W.E.B. DU BOIS
PAPERBACK LAUNCH

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers in conversation with Jacqueline Allen Trimble



MAY 10TH 8PM ET/7PM CT/5PM PT
Hosted by HarperCollins and the Black Bookstore Collective

HARPER PERENNIAL

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

STORY TIME
with
Jatreaun Sanders
Children's Book Author of
"Today Was Not the Same"




BOOK READING & BOOK SIGNING
and
HONORING GEORGE FLOYD
in a way that children & parents
will understand
VISIT THEBOTTOMKNOX.COM
for more information

Community • Culture • Creativity

GAME Night

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP


FRIDAY MAY 27TH
6:30PM - 8:30PM

Enjoy **BOARD GAMES,**
CARD GAMES &
REFRESHMENTS!

THE BOTTOM


2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE.

AUTHOR TALK
WITH **JASON B. CRAWFORD**



THE BOTTOM
FRIDAY JUNE 3RD
3PM - 4PM
Tickets: \$16, and include a
copy of the book!
"ticket link in our bio"

Discussing their new
book of poetry,
Year of the Unicorn Kidz!



Jason B. Crawford (they/them) is a
Black, nonbinary, queer writer.
Crawford is the author of three
chapbooks: Summertime Fine
(Variant Literature, 2021),
Twerkable Moments (Paper
Nautilus, 2021), and Good Boi (Neon
Hemlock, 2021). Crawford is a
current poetry MFA candidate at The
New School in New York, NY.

2340 E Magnolia Ave.

Y'ALL! IT'S THE 2ND ANNUAL

SOKNO **PRIDE**

SOKNO **PRIDE**

SOKNO **PRIDE**

SOKNO **PRIDE**

SEVIER AVE JUNE 11

**ENVISIONING A
COMMUNITY
LAND TRUST
IN KNOXVILLE**

with
The Institute of Cooperative Learning (ICL)

GUEST: THE HOUSING FUND

CONNECT About Community Land Trust
LEARN (CLT) models & housing
ORGANIZE development alternatives

SAT. JULY 9TH 9:30-11:30AM
The Bottom
2340 E. Magnolia Ave

@AlkemyFoodLab Presents:

BOOKS & BBQ

Every Saturday in July • 11am - 6pm



Next Date:
Sat. 7/9!

THE BOTTOM

2340 E. Magnolia Ave.

TACO TUESDAY
with *Hood Palate*



THE BOTTOM

TUESDAYS THIS SUMMER!
• 11AM-4PM •
2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE.
VEGAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

Saturday July 23rd
3pm EST

Author Talk
with
Barbara Fant




Join us for a virtual conversation
with performer, award winning poet
and author Barbara Fant, discussing
Mouths of Garden & more!

LINK TO RSVP IN BIO!

**RHYTHM
& STORIES**
AN OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE BOTTOM



JULY 31, 2022
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
BUILDING AN ARTIST SPACE TO
PLAY, EXPERIMENT, CONNECT, AND ENGAGE

SCAN TO SIGN UP!
SLOTS RESERVED FOR YOUNG CREATIVES
(AGES 13-25) NATIVE TO KNOXVILLE, TN

SCAN TO RSVP

2340 EAST MAGNOLIA AVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

UUNIK ACADEMY &
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC - PHI SIGMA ALUMNI CHAPTER
PRESENT

GROOVES
in the
ARDEN

FEATURING
Suga Shack Band

JULY 16, 2022
KNOXVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN
2743 Wimpole Av. Knoxville, TN

SEW IT SELL IT

**MARKET
DAY
2022!**



THE BOTTOM

Saturday 7/30 • 10am-2pm
2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

COME OUT TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG, TALENTED &
CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURS AS THEY SELL THEIR
HANDMADE PRODUCTS!

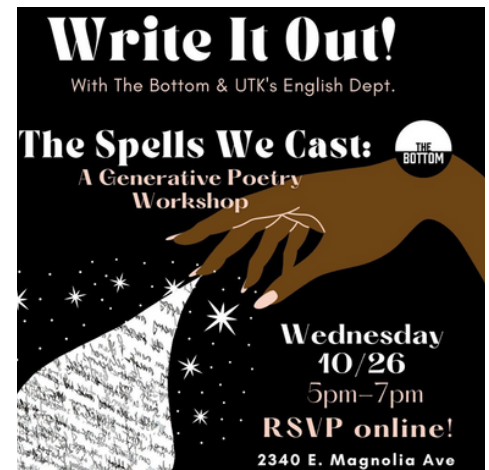
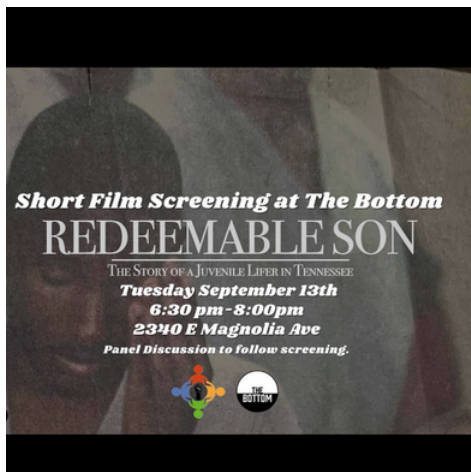
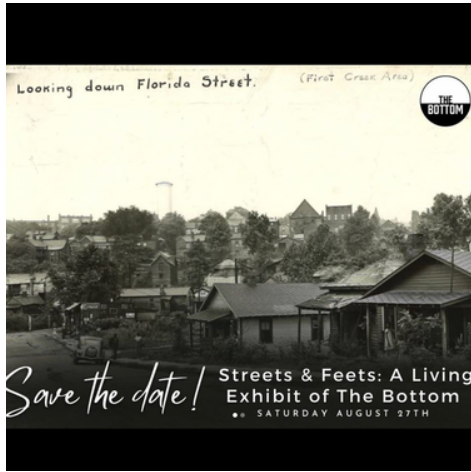
First Friday at the
Bottom With
**TRINITY ROSE
ANTHONY**



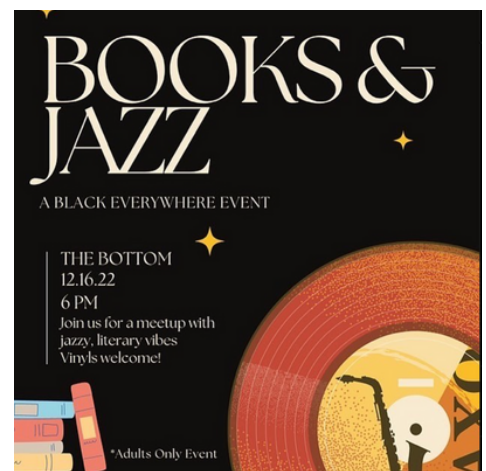
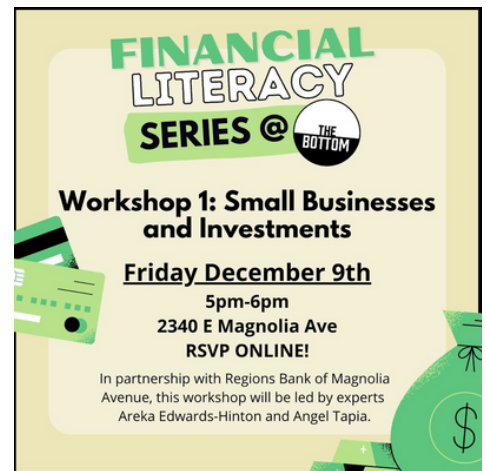
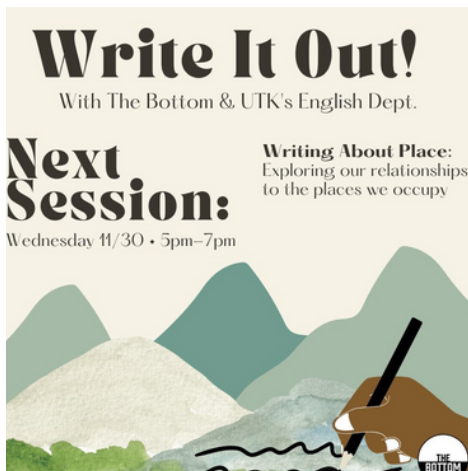
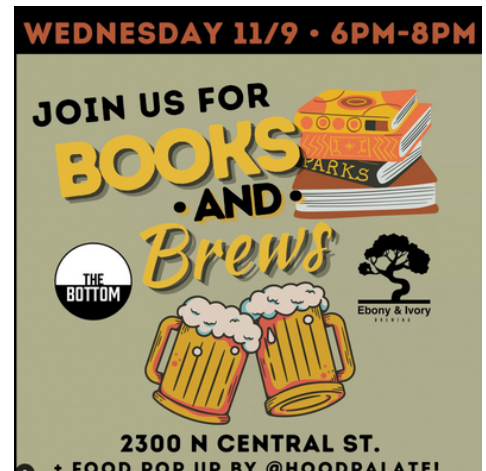

THE BOTTOM

FRIDAY AUGUST 5
5 - 8:30 PM
THE BOTTOM - 2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Storytime
with
Santa

at **The Bottom**
2340 E Magnolia Ave

DEC 17th
10am - 12pm

RSVP to reserve your seat!
Free story time from 10-10:30am.
Picture Time with Santa from
10:30am-12pm, tickets available
for \$10 and can be purchased on
Saturday!



**Black Creatives
Meetup**

BUILD A MUG WORKSHOP:
2 PART SERIES

Monday Dec. 12th
5:30pm-8:30pm

Monday Dec. 19th
5:30pm-7:30pm



Come along and learn techniques
for basic hand-built pottery with
artist Jeremy Myles. Beginner
friendly, free to attend and
supplies are included!


Register Today
LINK IN OUR BIO

2340 E Magnolia Ave

Write It Out!
With The Bottom & UTK's English Dept.

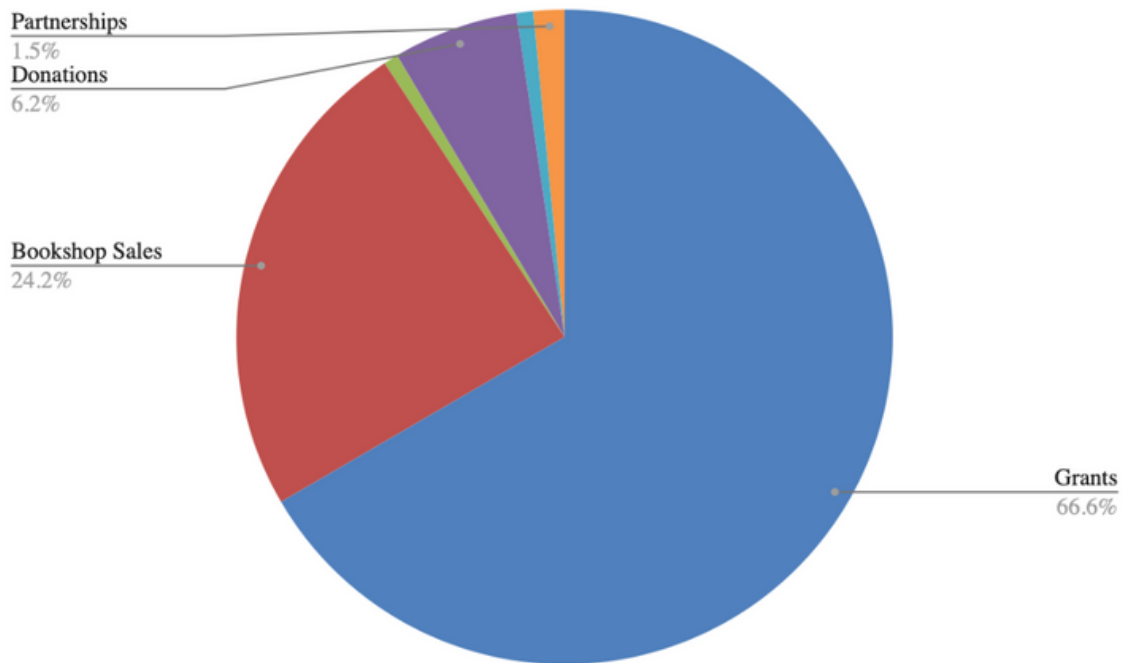
Next Session:
Saturday 12/17 • 2pm-4pm

Finding Joy:
Discussing how poetry can
be a vehicle for expressing
joy as well as a model for
recuperating it.



Annual Income Statement

A summary of our sources of income in 2022



Grants	\$212,363.80
Bookshop Sales	\$77,005.80
Space Rentals	\$2,265.00
Donations	\$19,725.21
Events	\$2,608.97
Partnerships	\$4,875.00

MEDIA & PRESS COVERAGE

The Charlotte Observer

"Small World, Big Love with Faith Adiele: A roadtrip to Knoxville reveals the importance of holding onto place"

In 2019, dissertation complete, El-Amin started teaching local kids to sew. What was meant to be "a fun little project" developed into the wildly popular Sew It Sell It program, in which youth ages 12 to 16 receive basic sewing instruction and are provided with the supplies, equipment and business training to start their own business. Before she knew it, she and Ty Murray, who serves as Director of Art and Communications, were spearheading an organization to reclaim Black space, build community, celebrate culture and engage Black creativity.



"Streets & Feets tour shares the stories of Knoxville's original Bottom neighborhood"

"Retrace the steps and listen to the stories of those of who lived in Knoxville's original Bottom neighborhood centered near the Old City and the extending blocks eastward. The Bottom community center will present Streets & Feets from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The living exhibit will take participants on a free tour of the original historic Bottom neighborhood via KAT trolley and will be anchored by the stories of elders who lived there decades ago. "I can't replace the Bottom (neighborhood). I can't give them back their neighborhood," Enkeshi El-Amin, the founder of The Bottom community center told Knox News."

The Tennessee Tribune

"Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin Says Farewell to The Bottom with Community Exhibit"

This exhibit is Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin's farewell project, a culmination of research on the Bottom neighborhood conducted over the last two years. The community wishes Dr. El-Amin, Founding Director of The Bottom, the best as she leaves Knoxville to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at West Virginia University. The exhibit will tour the original Bottom with these elders, whose "feets" traversed the "streets" of the neighborhood decades ago. Participants will listen to their stories, imagine their kinship and affirm their existence."



"Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin Says Farewell to The Bottom with Community Exhibit"

Kwanzaa began on Dec. 26, celebrating African culture and the principles surrounding it. The celebrations last a week, with each day highlighting a specific value. The day before New Year's Eve highlights 'Nia,' which represents a person's personal purpose. For this, The Bottom will host a Black creatives meetup and workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. to explore the history and purpose of Kwanzaa, as well as to show people how to create a Kinara candle holder.