

COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CREATIVITY



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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BEHIND THE BOTTOM

OUR STORY

Founded by Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin, a local sociologist studying race, place, and Black Communities, The Bottom was named after the first Black neighborhood in Knoxville that was demolished by urban renewal and institutionalized racism in the 1950s. El-Amin conducted interviews and archival research and found resounding feelings of displacement and loss of place amongst Knoxville's Black elders and youth. She wanted to do more than just conduct a study, she wanted to make an impact, and thus the idea of The Bottom began to take form.

Dr. El-Amin's efforts joined those of Brandi Augustus, Pumpkin Starr, and Ty Murray of Black Mama's Bail Out along with Jazmin Witherspoon and other Black women in Knoxville who also sought to do meaningful work. Today, The Bottom stands as a collective working to reclaim and reimagine Black space in Knoxville. What initially started with a youth sewing and entrepreneurial program in 2019, has grown into a hub of Black culture and togetherness. With the support of our community, our space has grown to include a tea room, podcast studio, expanded sewing studio, and bookstore. With the belief that Blackness is neither essentialist nor static, but relational, dynamic and changeable, The Bottom stands as a multi-use place to foster change and provide a sense of Black safety. The Bottom welcomes locals and newcomers to town.



OUR MISSION

The Bottom is a nonprofit cultural organization serving our community through our Black-affirming bookshop and arts programming. Rooted in place justice, we stand to build **community**, celebrate **culture**, and engage the **creativity** of Black people in Knoxville. We strive to cultivate a sense of belonging, togetherness and safety for Black people in Knoxville and beyond.

MEET THE TEAM



ENKESHI EL-AMIN

Enkeshi El-Amin is a community sociologist in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at Agnes Scott College. 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.

FOUNDING DIRECTOR



TY MURRAY

Ty Murray is a multi-faceted artist and activist. As a modern day Renaissance woman rooted in the rural south, her art reflects who she is, where she's from and what she aspires to see in the world. She chooses to create art that challenges, art that confronts, art that is loud, bold, colorful and soulful. She wears many hats, but works to elevate The Bottom as a dynamic arts and cultural center in East Knoxville.

DIRECTOR OF ART & COMMUNICATION



ANNASTASIA WILLIAMS

Annastasia has always enjoyed reading from an early age, and is an avid reader and lover of books. As the Bookstore Director, Annastasia curates the inventory at the Bookshop to highlight Black authors and Black-centered stories for all ages. She also plans events and manages our free literature program for youth called, LitKidz. She considers herself a banned book activist, and educates the community on the dangers of book banning.

BOOKSHOP DIRECTOR



KALIL WHITE

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.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

MEET THE TEAM



MADISON PAYNE

Being born and raised in Memphis has helped Madison recognize the importance of establishing safe spaces for Black people to build community with one another, which is why she is so grateful for the community she has found at The Bottom. In addition to creating content for social media, Madison enjoys spending her free time making Youtube videos, modeling, and acting.

COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



ANNA TREVETHAN

I worked at The Bottom as a full time staff member between June and November. While working at The Bottom, everyone on staff has been beyond empathetic and nurturing. This organization has taken my passion for literature and transformed it into a vessel for creating community. I have experienced so much understanding from The Bottom, and I have always felt heard when sharing ideas with the staff. It's truly a rare and remarkable place to work.

BOOKSHOP
COORDINATOR



NATORI MASON

My first engagement with The Bottom was in 2023, through their ceramics program. After learning more about the history and mission behind this space, I couldn't help but continue to come back. I always jumped at opportunities to help out or attend events, then I joined the team as a full time employee in September. I'm grateful to work with people that constantly uplift and support each other, especially our fellow community members. Whether I'm here to work, create, or engage with the community, The Bottom makes me feel at home.

ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

MEET THE TEAM



DASH LEE

"Do what U can, when U can, while U can"

These famous words are straight from the mouth of our resident "funcler" Dash Lee, who is a man of many talents! Among being a local chef and contractor, he has a background in youth empowerment and engagement, and also serves as the sound engineer for our Community Podcast Studio.

**SOUND ENGINEER &
SPACE MAINTENANCE**



DANIEL CRAFT

Knoxville-based artist, Daniel Craft, has been honing his skills in the art world through mixed media. His inspiration is themed in comic book illustrations and paintings that bleed into a political/social sense of awareness. He's been drawing since he was able to pick up a pencil and attended Nossi College of Arts.

ART DEPARTMENT & FACILITIES

DIRECTOR STATEMENTS

Read statements from our directors as they reflect on their past year with The Bottom:

2024 marks another year of innovation, expression, and connection at The Bottom. As I reflect on the sustained growth of our organization, and the incredible strides made in our arts department, this year has been nothing short of transformative. It's been a year of vibrance and momentum, a year that has seen us all grooving and moving with growth in every sense. One of the standout milestones has been the successful conclusion of our inaugural season of Tiny Bookshop Concerts, a live performance series designed to highlight performers of color in an intimately empowering setting. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the [Tennessee Arts Commission](#) and [Sadie Pearl Records](#), we were able to bring eight incredibly talented local performers to our stage between August 2023 and March 2024. Each of these artists, rooted in the Knoxville community, shared their voices, stories, and songs with an audience eager to connect with their craft.

In addition to our first season, we were thrilled to launch another mini season of Tiny Bookshop Concerts this fall, made possible through an African American Equity Restoration Task Force grant from the City of Knoxville. This second season, held in November and December, continued to showcase the diversity and richness of local talent, building deeper connections with our audience and amplifying the importance of cultural representation through music and performance.

Year after year, we've worked to strengthen and refine the programming we offer, with a dedicated focus on harnessing the power of art and literature as tools for liberation and community building. This ongoing evolution speaks to the heart of our mission at The Bottom, where we center community, culture, and creativity. As I reflect on all that we've accomplished and all that is yet to come, I can't help but feel a deep sense of excitement for the future of The Bottom. Witnessing the depth of our growth has been a truly remarkable experience—one that reminds us of the boundless potential for what happens when we create spaces that honor, celebrate, and nurture the voices of our community.

- Ty Murray, Director of Art & Communication

DIRECTOR STATEMENTS

Read statements from our directors as they reflect on their past year with our organization:

As I reflect on this year, I am astounded at all that The Bottom has been able to accomplish with a small (but mighty) crew, limited resources, and the shifting political landscape. We've increased impactful and community-building events happening in and through our space, increased engagement across Knoxville and the state of Tennessee, and our organization is gaining more recognition nationally. The bookshop has had an incredible year of promoting Black-affirming stories and Black authors. More books have gone into the hands of our community members than the previous year and we've launched two regular book clubs to bring readers together.

As directors, we have strived to shape our organization into something more sustainable this year – not just for our physical space in East Knoxville, but also for the staff that give so much of themselves to The Bottom every single day. This effort is ongoing and will require diversified revenue streams, creative thinking, community support, and personal commitments to liberatory rest and our physical and mental health. The work we do continues to be relevant and vital to our collective liberation, yet far too many Black women throughout history have sacrificed their bodies and minds in the name of progress and liberation for all. We honor our ancestors, and we must commit to finding a better way so that The Bottom will exist for many more years to come. I am humbled to be involved in building this legacy.

I wish to thank all those that have supported us this year. We don't do what we do without community support in its many forms. And finally, I am looking forward to seeing how The Bottom harnesses this momentum moving forward, armed with our mission, staff, and our excellent minds.

- Anastasia Williams, Bookshop Director

DIRECTOR STATEMENTS

Read statements from our directors as they reflect on their past year with our organization:

2024 has been a pivotal year for us at The Bottom. Despite navigating the challenges of being a small team, we have witnessed tremendous growth in our arts and literature programming and community events. The Bottom has expanded its reach beyond Knoxville, creating meaningful connections throughout the region. It's been an incredible honor to see the impact of The Bottom extend beyond the walls of our small bricked space, opening doors for people to imagine new beginnings, build dynamic connections, and foster a vibrant community.

As we head into our 5th year as an organization, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our community. We wouldn't be where we are today without you. Whether you're gushing over the latest read for Banned Book Club, buying a ticket for the Tiny Bookshop Concert Series, or sharing a post on social media, your engagement fuels our growth and sustains our mission.

This year, you showed up in a big way for our Building Maintenance Campaign, helping us secure funds to sustain the physical space that houses so much of our work. Your engagement and donations not only support the maintenance of our space but also uphold the work of Black-led organizations, ensuring the future of spaces like The Bottom for generations to come. We want The Bottom to withstand the test of time and remain a cherished and loved staple in our community for years to come. This space is what I needed growing up, and it is so important to see it flourish as a resource and refuge for others.

Looking ahead, we recognize that continued growth and sustainability require not just community support but also ensuring the well-being of the small yet mighty team of Black women who drive our work forward. Maximizing how we show up for our community and for ourselves is essential to building a future where The Bottom thrives. Together, we'll keep creating spaces that inspires imagination, connection, and hope for years to come.

-Kalil White, Director of Operations

OUR IMPACT

2,824

Total books sold at
The Bottom

102

Youth engaged
through
programming

97

Events Held

64

Artists leading workshops,
performing, or exhibiting with
The Bottom

81

Volunteers

\$463,759.96

Raised through
individual giving,
in-kind donations,
grants & awards,
bookshop
purchases and
space rentals

282

Free books
distributed to
youth through
LitKidz

119

Donors

IMPACT STATEMENTS

LitKidz, Participant Parent

"He is only one, but he LOVES to come pick out books and read them at home. It has REALLY sparked his curiosity and focus when reading and learning new things. It is such a beautiful thing to see books that look like him, because it helps him to connect and engage. It is something that I have enjoyed also because it builds connection with him early and getting him loving to read and all the things book early in life. He goes to his books and picks them out, flips through them and entrains himself with love and laughter. He also loves sitting and us reading to him as he points and learns words and colors and sounds."

Karah Tull Bookshop Volunteer

"From the moment I walked in the door at The Bottom until now, every interaction with the space and the people who work there has been so uplifting. Everyone involved with The Bottom works tirelessly to promote a sense of belonging, safety, growth, and support. They do this through the space itself, its book clubs, and its many other creative and progressive endeavors. I not only love the space, but I love spending time with the people who make that space what it is. They are the true heart of The Bottom. I am so grateful for a place that challenges me to grow as a creative and as a human being, while also being truly supportive of every individual who walks in the door or attends an event."

Jaz Parks Black Creatives Meetup Leader

"Working with the Bottom for the Black Creatives Meetup was such a life-giving experience. Staff, specifically Ty, made it such a joyful and easy experience. I am grateful for the space and opportunity and would love to do it again sometime in the future for potentially a different workshop/craft in the future. I think at the time I was scheduled to host my workshop there, I was really struggling with confidence and being motivated to continue making, but the timing of it and how positive it was really re-ignited my creativity and the joy of it. Truly a great experience."

Jazzmine Curtis Ceramic Soul Collective Member

"My journey with The Bottom's Ceramic Soul Collective has profoundly shaped my growth as both an artist and a community member. Being part of this collective has provided me with the guidance and support needed to navigate the complexities of the art world while granting me access to opportunities I never knew existed. The Bottom has shown me that art and community are not just avenues for personal expression but essential elements that provide answers and connections to so many facets of life. This space has expanded my vision, reinforced my belief in the power of shared creation, and demonstrated how art can be a force for change, healing, and empowerment."

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Katherine Roberts
Bottom Book Club Member

"I am so grateful for The Bottom's Book Club. Not only does the club give me the opportunity to meet new people, but Anastasia's careful curation of books has greatly expanded my reading taste! Anastasia gently leads the club and allows interesting and informative conversations to bloom. I am always delighted to see a book club announcement in The Bottom's newsletter or on Instagram!"

Hazi
Tiny Bookshop Concert Performer

"Getting the opportunity to perform for the Tiny Bookshop Concert Series was a highlight of my year when it comes to performances! It's not often that musicians are able to be in spaces where they can be 100% themselves with an audience fully engaged on hearing what they have to say, but this was that experience! I hope that more artists have the opportunity to be able to be a part of this series, because it's truly amazing! Thank you again seriously, I had soooo much fun!"

Brittney Dunn
Sewing Circle Participant

"Over the last couple of months, I have been able to learn new skills in the sewing circle. I learned how to sew as a child from my mom who was a seamstress. However, I had not sewn in many years. After visiting Ghana, this past May, and seeing all of the beautiful fabrics and the talented seamstresses, I wanted to learn how to sew again. I was very excited to see that The Bottom was offering an adult sewing class. While life is busy and hectic, I made it a priority to be here because I want to be intentional about making time to create. I am thankful for spaces like The Bottom that allow community members to continue to evolve in their creativity."

LaToya Eaves
Write It Out Member

"Write It Out has been a great program series for me. It has reconnected me to how healing and beautiful that creative writing can be. Phil is a great facilitator, including mindfulness and short lessons before we start on writing exercises. The groups are very encouraging when it comes to the sharing portion of the evening. I have enjoyed meeting other writers and gaining more confidence in my creativity."

NEW PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



**WE'RE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL
FOR EACH ORGANIZATION AND INDIVIDUAL
WHO SUPPORTS OUR SPACE !**

97

Events this year!


Our space was created as a place for the community to gather, create, fundraise, and launch their own passions.

In 2023 we held 76 events. We ended 2024 with 97 events, we continue to be amazed by the passion of our staff, partners, community members and volunteers who made this possible!



2024 Events with The Bottom

AN EXHIBITION OF
SCULPTURE AND PAINTINGS



January 9th-31st

**Gary White
&
Nyasha
Madamombe**

Exhibition Reception:
2ND SATURDAY
AT THE
BOTTOM
January 13th
6pm - 8pm

Curated by: LaKesha Lee

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2340 E Magnolia Ave.

Join **The Bottom**
at the **MOVIES**

THE COLOR PURPLE

Thursday, January 18th
Link in bio for tickets
**limited quantity,
GRAB YOURS TODAY!**

Pre-Show
Mocktails &
Small Bites:
5:00-6:15pm
at the Bottom
2340 E Magnolia

Movie Screening
7:00pm
at Regal Riviera
510 S Gay St

LitKidz

January Workshop

DATE
January 20th

TIME
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

LOCATION
The Change Center
203 Harriet Tubman St.

Join us for a storytelling
session and poetry workshop
led by Courageous the Poet!



**Visions
OF YOU**

A BYOB Vision Boarding Party

Saturday, January 20th
6pm-8pm

All supplies included!

RSVP Online • 2340 E Magnolia Ave.


Black Creatives Meetup




TINY BOOKSHOP
CONCERT SERIES



SUNDAY • JANUARY 21 • 7PM

THE BOTTOM • 2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE.




"DELIVERING A DEMOLISHING FUSION OF DREAMY
SYNTH MELODIES AND AMBIENT VOCALS"

An Evening with
Jordan Albright

Write It Out!
with Shade Tree Therapy:
Empowerment through Expression




Wed. 1/31 • 6-8pm
link in bio to RSVP!

Session 1 • Understanding the Interplay of
Creative Writing and Mental Health:

Join workshop leader Phillip Tucker of Shade Tree
Therapy for our first Write It Out of the year, exploring
the therapeutic benefits of creative writing!

2340 E Magnolia Ave.



Black Creatives Meetup

**REDUCTION
LINOCUT**
with
KATRINA ANDRY

**WEDNESDAY
JAN 31ST**
6pm-8pm

1715 Volunteer Blvd. Rm. 213,
Knoxville, TN 37996

Learn printmaking techniques with us!
Join The Bottom in collaboration with UTK Printmaking for a free
reduction linocut workshop at UTK's School of Art. Supplies will be
provided along with a takeaway.




FRAGMENT MEMORIES



February 1st- 29th

**Daniel
Craft**

Exhibition Reception:
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 3RD
4PM - 6PM

Curated by: LaKesha Lee

COMMUNITY
CULTURE
CREATIVITY

2340 E Magnolia Ave.



TINY BOOKSHOP
CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 10 • 7PM

THE BOTTOM • 2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE.



CRAFTING A SOUNDTRACK TO LIFE WITH PRISTINE VOCALS,
BREEZY POP GROOVES, BIG HOOKS & SOARING MELODIES!

An Evening with
Shayla McDaniel




Black Creatives Meetup

Redefining Love
with Via Jackson

Sunday Feb. 11 • 3-5pm

This writing workshop is an invitation to learn
about self and redefine love. Attendees will
be guided by author and group therapy
facilitator Via Jackson to explore the topic
of **leaving behind toxic patterns to
recognize true love.**

2340 E Magnolia Ave




TO: LOVERS

Love Spell Candle Making
Experience

DIY Tea Bar ♥ Small Bites ♥ Shopping Experience

Design two candles with
custom label with scents
from the heart with our
in-house candle expert
Kalii!

TICKETS
\$20

w/ By Sunday Love

16 FEB 6PM-8PM

LOVE: The Bottom





LitKidz

February Workshop

DATE
February 17th

TIME
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

LOCATION
The Bottom

This workshop will equip LitKidz
with everything they need to tell
powerful stories & evoke positive
change in their communities!




2024 Events with The Bottom

THE BOTTOM

Literature as Liberation

A Black History Month Celebration!

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY 2/24 • 12-3PM
2340 E Magnolia Ave

Featuring: Story Time, Trivia, Keynote Speaker & More!

Write It Out
with Shade Tree Therapy:
Exploring Creative Outlets



Wed. 2/28 • 6-8pm
link in bio to RSVP!

Session 2 • Identifying Your Creative Identity and Mode of Writing

Join workshop leader Dr. Phillip Tucker of Shade Tree Therapy to identify your creative identity and find the right mode of writing for you.

2340 E Magnolia Ave.


Join **The Bottom** at the **MOVIES**

American Fiction

Saturday, March 9
Link in bio for tickets
limited quantity, GRAB YOURS TODAY!

Movie Screening
1:00pm
at Regal
Downtown West
1640 Downtown West Blvd.

Jars of Clay



March 1st-30th

Stephen Phillips

Exhibition Reception:
Second Saturday at The Bottom
March 9th 6pm - 8pm

Curated by: LaKesha Lee

2340 E Magnolia Ave

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP

STORY WEAVING



with photographer and writer Jalynn Baker

Saturday 3/16
1PM - 3PM

Join us for a unique storytelling workshop where attendees will use a variety of mediums to weave stories into their own commemorative art piece!

2340 E Magnolia Ave

TINY BOOKSHOP CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY • MARCH 16TH • 7PM
THE BOTTOM • 2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE.



CALLING UPON THE POWER OF PURPOSE TO CHANGE FREQUENCIES & SUMMONING HIP HOP SOUNDS THAT SPARK FIRE.

An Evening with **J. BUSH**

PEASIE

Women's History Month Tea Party



March 17th

2PM - 4PM

Celebrating the Women Who Tell The Stories We Need To Hear

2340 E Magnolia Ave

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP

Words in Grey with Genesis the Greykid



Wednesday March 20
6:30 - 8:30PM
at UT Downtown Gallery
106 S Gay St.

Join The Bottom in collaboration with UT Downtown Gallery for a unique poetry workshop centered amongst the exhibition 'Y'all Don't Hear Me: The Black Appalachia', An Ode to Nikki Giovanni curated by Kreneshia Whiteside-McGee. Attendees will be pushed to think outside of the box, explore senses and perspectives, and draw inspiration from moments.

LitKidz


March Workshop

DATE
March 23rd

TIME
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

LOCATION
The Bottom

This workshop will equip LitKidz with a deeper understanding of nature, storytelling skills, and a sense of environmental responsibility!

THE HEALING POWER OF WORDS

In this session, workshop leader Phil Tucker will discuss writing as a tool for self-discovery. This workshop will also provide journaling exercises to delve into personal narratives that you can weave into your creative writing. Space is limited, so reserve your spot ASAP!

WRITE IT OUT
with Shade Tree Therapy

March 27th | 6pm-8pm
2340 E Magnolia Ave

EXHIBITING ARTIST

Cicely Hill



Exhibition Reception:
2nd Saturday at The Bottom
April 13th
4pm - 6pm

April 1st - 30th

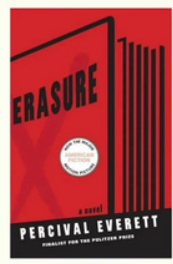
Curated by: LaKesha Lee

COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CREATIVITY

2340 E Magnolia Ave.

Bottom Book Club

Erasure by Percival Everett



April 17th | 6pm-8pm
Ebony & Ivory Brewing 2500 N Central St.

2024 Events with The Bottom

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP X SADIE PEARL RECORDS

THE ART OF STORYTELLING WITH



KUF KNOTZ & CHRISTINE ELISE

Wednesday April 17th
6PM-8PM

Join us for a unique performance and interactive workshop with dynamic touring duo Kuf Knotz & Christine Elise!

2340 E Magnolia Ave

LitKidz

BLACK HAIR LOVE

DATE: April 20th
TIME: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
LOCATION: The Bottom

This workshop will dive into the importance of black hair care while celebrating its beauty!



BLACK HAIR LOVE WORKSHOP

SAT. 4/20 • 1-2:30PM
RSVP TODAY!
2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE




FINDING YOUR VOICE

Write it Out

WITH SHADE TREE THERAPY

Transformative explorations of self-expression & mental well-being through empowering sessions led by Shade Tree Therapy.

In this session, workshop leader Phil Tucker will discuss cultivating authenticity in our writing practice. This workshop will help you find your voice in your storytelling.



SESSION 4 APRIL 24TH 6-8 PM

Independent Bookstore Day CELEBRATION!

book + art swap, giveaways, indie author highlight

Join us as we celebrate the unique contributions and cultural significance of indie bookstores across the country!

April 27th 1pm-5pm

2340 E Magnolia Ave

SPRING ART SHOW


The event will be held on:
Saturday 4 May, 2024
4:00 pm-6:00 pm
at The Bottom
Book Shop & Community Arts Space

LitKidz

Checkmate! An Introduction To Chess

DATE: May 11th
TIME: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
LOCATION: The Bottom

LitKidz will dive into the world of chess through storytelling and interactive activities that blend literature with gameplay!



Ode to Black Women

by Kail White

My artwork is a love letter to black women and centers the perspective of black women and girls navigating life in America in the 90's to late 2000's.

EXHIBITION RECEPTION MAY 11TH 4PM-6PM 2340 E Magnolia Ave

INTRO TO HANDBUILDING CERAMICS

with Athena'z Alchemy 777

May 15th 6-8PM

2340 E Magnolia Ave



Black Creatives Meetup



MAY 25TH 1:30PM-3:30PM

MUSIC AND KNOWLEDGE: WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING

Taught By COREY HODGE

2340 E Magnolia Ave

OVERCOMING CREATIVE BLOCKS

WRITE IT OUT

WITH SHADE TREE THERAPY



In this session, workshop leader Phil Tucker will discuss strategies for managing writer's block and self-doubt. Uncover the obstacles hindering your creative process and discover effective solutions to overcome them.

SESSION 5 MAY 29TH 6-8 PM

SPRINGTIME CLOTHING SWAP

MAY 31 6-8PM

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE



2024 Events with The Bottom

**Black Creatives Meetup
Brunch!**

SATURDAY 6/1 • 10AM-12PM

Join us for brunch and a creative conversation with Good Black Art artists Ahmad George, Erin LeAnn Mitchell, and founder Phillip Collins!

GO OD BLACK ART

SATURDAY JUNE 1ST • 6-8PM

Podcasts & Pints

INTERACTIVE AUDIO STATIONS, FOOD, MUSIC & FUN!
EBONY & IVORY BREWING • 2300 N CENTRAL ST #101

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP

Style Cultivates Confidence Workshop

Join us for a hands-on class to blend your personal style with your artistry! Workshop leader K.C. Coleman will guide attendees through a short activity centered in creatively translating who you are into what you wear.

FRI. 6/7 • 6:30-8PM

LIMITED SPOTS • RSVP TODAY!

2340 E Magnolia Ave

HUES OF HER JUNE 1 - 30

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE.

AN EXHIBITION FUNDRAISER BY KRISTEN K.C. COLEMAN

K.C.'s Hues of Her exhibition is an extension of her artistry, and features a series of paintings that explore the colors and rhythms of her inspirations. Every painting sold from the exhibition will go towards K.C.'s forthcoming storytelling production titled "The Revival", an immersive Black Cultural encounter where fashion, culture, visuals, and history converge harmoniously on September 15th in Cumberland Gap, TN.

EXHIBITION RECEPTION: SAT. 6/8 • 4-6PM

JUNE 19TH ★ 11AM-6PM

JUNE TEENTH SHELF SWEEP

SPEND \$19 GET A FREE CUP OF TEA ★ 10% STORE DISCOUNT
\$5, \$10, \$15 SALE ★ BUY 4 BOOKS GET A FREE TOTE BAG

Bottom Book Club

A Novel **POST-TRAUMATIC**

June 20 6pm-8pm

Chantal V. Johnson

RSVP online

Ebony & Ivory Brewing | 2300 N Central St. thebottomknox.com

PRIDE JAM 2024 • SAVE THE DATE!

...the category is:
Durags & Tiaras

JUNE 22 8PM-11PM
CORTE-LAND ART HOUSE
1503 CLINCH AVE

Write It Out
WITH SHADE TREE THERAPY

Transformative explorations of self-expression & mental well-being through empowering sessions led by Shade Tree Therapy.

In this session, workshop leader Phil Tucker will discuss navigating industry challenges and building resilience by addressing common challenges in the creative industry, developing coping mechanisms for resilience, and setting goals for personal and professional growth.

SESSION 6 JUNE 26TH 6-8 PM

ART and AUDIOBOOKS

pay what you can

art supplies provided

2340 E Magnolia Ave

SATURDAY JUNE 29 4pm-6pm

Featured Audiobook:
FAMILY LORE BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Stitching Stories

JULY 6 | 3PM-5PM

Community Storytelling Through Quilting Workshop

Join us as we explore a variety of decoration techniques to create a vibrant community quilt!

UT DOWNTOWN GALLERY
106 S. GAY STREET

Summer Reading Group

SOUTH TO AMERICA
A JOURNEY BELOW THE MASON-DIXON TO UNDERSTAND THE SOUL OF A NATION

IMANI PERRY

Join us at The Bottom every Sunday in July for a weekly reading group on Imani Perry's *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation* hosted by Historian Dr. Robert Bland.

JULY 7 - 28 2PM - 4PM

Led by **Dr. Robert Bland**

RSVP REQUIRED 2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

EXPANDING HORIZONS JULY 13 6-8PM

with Ceramics at the Bottom

Exhibition Reception • Artist Talks • Opening Celebration

2024 Events with The Bottom

SEW IT SELL IT

PITCH DAY

Get ready to shop till you drop for handmade goods designed and created by our 2023 class!

JULY 19

THE BOTTOM
2340 EAST MAGNOLIA AVE.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

THE BOTTOM

Sew It Sell It

COMMUNITY Cook Out

SATURDAY JULY 20 • 2-5PM

Celebrating The Bottom: Stories from the Neighborhood, A Collaborative Exhibition!

2340 E Magnolia Ave.

THE BOTTOM

GO OD BLACK ART

THE BOTTOM

SEW IT SELL IT

MARKET DAY

Get ready to shop till you drop for handmade goods designed and created by our 2023 class!

JULY 27

THE BOTTOM
2340 EAST MAGNOLIA AVE.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

thebottomknox@gmail.com

THE BOTTOM

Sew It Sell It

Session 7 CREATIVE EXPRESSION AND IDENTITY

Write It Out

WITH SHADE TREE THERAPY

JULY 31 | 6PM-8PM

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

THE BOTTOM

Author Talk & Book Signing with **Valerie Burns**

Saturday August 3 • 4 PM

Moderated by Anastasia Williams

Join us for a Book Signing, Cupcake Bar, Mystery Activity & Giveaways!

2340 E Magnolia Ave

THE BOTTOM

Bottom Book Club

SIP 'N' READ

AUGUST 7 | PETER KERN LIBRARY | 6PM-8PM

Immerse yourself in an evening of connection with fellow readers, savoring expertly crafted cocktails from our friends at Peter Kern Library.

THE BOTTOM

LitKidz

August Workshop

After story time and snacks, kids can enjoy a fun coloring book activity inspired by Kicks in the Sky by C.G. Esperanza.

DATE
August 10th

TIME
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

LOCATION
The Bottom

THE BOTTOM

EXHIBITION OF THE MONTH

Stories of Sew It Sell It

August 1st - 31st

JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION!

AUGUST 10TH 2024

Stories of Sew It Sell It is a celebratory exhibition featuring narrative art work from 2024 students and instructors!

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

THE BOTTOM

Sew It Sell It

BOOKSTORE ROMANCE DAY

17 AUGUST
11 AM - 6 PM

Write a love note to The Bottom for a chance to win free audiobooks!

10% OFF ALL ROMANCE BOOKS!

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK FAIR!

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

THE BOTTOM

Bottom Book Club

HE COULD HAVE IT ALL... BUT AT WHAT PRICE?

FORTY ACRES

August 17
2pm-4pm

RSVP online

WAYNE ALEXANDER SMITH

2340 E Magnolia Ave

thebottomknox.com

THE BOTTOM

Black Creatives Meetup

THURS. 8/22
6-7:30 pm

Lemonade Bar & Community Conversation

SQUEEZE THE DAY

A workshop on guaranteed income for artists, plus local opportunities & resources!

Waymakers @knoxinfo

CREATIVES REBUILD NEW YORK

2340 E Magnolia Ave.

THE BOTTOM

AUGUST 24 6-8PM

2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

STEAMY Storytime

21+


GET READY FOR AN ELECTRIFYING EVENING AS SEXY BLACK MEN READ TANTALIZING ROMANCE SCENES FROM THE STEAMIEST BOOKS IN OUR BOOKSHOP. WE'LL TURN UP THE HEAT WITH DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS AND FUN GAMES, WHILE FANS COOL THINGS DOWN WHEN THE PASSION GETS TOO INTENSE. GATHER YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF PASSION AND PROSE THAT WILL LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS.

2024 Events with The Bottom

SESSION 8

WRITE IT OUT

WITH SHADE TREE THERAPY



AUGUST 28 6PM-8PM

HEALING THROUGH STORYTELLING

THE BOTTOM

In Conversation with **Rae Garringer**

Saturday, September 6 • 6PM

2340 E Magnolia Ave



COUNTRY QUEERS

RAE J. GARRINGER A LOVE LETTER

Country Queers paints a vivid portrait of queer and trans experiences in rural areas and small towns across the US

with a special feature of Knoxville's own Elandria Williams

THE BOTTOM

Black Creatives Meetup:

The Art of Hair Braiding with Nacira



A 2-day workshop series at The Bottom

Sat. 9/7 • Introduction
Sun. 9/8 • Basic Corn Row

Classes take place from 1pm-3pm
2340 E Magnolia Ave • RSVP today!

THE BOTTOM

BLACK POWER RANGERS COMEDY TOUR



Richard Douglas Jones Brandi Augustus Wills Maxwell Jr. Jordan Centry

Sept 19 7:30 PM

Tickets at [BlackPowerRangersComedy.com](https://blackpowerangerscomedy.com)

THE BOTTOM

LitKidz

We'll dive into the Little People, Big Dreams series during story time to explore the lives of influential Black figures in history. Afterward, our LitKidz will engage in a vision boarding activity to help bring their own dreams to life!

DATE
September 21st

TIME
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

LOCATION
The Bottom

THE BOTTOM

Bottom Book Club

WITH BLACK GIRL ENVIRONMENTALIST: KNOXVILLE HUB

Rooted in the Earth

RECLAIMING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE

September 22 10am-12pm

Dianna D. Glave

This meetup will include a special workshop at Citizens Cemetery to reclaim the space from invasive plants!


Citizens Cemetery • 1038 Fuller Ave

THE BOTTOM

Crafting Collaborative Narratives

write it out

with shade tree therapy



September 25 6pm-8pm

2340 E Magnolia Ave

Session 9

Explore the dynamics of collaborative writing with Phil Tucker of Shade Tree Therapy

THE BOTTOM

BANNED Books Week

September 22-28, stop by the shop!

SEP. 28TH • 4-6PM
Banned Book Club Kickoff!

A discussion on the current state of book banning in the US and in our state • a reading and discussion on the first Banned Books Club pick: *I Am Ruby Bridges*

I Am Ruby Bridges

How one six-year-old girl's march to school changed the world

written by acclaimed author Ruby Bridges
Illustrated by 31 New York Times Bestselling Artists: Nikki Smith

Link in bio to RSVP • 2340 E Magnolia Ave.

THE BOTTOM

Book Lovers Night

At Lakeshore Park

Tuesday, Oct. 1st
5-7 pm Marble Hall at Lakeshore Park

Grab your friends, a book & a picnic blanket and join us for an evening of reading & book shopping

Featuring

fable + follow
good girl books
Knox Cafe Co.

THE BOTTOM

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP:

Oct. 3rd 6-7:30PM

BLACK WOMEN OF PRINT

MEET US AT THE GALLERY!

with Tanekeya Word



UT DOWNTOWN GALLERY
106 S Gay ST. • Link in bio to RSVP!

THE BOTTOM

SPOOKY STORIES

VIRTUAL EVENT
PREVIEWING SPINE-CHILLING READS

BOOK GIVEAWAYS

OCTOBER 10TH 6PM-8PM

ZOOM LINK IS ON OUR WEBSITE | [THEBOTTOMKNOX.COM](https://thebottomknox.com)


THE BOTTOM

Bottom Book Club

SIP 'N' READ

OCTOBER 16 PETER KERN LIBRARY 6PM-8PM

Immerse yourself in an evening of connection with fellow readers, savoring expertly crafted cocktails from our friends at Peter Kern Library.



THE BOTTOM

2024 Events with The Bottom

LitKidz 

LitKidz returns with a special storytime led by Knox County 1st District Commissioner, Damon Rawls. The kids will read *Your Voice, Your Vote* by Leah Henderson and *Your Special Voice* by Temi Adamelekun, followed by an activity where they'll practice voting on their favorite foods, activities, and sports.

 **DATE**
October 19th

 **TIME**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

 **LOCATION**
The Bottom



Bottom Book Club

"IDEAL SUMMER READING." — ASSOCIATED PRESS

A REVENGE NOVEL
GOODBYE EARL

LEESA CROSS-SMITH
AUTHOR OF *HALF-BLOWN ROSE*

October 23
6pm-8pm

RSVP Online

Ebony & Ivory Brewing | 2300 N Central St | thebottomknox.com

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 25
4:00pm-6:00pm

With the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

Explore decorative trunks and grab free books and candy for your kids!

317 McConnell St

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP
Oct. 25th
6-7:30PM

MEET US AT THE GALLERY!
Demo & Artist Talk with William Downs




UT DOWNTOWN GALLERY
106 S Gay ST. • Link in bio to RSVP!

THE BOTTOM

GRAND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Black Market • 10/26 • 1-5pm



"Honoring the Past & Celebrating the Present"

2340 E Magnolia Ave

OCTOBER 30
6PM-8PM

JOIN US FOR A THERAPEUTIC WRITING WORKSHOP WITH PHIL TUCKER, WHERE WE'LL EXPLORE BALANCING OUR COMMITMENTS, SETTING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS, AND REFLECTING ON PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND CREATIVE OUTPUT

Write it Out
with Shade Tree Therapy

BALANCE AND BOUNDARIES _____ SESSION 10

THE BOTTOM

LISTENING TO THE VOICE-BODY

Join us for a discussion and workshop about reacquainting ourselves with our voice-body, led by isabel crespo pardo.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4TH, 6-7:30PM

LitKidz 

Join us for our next LitKids event, where we'll read *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis* by Robbin Gourley. Kids will enjoy a slice of pie during storytime and learn about one of America's most celebrated chefs. Each child will also take home ingredients and a recipe to make their own pie at home!

  **DATE**
November 9th

 **TIME**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

 **LOCATION**
The Bottom



Liquid Blackness

An Exhibition of Water Paintings by Chase Williamson

Exhibition Reception: November 9th | 4pm-6pm

2340 E Magnolia Ave

Black Creatives Meetup

Charms & Chronicles:
Storytelling Through Object

11/18 • 6-8pm

Join workshop leader Jaz Parks, owner of Childlike Creative, as we explore techniques of creating charm jewelry & how to craft stories with them!

RSVP today, Link in Bio!

2340 E Magnolia Ave.



NOVEMBER 19
6PM-8PM

JOIN US FOR A THERAPEUTIC WRITING WORKSHOP WITH PHIL TUCKER, WHERE WE'LL REFLECT ON PERSONAL AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Write it Out
with Shade Tree Therapy


CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND ACKNOWLEDGING GROWTH _____ SESSION 11

Bottom Book Club

SIP 'N' READ


NOVEMBER 20 | PETER KERN LIBRARY | 6PM-8PM

Immerse yourself in an evening of connection with fellow readers, savoring expertly crafted cocktails from our friends at Peter Kern Library.



2024 Events with The Bottom

**TINY BOOKSHOP
CONCERT SERIES**
FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 22 • 7PM
THE BOTTOM • 2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE.



SHARING A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND DETERMINATION,
HAZI'S MUSIC BRINGS A SPECIAL BLEND OF SOUTHERN SOUL

**An Evening with
HAZI**

THE BOTTOM


**FALL
SWAP**  **BOOKS
& ART**

2340 E Magnolia Ave
11AM-6PM
**Saturday
November 23rd**

Bring new or gently used books
& art pieces in need of a new home,
find new-to-you books and artwork
to take with you!

THE BOTTOM

**THE ART OF
CANDLE
MAKING**



BYOB (21+)

Make a holiday-
scented candle
during this cozy
candle making
workshop!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6-8PM | 2340 E MAGNOLIA AVE

**Storytime
with
Santa**
at **The Bottom**
2340 E Magnolia Ave

DEC 7
10am • 1pm • 4pm

RSVP to reserve your seat!
Storytime and family
photos with Santa!
Tickets available for \$25
and also include a free
children's book!



THE BOTTOM

**Holiday
Shopping Party!**




2340 E Magnolia Ave. December 10th, 6-8 PM

Bottom Book Club
SIP 'N' READ

DECEMBER 11 | PETER KERN LIBRARY | 6PM-8PM

Immerse yourself in an evening of connection with fellow readers, savoring
expertly crafted cocktails from our friends at Peter Kern Library.



THE BOTTOM

BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP
En-JOY-dery
Creating Joy Through the Collaboration of Traditional
Art Styles and Modern Day Interests

Join Bryana Ezell of
SweetBusyBEshop for an
embroidery workshop that
brings your ideas to life
one stitch at a time!

December 13 • 6pm-8pm



THE BOTTOM

BANNED **Book Club**
December 14, 2024

DEC. 14TH • 4-6PM

**Banned
Book Club
Discussion:
The Hate U
Give**

ANGIE THOMAS
THE HATE U GIVE

BOOK AVAILABLE
IN-STORE OR ONLINE

THE BOTTOM

The Bottom • 2340 E Magnolia Ave.



**The Sewing
Circle**

An Exhibition of Quilts by Various Community Members
Exhibition Reception: December 14 | 6pm-8pm
2340 E Magnolia Ave

DECEMBER 17 | 6PM-8PM

JOIN US FOR A THERAPEUTIC WRITING
WORKSHOP WITH PHIL TUCKER, WHERE
WE'LL EXPLORE COLLABORATIVE
PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES TO CONTRIBUTE
POSITIVELY TO THE COMMUNITY

**Write
it Out**
with *Shade Tree Therapy*

EMPOWERING OTHERS
THROUGH WRITING | SESSION 12

Bottom Book Club

December 19
6pm-8pm

HERE FOR IT


OR, HOW TO
SAVE YOUR
SOUL IN
AMERICA
R. ERIC THOMAS

ESSAYS

RSVP online

Ebony & Ivory Brewing | 2300 N Central St | thebottomknox.com

**TINY BOOKSHOP
CONCERT SERIES**
FRIDAY • DECEMBER 20 • 7PM
THE BOTTOM • 2340 E. MAGNOLIA AVE.



**An Evening with
Taber Gable**

THE BOTTOM

PROGRAMS

Sew It
Sell It

Black Creatives
Meetup

Community
Podcast
Studio

Community
Fellowship

Ceramics at The
Bottom

LitKidz

Tiny Bookshop
Concert Series

The Sewing Circle

SEW IT SELL IT

A sewing and entrepreneurship program where participants have the opportunity to express their creativity, learn vocational skills and develop a sense of self-reliance by sewing and selling a product.

Through Sew It Sell It, students design a product and conceptualize a micro business around that product.

The program serves children between the ages of 12 and 17. No prior sewing skills are necessary and all equipment and supplies for the program are provided to students.

In addition to learning the basics of sewing, through a number of workshops led by business professionals and local entrepreneurs, community leaders and university faculty, students learn business and professional skills from branding and marketing, to giving a good pitch.

This year, our program also expanded its vocational offerings to include workshops on screen printing and pottery!

The goal of Sew It Sell It is to supplement youth in our communities with creative, practical and business management skills that they can continue to use on their own outside of the program.

Our 2024 Sew It Sell It summer program was made possible in part by funding received from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Expressing creativity, learning vocational skills, and developing a sense of self-reliance by sewing and selling a product.



BLACK CREATIVES MEETUP



Our Black Creatives Meetup (BCM) initiative is a long-term investment into Black artists and makers in our community.

As a year-round program, we continuously provide instruction, support and a safe space for our creative community to incubate and develop. BCM offers monthly workshops in addition to seasonal events. Each workshop centers an element of development, whether that be artistic, professional and/or social.

Through this initiative, we are listening and responding to creative voices. We asked Black artists what they need to thrive in our community and it came down to these three key points:

- Welcoming spaces to learn, gather and create
- More opportunities to meet and network with fellow artists
- Workshops, trainings & developmental opportunities

Through offering space, resources, and developmental programming for Black creatives, as well as supporting established Black artists and organizations, we invest in a historically underrepresented community, reinforcing our dedication to community investment and engagement in East Knoxville.

Our 2024 BCM program was made possible by funding received from the Tennessee Arts Commission.



Providing support, resources and a safe space for our creative community to incubate and develop.

COMMUNITY PODCAST STUDIO

The Community Podcast Studio at The Bottom is a community recording studio working to create accessible and affordable entry points for new audio makers (especially African Americans), and to activate an approachable DIY audio community in Knoxville. New forms of media and/or critical media platforms can be a powerful tool for empowerment work and work that otherwise challenges the dominant narratives.

The Community Podcast Studio at The Bottom is utilizes podcasting as a powerful form of media that introduces voices that are often silenced, engages new perspectives and experiences, and challenges misrepresentations of Appalachian identities in media.

We recognize that recording/production resources are often expensive and hard to find, but imperative for quality sounding audio. The podcast studio provides professional recording equipment for audio makers, as well as training that involves editing, interviewing, sound design and marketing.

Since its inception, the podcast studio has offered support to over 25 individuals and teams of audio makers through recording, training and community building.



Providing Appalachian audio makers with a platform for their voices to be heard.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



Since 2021, The Bottom has partnered with the University of Tennessee Knoxville's Division of Diversity and Engagement to offer a short term 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 will serve as a resource and collaborator on a public facing, community identified or agreed upon project. The fellow will work directly with The Bottom's team to develop a project moving it from ideation to completion.



Our culminating round of fellows include: Dr. Robert Bland and Althea Murphy-Price.

Working with our Bookshop Director, Anastasia Williams, Dr. Robert Bland led a summer reading group for the book *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation* by Imani Perry.

Althea Murphy-Price will work closely with Ty Murray, our Director of Art and Communication on "Community Printmaking". This project seeks to establish a deliberate connection between printmaking and African American storytelling within our local community. The final project includes an artist talk and demonstration with the fellow, a community printmaking workshop, and establishing a multi-use printmaking station at The Bottom.



Working with scholars and professionals on projects that document and advance the local Black community.

CERAMICS AT THE BOTTOM

This project is an ongoing community workshop to develop and transmit ideas regarding ceramic culture and to help foster the next generation of Black Appalachian ceramic craft culture.

These ceramic arts-focused classes are broken into five different sessions where students gather once a week for three hours. Each session is six weeks long and takes place between August and May of each year. Over the course of its duration, this project provides experiential education the equivalent of an MFA course to a traditionally unsupported community.

The class explores the world of ceramic hand building and covers the following techniques:

- Pinch Pots
- Coiling and Slab Building
- Hump Molds and Slump Molds
- Underglaze
- Slip Trailing
- Sgraffitto
- Inlay
- Monotype Transfers
- Glazing Styles

Classes are taught by Maggie Connolly and Jeremy Myles. This year, the project was supported in part by the Joseph F. Wall '41 Alumni Service Award, presented to four Grinnell College graduates, including Maggie Connolly, who are pushing for inclusivity, expanded knowledge.



Fostering the next generation of
Black Appalachian ceramic
craft culture.

LITKIDZ YOUTH PROGRAM

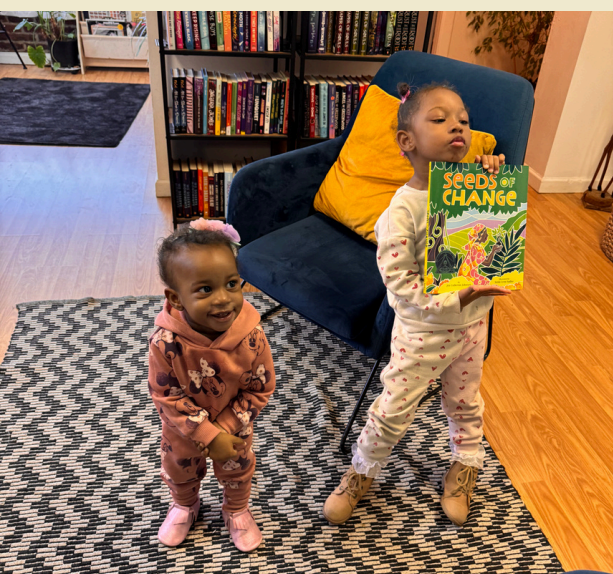


Through the Lit Kidz program, we actively empower youth to make their own book selections in our space. We understand that giving youth the agency to choose literature that resonates with them encourages a deeper engagement with reading and promotes a lifelong interest in representative literature.

Additionally, we contracted local artists and authors to lead themed workshops centered around specific books. These workshops not only enriched our program but also fostered a strong connection between the community and our initiatives. By bringing in local creative professionals, we amplified the messages of the books, spread the joy of reading, and inspired the next generation of creatives.



Within our community and others like ours, limited access to diverse literature in public libraries and schools is extremely common as we encounter systemic book bans nationally. We are bridging the gap within our community, ensuring more children have access to quality, representative books. Children's increased enthusiasm for reading and appreciation for diversity in book selections are notable. Additionally, we remove the financial barrier to accessing literature by keeping our program free. This allows families to feel comfortable coming into our space and selecting any book without worrying about the cost.



Inspiring a generation of writers and readers, and encouraging our community through literature.

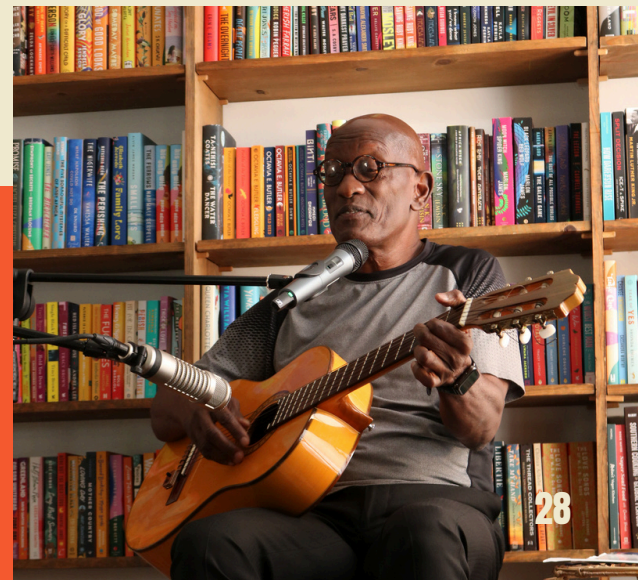
TINY BOOKSHOP CONCERT SERIES

The Tiny Bookshop Concert Series combines many facets of our organization and is a direct iteration of our mission: to build community, celebrate culture, and engage the creativity of Black people in Knoxville. This project pulls on the power that music has to connect, to heal and to spark change; bringing an engaging and generative cultural opportunity to East Knoxville.

This is a series of performances that are recorded live, with an emphasis on showcasing African American talent in an intimately empowering environment. Each show is built around a performer hailing from Knoxville, the state of Tennessee, or our larger southeastern region. The following is specially curated for each show: book selections from each performance are permanently archived and housed on our bookshop.org page, each show flyer is an original illustration of the performer's artistry, and the refreshment menu is also inspired by their taste palette.

In addition to compensating each performer for sharing their talent, the performers are also able to garner high quality recorded footage of their live performance, without the barrier of production cost. Support for this program includes: compensation for local and visiting musicians and artists to perform in East Knoxville, technical production support of both live performances and recorded documentations, fees for original graphics to be created by local artists/designers, and the cost of promotional and advertising needs.

Showcasing local talent in an
intimately empowering
environment!



THE SEWING CIRCLE



The Sewing Circle is a community program centered in the craft of sewing and community quilting.

Workshops are broken into eight classes, which took place on Sundays from September to December 2024. These workshops are specifically designed for adults, especially those who find it difficult to learn new crafting skills due to limited access in their community, income barriers in class affordability or finding dedicated instructors. There is no fee to participate and supplies are provided for attendees.



Along with gaining basic knowledge of sewing and how to operate a machine, our hope is that participants not only gain a level of comfortability with this crafting skill, but also develop their own artistic voice. The program will end in a culminating exhibition of final projects created by participants, including uniquely handmade quilts.

By exploring the important role that quilting has historically held in Black storytelling and community building, this program presents a "full circle" moment that relates directly to our mission: to celebrate culture, engage creativity and build community for Black Knoxville!



Exploring the importance of Black storytelling through community quilting.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

AT THE BOTTOM: A PODCAST



In May 2024, The Bottom launched our very own podcast aptly called, "At The Bottom: A Podcast". The podcast is another way for us to connect with our community and highlight all of the amazing work that we do in our organization through art and literature.

Our podcast can be found on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Amazon Music. Hosted and produced by our Bookshop Director, Annastasia, the podcast has featured authors, artists, and local community partners.

266 Podcasts Plays
33 Podcast Followers
14 Podcast Episodes

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING



In June 2024, we launched The Bottom's Building Maintenance Campaign to address ongoing sustainability challenges with our physical space. Years of necessary repairs have disrupted our events and community access, making it clear that this campaign is crucial for ensuring the longevity of our bookshop and art space. From June to September, our community raised an incredible \$13,851.15. We are extremely thankful to everyone who supported us through donations, fundraisers, or spreading the word. Your support inspires and drives our continued work!

Completed Projects

- Reinforced and widened our accessibility ramp
- Established parking lot lines and added handicap-accessible parking

Upcoming Projects

- Renovating our exterior front entryway
- Reinforcing hand railing
- Filling in potholes

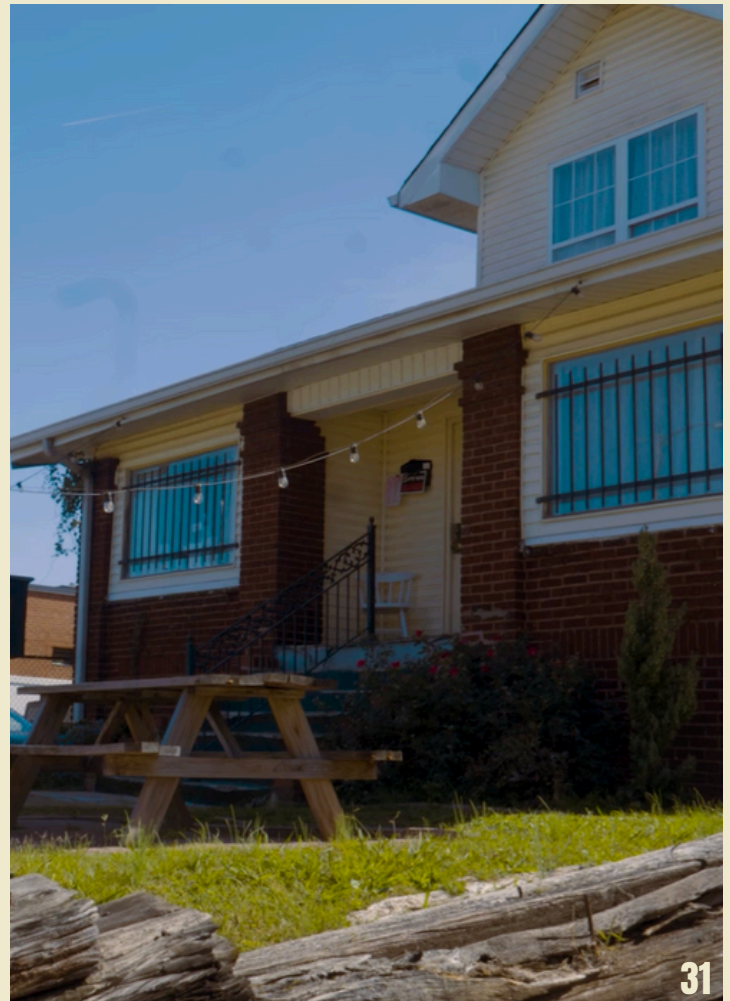
\$13,851.15

raised through the Building Maintenance Campaign!

In February, we were honored to be the featured organization of the month for Three Rivers Market's Nourishing Change Program. Throughout the month, customers donated by rounding up their purchases, and in-store signage highlighted our mission and programs. This collaboration raised \$7,137, and we are deeply grateful for Three Rivers Market's partnership and support.

\$7,137

**raised through
Nourishing Change!**



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

SIP 'N READ AT PETER KERN



In December 2023, the New York Times published an article about the reading parties at Brooklyn bar FourFiveSix and the event's growing popularity across the country. The Bottom launched its own version of a reading party in collaboration with Peter Kern Library (PKL) in August 2024, called Sip N Read.

At our Sip N Reads, participants read a book of their choice for the first hour and then we facilitate an activity for readers to get to know each other for the next hour, all the while enjoying specially curated cocktails from PKL. These new events have been very successful and they have garnered local attention and attracted new people to our bookshop. The Bottom will continue hosting Sip N Read events monthly.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BOTTOM BOOK CLUB



Literature brings people together. This year, in addition to our monthly book subscription (Book It), The Bottom launched two unique book clubs and a silent reading experience to better connect readers in our community and promote the works of Black authors. The Bottom Book Club tackled 7 books this year across several genres, including:

- Erasure by Percival Everett
- The Black God's Drums by P. Djeli Clark
- Post-Traumatic by Chantal V. Johnson
- Rooted in the Earth by Dianne D. Glave
- Forty Acres by Dwayne Alexander Smith
- Goodbye Earl by Leesa Cross-Smith
- Here for It: Or, How to Save Your Soul in America by R. Eric Thomas

These titles fostered lively discussions, helped to highlight different aspects of the Black experience, and in many ways, allowed participants to delve into the content more deeply by reading in community. The Bottom plans to host Bottom Book Club every other month moving forward.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BONNAROO: YEAR 2



This summer, we returned to the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, TN. Bonnaroo is a four-day celebration of music, arts, and culture, set on a sprawling 700-acre farm. The festival offers an eclectic mix of live performances, visual art, and comedy.

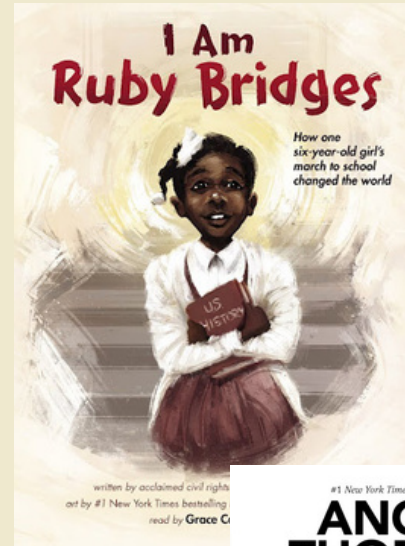
We took over The Rest Stop in Outeroo, where we hosted daily arts activities for festival-goers. We brought along our bookshop, featuring a curated selection of books and merch for everyone to browse and buy. The Rest Stop gave attendees a chance to relax, connect with others and tap into their creativity amidst the excitement of the festival.

One of our highlights was the banned book discussion, which always sparks thought-provoking conversations. We also provided a free community library where attendees could unwind, read, and enjoy the atmosphere. Being part of such a vibrant and engaging experience is always a thrill, and we're so grateful to be involved!

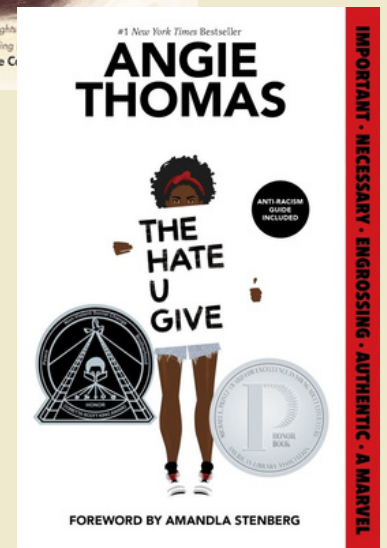
2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BANNED BOOK CLUB

In response to book bans and attempts of censorship across our state and beyond, The Bottom formed a Banned Book Club to read the books by Black authors that are commonly challenged. Our first meeting was held on September 28, 2024 during National Banned Books Week. During that session, we collectively read the book *I Am Ruby Bridges* and discussed why Ruby Bridges' story is commonly censored in public schools and libraries. We met again in December to discuss the book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, which has been one of the most banned books in the US for several years.

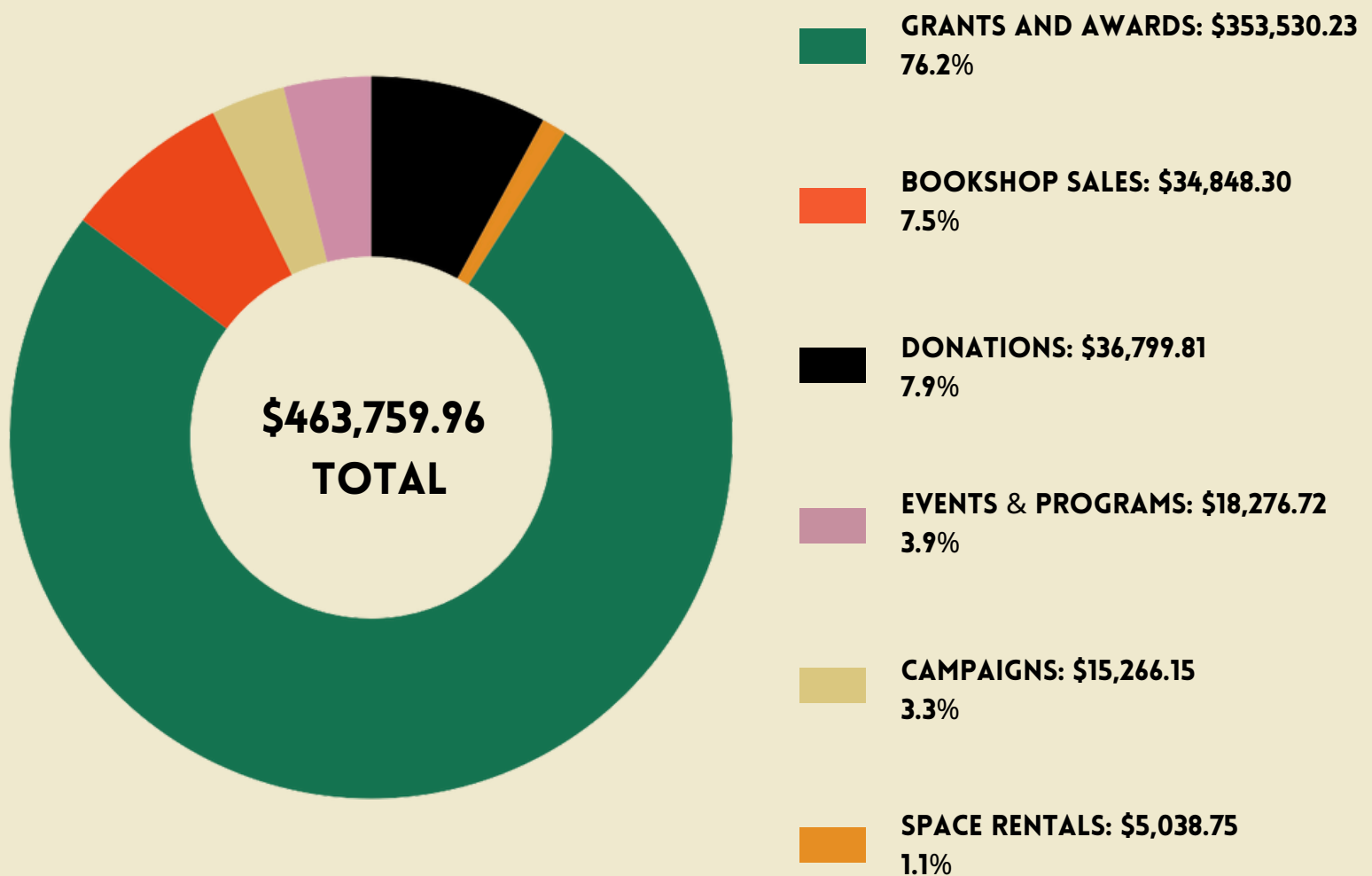


This event was timely because Knox County Schools had just announced a list of 48 titles they are removing from shelves in connection with the controversial Age Appropriate Materials Act in early December. Our efforts were reported in the *Knox News Sentinel*, which helped to promote our book club to a larger audience. The Banned Book Club will continue to meet quarterly to discuss banned books and build an active community to combat book bans in our state and beyond.



ANNUAL INCOME STATEMENT

A summary of our sources of income in 2024



This year at The Bottom was filled with growth and expansion. We are so grateful for the advocates and funders who support our mission and who help make our work possible!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board of Directors

President: Brandi Augustus

Secretary: Joan Bryant

Treasurer: Gabrielle Chapman

Parliamentarian: Michelle Christian

Member: Sherley Cruz

Member: Roxy Slay

Member: Charice “Pumpkin” Starr

Major Donors

TN Arts Commission

UTK Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion

Arts & Culture Alliance

Southern Vision Alliance

PUMA

City of Knoxville

Solidaire

Appalachian Community Fund

Arts & Culture Alliance

South Arts

United Way

Highlander Research Center

Appalachian Black Community
Developers

East TN Foundation

Waymakers Collective

Kelleher-Sohn Family Fund

African American Task Force

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
THE BOTTOM !