



furious flower

Poetry center

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.



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**Furious Flower
Poetry Center**

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In "Second Sermon on the Warpland,"
Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American
to win a Pulitzer Prize, wrote:

*'The time
cracks into furious flower. Lifts its face
all unashamed. And sways in wicked grace.'*

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Celebrate. Educate.
Preserve. Poetry center

Over the last twenty-five years, Furious Flower's programs have reached thousands of poets, educators, students, and poetry lovers around the world. From our groundbreaking media and anthologies, to our children's creativity camp and summer seminars, to our decade-defining conferences, Furious Flower creates platforms for Black poets to encounter their readers, and for readers to experience and engage with Black literary culture in new and exciting ways. Our mission continues to be ensuring the visibility, inclusion, and critical consideration of Black poets in American letters, as well as in the whole range of educational curricula, and preserving the history of Black poets for future generations.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. Our flagship event, the Furious Flower Poetry Conference, convenes every 10 years for scholars and writers from around the world to explore contemporary trends in Black literature, culture, and thought, and it publishes a signature volume of poetry, poetics, and criticism to commemorate each conference.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH. Our Children's Creativity Camp and Spoken Word Academy are offered at low or no cost to children and teens in the Shenandoah Valley. These programs encourage the participants to explore their creativity with an emphasis on expression, inclusion, and community.

SEMINARS & SUMMITS. Held in alternating years, the Summer Legacy Seminars and Collegiate Summits are residential educational experiences for educators and students, respectively. Each is designed to allow the attendees to work with and learn from Black poets and take their work back to the classroom.

THE FIGHT & THE FIDDLE. Our outstanding journal of poetry, poetics, and criticism, published quarterly and edited by Assistant Director Lauren K. Alleyne, highlights a Black poet in each issue that features new poems, a scholarly review of the poet's work, and an in-depth interview.

BLACK POETRY ARCHIVE. Housed at the JMU Carrier Library and looked after by university archivists, the sizable Furious Flower special collection contains manuscripts, video, photographs, correspondence, and more. All of these items have been carefully accumulated and curated since the first conference in 1994, which was organized by Joanne V. Gabbin.

www.jmu.edu/furiousflower/giving.shtml

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