



FAMILIES UNITED TO END RACISM AGAINST CYSHCN AND FAMILIES

AUGUST 18, 2021 | TOWN HALL, BLACK CULTURE

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BLACK CULTURE TOWN HALL

August 18, 2021

*I, too, am America.
Langston Hughes*



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GUEST BIOS



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SANYU ESTELLE

Recording Artist Sanyu Estelle, is a pigmented, womoonist, cissy, flexible asexual, travel-apt and fashion forward SSJW (Sarcastic Social Justice Warrior). **She is a Claircognizant** ("clear knowing") **Soothsayer** ("truth teller") that is also known as "**The Word Witch**" because of her deep love for word origins (etymology) and word culture (philology)

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ANTOINETTE SCULLY

Antoinette Scully, Founder, Literary Consultant of Black & Bookish, is a Black Feminist Scholar, Literary Project Consultant, and Social Justice Educator living in Los Angeles, California. **Her work sits at various intersections to spread racial justice advocacy throughout a multitude of injustice issues.** From general consultations to in-depth (and on-going) workshops and resources, she provides an understanding and guidance to build inclusive community spaces through the knowledge and understanding of Literary Activism.

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Louis Henry Mitchell

As Creative Director of Character Design, **Louis Henry Mitchell** directs and oversees all aspects of character art for **Sesame Workshop**, the non-profit organization behind Sesame Street. From designing the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons and floats to directing Sesame Street Muppet photo shoots, Mitchell has been at Sesame Workshop for 20 years. Prior to that, Mitchell freelanced for the organization since 1992. Mitchell designed the character Julia, the first Sesame Street character on the autism spectrum. Julia was first designed exclusively as an illustrated character for an autism outreach book and then Mitchell expanded his design and art directed the Jim Henson Company in building the actual Muppet, and her family, for the show. He continues to be the chief Sesame Street Muppet designer along with his other duties as creative director of character design. Most recently, Mitchell designed the two new African-American Muppets, Wesley and his Muppet father, Elijah, for Sesame Workshop's Racial Justice initiative.

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Tendo Nagenda

As Vice President of Original Studio Features, Tendo Nagenda heads production for Netflix's original slate of feature films such as Ron Howard's *Hillbilly Elegy* and Spike Lee's *Da 5 Bloods*. Prior to joining Netflix, Nagenda was most recently at Disney serving as an Executive Vice President of Production where he was responsible for guiding such films as the live action adaptation of *Dumbo*, with director Tim Burton; *Mulan*, with director Niki Caro; 2018's adaptation of *A Wrinkle In Time*, directed by Ava DuVernay and starring Oprah Winfrey; the blockbuster live action adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast*; 2015's live action adaptation of *Cinderella*; the critically-acclaimed *Saving Mr. Banks*; and, the inspirational drama *Queen of Katwe*. His belief that filmed content – specifically feature films – can impact and expand the way people see and experience the world has informed his career trajectory and led him to his current position at Netflix.

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DEE SAPP

Dee Sapp has over 13 years of nonprofit administrative, front-line fundraising, program management and managerial experience. She's served on several boards at both the community and state levels; most to advocate and support people with disabilities. Dee has a son with autism and an intellectual disability and feels strongly that all children should learn, play, and advance in inclusive environments. She supports her son, a US Paralympic Team member and swimmer, to advocate for himself and focuses on advocacy for people who are differently-abled and their families. Dee is the founder and Executive Director of Accessibility Bridge Corporation

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ELOISE GREENFIELD

Children's author Eloise Greenfield was born in Parmele, North Carolina, and raised in Washington, DC. She attended Miner Teachers' College (now the University of the District of Columbia) and went on to work as a clerk in the US Patent Office. The monotony of the job drove her to experiment with making up rhymes, and eventually Greenfield began writing poetry in earnest. Her first published poem appeared in the *Hartford Times* in 1962. Since then, Greenfield has published more than 40 books for children, including works of poetry, biography, picture books, and chapter books. Her work is widely praised for its depiction of African American experience, particularly family life; Greenfield has said she began writing for children after looking in vain for books for her own children that reflected their life.

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LAUREN WARE

Lauren Ware is a sophomore at University of Maryland Baltimore County studying flute performance. She has spent her life engaged in the arts but ultimately settled on playing the flute as her passion. Additionally, Lauren has spent her teenage years advocating for African American youth with disabilities through various organizations and public engagements including developing a webinar for the National Institute of Mental Health on healthcare transition. Lauren has interned at the United States Capitol with the Architect of the Capitol and at Family Voices National. She hopes to engage in research and develop programs that increase access to high quality music programs for African American children as she moves through her educational endeavors and into her career as a musician. Lauren is a member of the FamU Advisory Group.