

Sandra Jackson-Opoku
1330 E. 53rd Street, Apt. 411
Chicago, Illinois 60615
jacksonopoku@gmail.com
(773) 332-1068

Teaching

Teach writing and literature at schools, colleges and institutions worldwide, among them:

- Chicago State University
- University of Chicago Writers Studio, Graham School of General Studies
- University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
- Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Columbia College, Chicago
- North Country Institute for Writers of Color, Valcour, NY
- Hurston/Wright Writer's Workshop, Washington, DC
- Writers at Work, Salt Lake City, UT
- Talented Tenth Summer College Prep Program, Chicago State University
- Crosstown High School, Memphis, TN

Arts Residencies

Ragdale Foundation	1992-2018 (various periods)
Cummington Community of the Arts	July 1994
Hidden River Arts	December 2007
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts	August 2008, February 2019
Anderson Center for Multidisciplinary Studies	September 2008, April-May 2019
The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow	October 2008
Hambidge Center for Creative Arts	May 2009
Lillian E. Smith Center for Creative Arts	June 2009
Escape to Create	January 2016, February 2023
Blueberry View Artist Retreat	June 2016
Swatch Art Peace Hotel, Shanghai, China	July-September 2016
Headlands Center for the Arts	March 2018
Waaw Senegal	April-May 2018
Hedgebrook	September 2018
Turkey Land Cove Foundation	March-April 2019
Djerassi Foundation	May-June 2019
Dentro la Terra, Arielli, Italy	June-July 2019
Crosstown Arts	September-December 2019
The Studios of Key West	March-April 2021
Writers Room at the Betsy Hotel	April 2021
Write On, Door County	July 2021, July 2023
Peter Bullough Foundation	November-December 2021
MacDowell	May 2022
Yefe Nof	June 2022
I-Park Foundation	August 2022
Bethany Arts Community	September 2022
Vermont Studio Center	October 2022
Sea Island Writers Retreat	November 2022
Newnan ArtRez	November 2022
Baldwin for the Arts	April 2023

Allerton Park “Rooting a Deeper Connection”	June 2023
Monson Arts	September 2023
Atlantic Center for the Arts	October 2023
Mass MoCA	November-December 2023
Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts	March 2023

Selected Awards and Honors

National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Fellowship	1983
CCLM/General Electric Fiction Award for Younger Writers	1986
Gwendolyn Brooks Award to Significant Illinois Poets	1987
Illinois Arts Council Finalist Awards, Individual Artist Grants	1990-2019
Illinois Writers Live at the Library	1993
Ragdale Foundation US-Africa Writers Fellowship	1994
Book of the Month/Quality Paperback, <i>The River Where Blood Is Born</i>	1997, 98
CVCO - Fiction Stars of 1997	1997
American Library Association Black Caucus Award, Best Fiction of 1998	1998
The Best Novels of the Nineties: A Reader’s Guide (entry)	2000
Fiction Writer of the Year, Chicago Black Bookfair	2002
Kimberly Colen Award for New Children’s Writing	2007
American Antiquarian Society Creative Artists Fellowship	2008
Maeve Marie Award for Children’s Writing/Dairy Hollow	2008
Illinois Arts Council Individual Artist Grants	2008, 2022
Black Excellence Award in Literature, African American Arts Alliance	2009
Roots Seminar Fellow, Transatlantic Slave Trade, University of Virginia	2009
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Professional Development Grants	1999, 2018
Key West Literary Seminars Fellowship	2020
Esteemed Artist Award in Literary Arts, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs	2020
Newcity Lit50: Who Really Books In Chicago	2020
Fiction Nominee, Pushcart Prize for “Blue Mermaid”	2021
Listed on Jada Pinkett Smith’s Black History Instagram lineup	2021
Billocks-Hatch Research Fellowship	2021
Listing in the Chicago Literary Archive, Fourth Chicago Renaissance	2021
Quarterfinalist, Stage 32 Diversity Springboard Screenwriting Contest	2021
Lifeline Theatre BIPOC Writers Showcase	2022
New Orleans Center for the Gulf South Monroe Fellows Research Grant	2022
Globe Soup Story Award	2022
Railroad & Locomotive Historical Society White Research Grant	2022
Hearst Foundation James Baldwin Fellowship at MacDowell Arts	2022
Newberry Library Historical Fiction Writer in Residence Fellowship	2023
Folger Artist Research Award	2023
Culture and Animals Foundation Creative Grant	2023
Circle of Confusion Writers Screenwriters Discovery Fellowship	2023
Malice Minotaur Award for First Mystery Novel	2023
Fiction Prize 2 nd Place winner, The Plentitudes Journal	2023
Institute for Writers, Thriller Fest First Pages, 5 th place winner	2023
Minotaur Books/Malice Domestic First Traditional Mystery Novel Competition	2023
Iceland Writers Retreat Alumni Award	2024

Dramatic Works

- ‘Tribute to Zora Neale Hurston,’ First Birthdays Series, Chicago Cultural Center. January 1999

- *Indignant Women: A Conversation with Lorraine Hansberry and Gwendolyn Brooks*, co-written with Tina Jenkins Bell and Janice Lively, performed by In the Spirit:
 - o “Our Miss Brooks” Centennial, Rosenwald Historic Apartments, October, 2017
 - o Chicago Humanities Festival, Northwestern University, October, 2019
- Scripted limited TV series adaptation of novel, *The River Where Blood is Born*
- Scripted *Hungry Ghost Festival*, workshop showcase at Lifeline Theatre, July 2022

Selected Publications

Books

- *The River Where Blood Is Born*, Ballantine/One World, New York. Novel, 1997-98
- *Hot Johnny (and the Women Who Loved Him)*, Ballantine/One World. Novel, 2001-02
- *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writings of Gwendolyn Brooks*, Coedited with Quraysh Ali Lansana, Curbside Splendor Publishing, 2017

Fiction (journals, magazines, anthologies)

- “Iguana Stew,” *Brown Sugar 4*, Washington Square Press, New York. 2005
- “Fort Jesus,” *Wanderlust: 14 Erotic Travel Tales*, Plume Books, New York. 2006
- “Muskmelon,” *Kweli: A Literary Journal Celebrating Diverse Voices*, New York. 2011
- “Mahogany Soul,” *Obsidian: Speculating Futures*, Vol. 45.2, Winter 2017, Normal, IL
- “Boahema Laughed,” *New Daughters of Africa*, Amistad Books, New York. 2019
- “Sophiatown,” *Ocotillo Review*, Summer, Kallisto Gaia Press, Austin, TX. 2019
- “Night Coming Tenderly,” *Another Chicago Magazine*, Chicago, IL. September 2019
- “Reconstructions,” *storySouth*, Issue 48: Fall 2019, Greensboro, NC. October 2019
- “Substance,” *Anthology of Appalachian Heritage, Volume XII*, Shepards town, WV. 2020
- “Trouble,” *Both Sides: Stories from the Border*, Polis Books. Hoboken, NJ. 2020
- “Blue Mermaid”
 - o *eMerge Magazine*, Summer 2020. Eureka Springs, AR. (Pushcart nominee)
 - o *Dairy Hollow Echo*, an anthology. Summer 2021. Eureka Springs, AR
- “Schwerner,” *Prairie Wind*, Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators, Fall 2020
- “Narrative in the Life of SoJourney Truth Walker,” *Obsidian: Radiant Youth* edition, Vol. 46.2, Fall 2021, Normal, IL
- “Hotel Hades,” *Expressions from Englewood*, Volume 20, 2021. Chicago.
- “Turning of the Bones,” *An Odd Sized Casket*, Owl Canyon Press, 2021: Boulder, CO
- “Secrets,” *Secret Lives*, 2021, Sans. PRESS, Limerick, Ireland, UK
- “Hungry Ghost Festival,” *Novus Literary Arts*, “Best of” Commemorative Print Edition, Fall 2021, Williamsburg, Kentucky: Cumberland University
- “The Secret Place,” *Taint Taint Taint*, June 2022
- “Simbi,” *African Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*. Fall 2022. TorDotcom
- “Mulberry Season,” *Globe Soup*, Oct, 2022.
- “Diomedea,” *The Plentitudes Journal*, Spring 2023, Issue 10
- “Dirty Rice and Neckbones,” *Aunt Chloe*, Fall 2023.
- “Moving On,” *Midnight & Indigo*. Feb 2024.
- “African Artifacts on a Shelf of Antiquities,” *Adi Magazine*, Feb 2024

Articles and Essays

- “Snapshots in a Family Album: Maud Martha, a Poet’s Narrative,” Poetry Foundation, June 2018
- “*The Time is Now! Art Worlds of Chicago’s South Side: 1960-1980*, Smart Museum of Art, 2018
 - o “As Bad as We Wanna Be: The Enduring Legacy of OBAC Writers Workshop”
 - o “Third World Press: Black Books and Writers Still in Style”
- Introduction, Frank London Brown’s *This Is Life*, From Beyond Press, 2023