

**BEYOND BOLD AND BRAVE**

and

**The New York Women's Foundation**

present

# **"Work As Memoir"**

**2nd Bi-Annual Black Lesbian Conference  
July 27 - 28, 2018**

**Barnard Center for Research on Women  
Barnard College  
3009 Broadway, New York City**

**[beyondboldandbrave.org](http://beyondboldandbrave.org)  
[blacklesbianconference@gmail.com](mailto:blacklesbianconference@gmail.com)**

Congratulations to Beyond Bold and Brave  
on the second bi-annual  
Black Lesbian Conference:  
Work As Memoir!

With love and gratitude,  
BCRW



# BCRW

## BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

## OUR ORGANIZERS

**MISSION** - Decades after the initial Black Lesbian Conferences and gatherings were held, Black/African Descent lesbians are still consistently marginalized with few public spaces dedicated to the issues unique to us. The lives, issues and contributions of Black/African Descent lesbians are repeatedly minimized or dismissed in shared Black LGBT spaces and are rarely addressed in lesbian-specific/welcoming or women-only spaces. These shared LGBT spaces more often address issues relating to women of color collectively and by doing so, repeatedly fail to acknowledge and address the unique challenges facing Black/African descent lesbians within local and regional LGBTQ communities. alyce d. emory and Kim Ford, two LGBT and community activists & workers are working to change this by reclaiming a public space dedicated to the issues unique to this community. The result is the founding of Beyond Bold And Brave and the Black Lesbian Conferences 2016 (BLC2016) and 2018 (BLC2018).

**WHO WE ARE** - Beyond Bold And Brave works to increase the visibility of \*Black/African Descent Lesbians in our communities by supporting and producing programs, projects and events that responsibly and truthfully affirm and represent Black /African Descent Lesbian life, work and identity. We define \*Black/African Descent Lesbians as a diverse community of women who are: part of the African diaspora including Black, African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Indigenous, Afro-Latina, Afro-Asian, Afro-European; identify as transgender, cisgender, gender non-conforming, queer, same-gender loving as well as additional identities; and are attracted to and/or have relationships with women.

The Black Lesbian Conference 2018 planning team consists of Black/African Descent Lesbians leaders, activists and artists who have all volunteered their skills and resources to create a conference that will genuinely reflect and address Black/African Descent lesbian life and its current complexities. Advisors include Black/African Descent Lesbians and allies from various professions, communities and interests.

## SUPPORTERS

### Conference Co - Presenter



### Premier Sponsor



### Major Sponsors



### Supporting Sponsors



### Community Sponsors



## SUPPORTERS

### Outreach Partners

African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change (AALUSC)  
bklynboihood  
C-Dubb Show  
Circle of Voices Inc.  
Dollhouse Meetup  
G-Listed  
GO Magazine  
Harlem Pride  
Harlem YES  
In Our Own Voices  
Kappa Xi Omega Sorority Inc.  
Lesbians of Color Symposium (LOCS)  
LGBT Kwanzaa Community of NYC  
New York Transgender Advocacy Group (NYTAG)  
NYC Black Pride  
Rivers of Living Water  
TAGG Magazine  
Velvet Park Media  
Whitman-Walker Health  
Women In The Life Association  
Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon  
ZAMI NOBLA: National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging

## FROM THE FOUNDERS

July 2018

The 2nd Bi-Annual Beyond Bold And Brave presents Black Lesbian Conference is here and our team welcomes you!

We invite you to take this unique opportunity to actively engage and connect with your fellow conference attendees, presenters, and supporters over the next few days. As we did for Black Lesbian Conference 2016 (BLC2016), we hope BLC2018, will be a welcoming space that strengthens and affirms all of us to continue the important restorative work we and our communities require.

On behalf of our conference planning team, sponsors and community supporters, we graciously and enthusiastically thank you. Have a wonderful conference experience.

Onward!

Alyce Emory and Kim Ford  
Black Lesbian Conference Co-Founders

## BARNARD

BARNARD COLLEGE · COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

TINA M. CAMPT  
DIRECTOR, BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES  
ANN WHITNEY OLIN PROFESSOR, AFRICANA AND WOMEN'S GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

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14 March 2018

The Barnard Center for Research on Women is delighted to host the second Black Lesbian Conference. We were proud to serve as fiscal sponsor and host of the first conference in 2016 and are thrilled to be able continue this commitment to the black lesbian community by welcoming another group of participants to campus this year. As an organization committed to building alliances between scholars and activists in the struggle for social justice, we are gratified once again to provide a space that nurtures and supports the work of our diverse community at a time when these conversations are more urgent and important than ever.

In solidarity,



Tina M. Camp  
Director, Barnard Center for Research on Women  
Claire Tow and Ann Whitney Olin Professor  
Africana and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**We are proud to support the  
Beyond Bold and Brave's  
Black Lesbian Conference  
for their critical efforts in working to  
increase  
the visibility of Black/African  
Descent Lesbians  
by supporting and producing  
programs, projects and events that  
responsibly and truthfully affirm  
and represent  
Black /African Descent Lesbian life,  
work and identity.**

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**Visit our website at [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org)**

## CONFERENCE FOUNDERS



**ALYCE EMORY**

**ALYCE EMORY** has successfully managed marketing and event production for clients including HBO, Urbanworld Film Festival, Circle of Life Celebration-Pride Memorial, Third Wave Foundation, The Apollo Theater and others. She has a BA in Sociology from Georgia State University completed additional studies in Marketing at the New School in New York. The Deputy Manhattan Borough President appointed Alyce to the Islan Nettles Vigil Program Planning Committee and she served on committees for the NYC Community Board 10's LGBTQ Town Hall, NYC Black Pride and was a member of Harlem Pride's Founding Advisory Board. Accolades for her work include proclamations from the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, the Office of the Manhattan Borough President and the New York City Council. Alyce is a member of the African Atlantic Research Team of Michigan State University, North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Black and Latino LGBTQ Coalition, and Kitchen Table Giving Circle: a Black/African Descent Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Women Philanthropic Initiative. She also advises African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change (AALUSC).



**KIM FORD**

**KIM FORD** is an activist and non-profit consultant with experience working with community-based, and national nonprofit organizations. She is the founder of Kitchen Table Giving Circle: A Black/African Descent Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Women Philanthropic Initiative; co-founder of Black Lesbian Conference 2016: Beyond Bold & Brave – The Evolution of Our Community; and currently serves on the board of the Audre Lorde Project. Kim's experience with grassroots organizations includes: African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change; NYC's annual LGBTST Kwanzaa celebration; NYC's first Black Pride; Arms Akimbo: NYC's first-ever Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-Spirit and Transgender Women of Color Organizing Institute; and NYC's People of Color Pride Weekends. Kim has also worked with Third Wave Foundation, Stonewall Community Foundation's Racial Equity Initiative, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Zuna Institute. She has facilitated workshops; moderated and spoken at various events, panels and readings; and presented on various topics including organizing in the LGBTST POC communities, racism within LGBTST communities, women's health and wellness, and sexuality.

## PLANNING TEAM

**KATHERINE BAILEY** gained decades of experience planning major events for The New School in New York. Katherine is a board member of LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent (FLoAD), a group composed of clergy, divinity students, and faith leaders formed to serve as ambassadors and educators to oppose discrimination, exclusion or intimidation of LGBT persons in our society and particularly in our church communities. Katherine served on the Black Lesbian Conference 2016 Operations Committee.



**RYANN MAKENZI HOLMES** is a culture-maker, arts producer and social entrepreneur who lives in Brooklyn, New York. In 2009, Ryann co-founded bklyn boihood, a collective that champions safe spaces, accountable action, love, and community building for lesbian, gay, bi, queer and transgender people of color. Ryann is also the producer of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts' Soul of Brooklyn Festival, a week long cultural mash-up that brings out thousands of people each year. Ryann serves as BLC2018 Conference Manager.

**RHONDA OTTEN-CURTIS** has a Bachelor's Degree degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas-Arlington and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Rhonda and her spouse, Debra, were one of the first lesbian couples to marry in New York City in 2011 and were featured in the People magazine issue that celebrated the passage of the Marriage Equality Act in New York. Rhonda also served on the Black Lesbian Conference 2016 Steering Committee.



**WEN PEGUERO** has an extensive background in corporate sales and has now embarked on her new career as a Civil Servant for the City of New York. Wen is a Baruch College graduate and has used her skills to become an activist and be of service to different communities. She's the current Director of Dollhouse Meetup, an online social group for lesbians of color. Her past memberships include NYC Black Pride Planning Committee and Black Lesbian Conference 2016 Steering Committee.

**DESMOND RUDDER** is a special education teacher and community activist living in Brooklyn. She has been an educator for 18 years and has experience working with elementary schools and community-based LGBT organizations. She has organized community events such as New York's largest LGBT Kwanzaa celebration and Chillin & Grillin (an annual LGBT picnic for 200+ people). Additionally, she has facilitated workshops on topics such as art as activism and health and wellness in LGBT communities.



## VOLUNTEERS

Georgette Clay | Cheryl Clarke  
Carol Cole | Debra Curtis  
Shelia Frazer | Xihara Gonzalez  
Cheryl George | Cynthia Grant  
Shelia Hargrett | Bonnie Harrison  
Sonyamaria Johnson | Allise Jones  
Lindsay Nixon | Keeshma Richardson  
Linda Rice | Linda Royster  
Nikki Shuler | Sharon Smith



Black lesbians exist at the crossroads of three of the U.S.'s most persistent oppressions: We are Black, and women, and gay.

Astraea Foundation works exclusively to advance LGBTIQ rights around the globe. As we sustain work to dismantle oppression of marginalized people, we do this from a background of first-hand passion and experience. We have been greatly impacted by the practice of past and present Black lesbian feminist traditions as we envision a future of liberation. We are Astraea.

Join us at [www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org)



**Astraea** LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

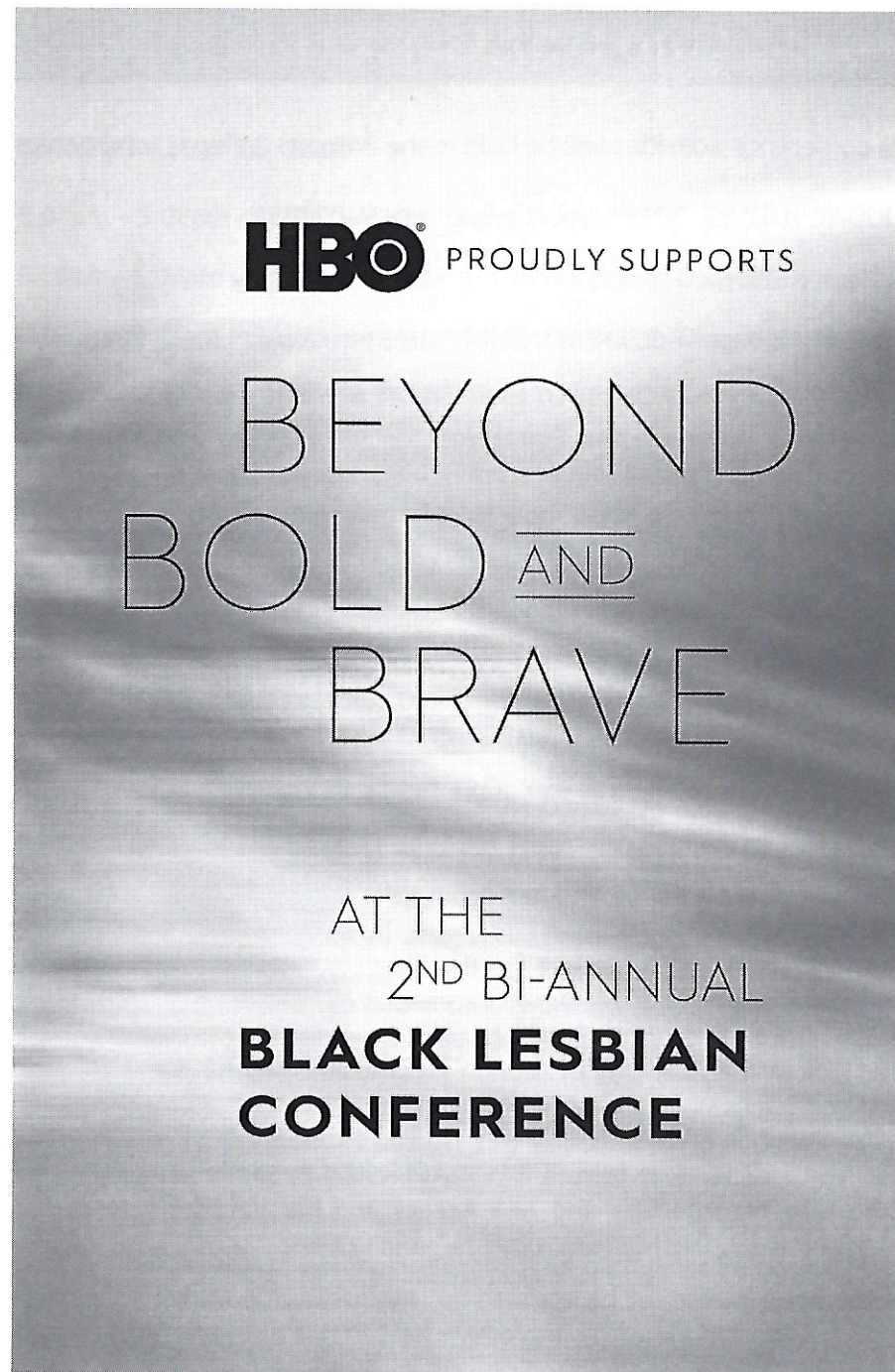
Fueling L.G.B.T.Q.I. activism. On the ground. Around the world.

## SAFE SPACE GUIDELINES

**Black Lesbian Conference 2018 is committed to creating as safe a space as possible for our conference attendees, presenters and guests. To achieve that goal, we ask that everyone please adhere to these guidelines.**

- Give undivided attention to the person (s) who is (are) speaking during discussion sessions or presentations.
- Be as open and honest as possible without disclosing others (family, neighbors, or friends) personal or private issues. It is okay to discuss situations, but try not to use names or other ID. For example, instead of saying, "My older brother..." say, "I know someone who..."
- We can disagree with another persons point of view without putting that person down.
- We will speak our opinions using the first person and avoid using "you." For example, "I think that kindness is important." Not, "You are just mean."
- Remember that people may differ in cultural background, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or gender expression. Listen to how people describe their own identity, gender, partners and relationships and reflect their choice of language.
- Avoid making assumptions about a persons sexual orientation or gender identity: use gender-neutral terms such as partner(s).
- If you are unsure how to address a person, ask them how you should refer to them. You can also use: "What is your preferred personal pronoun?" as a good question for this purpose.
- Verbal, physical, and/or emotional aggression will not be tolerated.

**Thank you!**



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All conference activities will be held in the Barnard College Diana Center.

### FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

4:00pm – 8:00pm - REGISTRATION - Diana Center Lobby

6:00pm – 8:00pm – CONFERENCE OPENING PROGRAM - Diana Center Oval

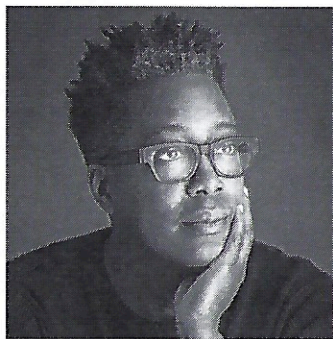
**Conference Welcome and Framework** – Alyce Emory and Kim Ford, Co-Founders of Beyond Bold And Brave/Black Lesbian Conferences

**Special Greetings** - Tina Campt, Past Executive Director of Barnard Center for Research on Women and Bianca Alston, Program Officer, New York Women's Foundation

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker** – Alyce Emory

**Keynote Speaker: Cheryl Dunye, Film & TV Director/Producer**

**CHERYL DUNYE** emerged as part of the 1990's "queer new wave" of young film and video makers. Dunye has made over 15 films including HBO's *STRANGER INSIDE* and her debut film, *THE WATERMELON WOMAN*, restored by Outfest's UCLA Legacy Project for the films' 20th anniversary. In 2016, Dunye received a Guggenheim Fellowship and became a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Presently Dunye is at work on an adaption of *WONDER OF ALL THINGS* for Lionsgate Films as well as her next independent feature film *BLACK IS BLUE*. She is represented by Echo Lake Management and APA Agency and has directed episodes of *QUEEN SUGAR*, *THE FOSTERS*, *LOVE IS*, and *CLAWS*.



**Acknowledgements**

**Closing**

**Reception**

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018

8:00am – 5:00pm - REGISTRATION, Diana Center Lobby

9:00am - 5:00pm – SPONSOR EXHIBITS - Diana Center Oval Lobby

9:00am - 9:45am – BREAKFAST & ANNOUNCEMENTS - Diana Center Oval

9:45am - 10:00am - BREAK & TRANSITION TO SESSIONS

10:00am -11:30am - CONCURRENT SESSIONS I. – Diana Center Rooms

**Workshop - "The Commercialization of Black Butch Identity" – Presenter:** Carolyn Wysinger, (Journalist/Educator/Activist) - **ROOM LL103**

This conversational workshop looks at the shift in perceptions of black butch identity and its growing presence in commercial media.

**Panel - "Faith and Sexuality: Overcoming Harm, Hurt and Exclusion"- Presenters:** Elyse Ambrose, (Ph.D. Candidate, Religion and Society), Dr. Pei Desrosiers (Social Worker & Ordained Minister), Kyndra Frazier (Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care & Counseling, First Corinthian Baptist Church), Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, (Community Educator & Activist, Founder of LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent) - **ROOM LL104**

Using their practices as clergy, professional counselors and social justice workers, the speakers will share their work on addressing exclusion and harm that Black lesbians can face in their churches. The audience is invited to share their experiences as we examine together ways to find healing, alternative safe spaces and solutions.

**Discussion - "Bloom and Flourish: A Visual Art Experience" – Presenter:** Patrice Payne, (Artist) - **ROOM 504**

Nature and the female form have a strong connection in her work, since both symbolize ideas of vitality, cultivation, and spirituality. Patrice explores notions of female empowerment and sisterhood as well as incorporates themes of Afrofuturism and cultural symbolism.

**Workshop: "We Are All Lonely: Decolonizing Loneliness" – Presenter:** Florie St. Aime (Social Worker) - **ROOM 501**



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018**

*(continued)*

Decolonizing Loneliness will examine and address isolation as societal fail rather than individual default. Using intimate experiential activities and vulnerable discussion the workshop will generate tools to reconnect with humanity on the path to liberation. Together we will take power away from the shame and guilt of loneliness while simultaneously creating clarity and freedom.

**11:30am -12:00pm - BREAK & TRANSITION TO LUNCH**

**12:00pm – 1:30pm – Lunch & Discussion - Diana Center Oval**

**“Work As Memoir” - Moderator:** Zakiya Lord (Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice). **Panelists:** Jewel Cadet (Center for Anti-Violence Education), Jewelle Gomez (Author “The Gilda Stories”), Carla Gaskins-Nathan (Licensed Massage Therapist, Consultant & Educator).

**1:30pm – 1:45pm - BREAK & TRANSITION TO SESSIONS**

**1:45pm – 3:15pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS II – Diana Center Rooms**

**Panel: “A Place Of Our Own: A History of Salsa Soul/AALUSC” – Presenters:** Faith Barclay, (AALUSC), Stahimili Mapp (LGBT Kwanzaa Community NYC.), Cassandra Grant (Founder Salsa Soul Sisters, Third World Women), Kristin Richardson - Jordan (AALUSC Member), Imani Rashid (LGBT Kwanzaa Community NYC) - **ROOM LL103**

This discussion will be about the herstorical role of Salsa Soul Sisters and its evolution to African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change. This panel will discuss the changes in the social political climate as it pertains to lesbians of color in America and the importance of maintaining groups dedicated to the spiritual, cultural, economic and social empowerment of women of color.

**Workshop: “Butch/Femme Sexervations” - Presenters:** Tandra LaGrone (In Our Own Voices), Gabby Santos (LGBT Health Services, In Our Own Voices) - **ROOM LL104**

Social constructs such a homophobia, have limited the discourse on about Butch and Femme women to a debate regarding lifestyle, morality and even a generalized assumption of rigid gender roles and sexuality. Presenters will co-facilitate this workshop which is an exercise centered on Butch Femme culture and will allow participants to address the paralyzing taboos that can keep us from sexual freedom.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018**

*(continued)*

**Workshop: “Memory Drive: Archiving Our Memories and Dreams” – Presenters:** Alexis Pauline Gumbs (Author/Founder of Mobile Homecoming Project) and Julia Roxanne Wallace (Sangodare) (Artist/Filmmaker/Preacher) - **ROOM 504**

Join Mobile Homecoming and Black Feminist Film School co-founders Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Julia Roxanne Wallace (Sangodare) in an interactive sacred space of collecting and documenting memory.

**Workshop/Discussion: “A Forgotten Population/An Inside Scoop: Formerly Incarcerated LGBTQ Women” – Presenters:** Roni Minter (Founder, Sisters Healing Old Wounds), Paulene Toussaint (Consultant, Sisters Healing Old Wounds) - **ROOM 501**

Most individuals leaving correctional facilities are in need of assistance and support as they re-enter their communities. However, many of the support services are either male-modeled services or are very generic services that don't meet the needs of formerly incarcerated LGBT women. This presentation will address this gap and will provide information that can better serve this population.

**3:15pm - 3:30pm - BREAK & TRANSITION TO SESSIONS**

**3:30pm – 5:00pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS III. – Diana Center Rooms**

**Workshop: “Black Lesbian Magic: Embracing Our Ancestral Directives as Wisdomkeepers” – Presenter:** Dr. Geryll "G-Love" Robinson (Doctor of Naprapathy, Shamanic Practitioner and Teacher, Diviner, Poet, and Reiki Master) - **ROOM LL103**

Using memoir as inspiration we will call forward our own Gods inspired personal genius as born keepers of the gates and technologies between the dimensions. This interactive ceremonial space is designed to raise awareness of our ancestral hystory and activate our personal genius.

**Discussion: "Kampala, Uganda to Cherry Grove, Fire Island: An AfricanLesbian Artist's Journey" – Presenter:** Leilah Babirye (Artist/Activist) - **ROOM LL104**

Leilah Babirye is an artist/activist currently seeking asylum in the United States from LGBTQ discrimination in her native Uganda. This session will present the artist sharing what she left behind (her artwork, her studio, her girlfriend and her family) and what she's gained including her new life in New York as an out African lesbian with a new community of artists, and her debut solo exhibition.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018**

*(continued)*

**Panel: "From Invisibility to Strength: The Resiliency and Legacy of POC Queer Elders" - Presenters:** Griot Circle Members Rosalyn Davis, Lisa Eddy, Felicia Holley, Chancer Lloyd - **ROOM 504**

This panel will highlight the major challenges faced by POC elders of color and focus on innovative efforts and leadership development initiatives that have been created with GRIOT Circle. These opportunities, developed through a social justice, gender and racial justice lens, allow elders to tap into their strengths and historic resiliency in order to create change in their lives and communities.

**Workshop - "Black Women and Depression: Defining Stigma, Acknowledging the Shame and Doing the Work for a Healthy Self." – Presenter:** Yolanda Williams (Academic Advisor, Eastern Illinois University) - **ROOM 501**

We will discuss what depression looks like in our community (family, work, and organizations), our rights as a Black woman with depression, some ways to RECLAIM our health/self-care and some ways to do the work to live without the stigma of depression.

**SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018**

**9:45am – 12:00pm - REGISTRATION - Diana Center Lobby**

**10:30am – BREAKFAST – Diana Center Oval**

**11:00am – 12:30pm - SPECIAL SESSION - Diana Center Oval**  
**"Q&A with A&K"**- Discussion with BLC2018 Co-Founders Alyce Emory and Kim Ford

**12:35pm – 12:45pm - CONFERENCE CLOSING – Diana Center Oval**  
Cara Page (Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice)

**12:45pm - 1:45pm - NETWORKING – Diana Center Oval**



AND

**CHERYL DUNYE**

CONGRATULATES

**BEYOND BOLD AND BRAVE**

ON THE

**2ND BI-ANNUAL BLACK  
LESBIAN CONFERENCE 2018**

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**ELYSE AMBROSE** is a healing activist, sexual ethicist, and word artist whose justice work, research, and art lies at the intersections of race, sexuality, gender, class, and spirituality. She is the Creative Organizer of phoenIXspark, which offers workshops and retreats that center the experiences of queer and trans people of color (QTPoC) as participants co-create space for healing of their sexual and gender selves. Elyse is a Ph.D. Candidate in Religion and Society, concentrating in Women's & Gender Studies and African American Studies at Drew University. She also serves as a Research Fellow at The Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice at Columbia University. She is a graduate of Howard University (B.B.A., 2007) and of the Interdenominational Theological Center (M.Div., 2013).

**LEILAH BABIRYE** - I am an artist and activist recently granted asylum in the United States from LGBTQ discrimination upheld by the 2009 Anti-Homosexuality Bill in my native Uganda. After participating in the Fire Island Artist Residency in 2015, I decided to remain in New York as my life was at risk if I returned home. I left behind: my artwork, my studio, my girlfriend, and my family. The one thing I have not stopped doing is making art; I use my work to advocate for gay rights in Uganda, Africa, and the world at large.



**CONTACT:** babiryeleilaharts@gmail.com



A passionate advocate for queer womyn of color, **FAITH BARCLAY** has been involved with AALUSC since 2009. Her involvement stepped up in 2015 to help keep AALUSC a vibrant and active organization. Faith considers it a duty--as well as a pleasure, and a blessing and an honor--to have the opportunity to carry on the legacy of her foremothers. Faith serves as treasurer, handling the financial aspects of AALUSC. Faith enjoys running and is a member of NYRR. She runs 8 to 12 miles each week. She is also a US Air Force reservist and has been a reservist for over 7 years.

**Contact:** faith@aalusc.com

**Jewel Cadet** is the NYC Chapter Co-Chair of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) and the Program Manager of Youth and Community Empowerment for the Center for Anti-Violence Education (CAE). She is a Self-Defense Instructor, Advocate, Educator, Comrade and Community Member within the LGBTQIA-TGNC community. As a survivor of Same Sex Intimate Partner Violence, Jewel has always been passionate about the right for marginalized people to navigate this world free from violence. Jewel is deeply rooted in the concerns of the rights and freedoms of black girls, femmes and trans & cis women and boldly claims all of her intersecting identities as she fights for her ultimate freedom and the freedom of those around her.



**CONTACT:** jewel@caeny.org

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**ROSALYN DAVIS** resides in Brooklyn NY. She is a retired Electrician who has been a GRIOT member for 15 years. She is a valued volunteer and event committee member for GRIOT. She is active in Tai Chi, Chair Zumba all Art programs and enjoys being a part of women's social at GRIOT Circle.



**DR. PEI DESROSIERS** is a seasoned Behavioral Health Therapist, licensed Social Worker Clinician, and an ordained minister with a doctoral degree in Interfaith Clinical Education in Pastoral Counseling. Her work explores the intersections of Mental Health & Psycho-Spiritual Therapy. She is the National Counselor for the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM) and an associate pastor at Rivers of Living Water UCC, NY. Dr Pei has a private practice in Brooklyn Heights.

**CONTACT:** drpeidesrosiers@gmail.com

Brooklyn native **LISA EDDY** is passionate about the lives of LGBT elders in her community. Lisa comes to GRIOT with more than 20 years of experience in financial editing and a liberal arts degree. This is her third year as Program Coordinator for GRIOT Circle. She has volunteered with Global Earth Programs and was a mentor for Angel Guardian teenagers (now Mercy-First) for 10 years and now volunteers as a mentor for V-ELMS a supportive environment that engages and empowers underserved Brooklyn youth, 8-18 years old.



**KYNDRA FRAZIER** is the Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at First Corinthian Baptist Church, and the Executive Director of the church's free mental wellness center, The HOPE Center, both located in Central Harlem of New York City. She is also an emerging filmmaker, currently working on "A Love Supreme: Black, Queer and Christian in the South", her first foray into filmmaking. An out, queer-identified woman, Kyndra is using film to foster healing opportunities for the many thousands of people who have lost family and friends due to Christian fundamentalism and religious trauma. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, as well as a Master of Social Work from Columbia University in the City of New York and she is an ordained Baptist Clergywoman.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**CARLA GASKINS-NATHAN** is a Licensed Massage Therapist, consultant, educator and owner of Zelah LLC, which includes the private massage practice, Rooted Bodywork. Carla is the Embodied Justice Leadership Resident with Auburn Theological Seminary, a faculty member at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and serves on the board of the New York State Society of Medical Massage Therapists. Carla believes that "through caring for ourselves we are able to fully engage with our life, work and communities." Carla's work is focused on LGBTQ communities of color, yet it is open to all that see the importance of holistic wellness.



**CONTACT:** [carla@rootedbodywork.com](mailto:carla@rootedbodywork.com) | 347-815-4568



**JEWELLE GOMEZ** is the author of eight books including the double Lambda Literary Award-winning Black, lesbian vampire novel, *THE GILDA STORIES*, which was just republished in a 25th anniversary edition. She has taught at numerous educational institutions from Hunter College to San Francisco State University. Her play about James Baldwin, *WAITING FOR GIOVANNI*, is currently running at The Flea in lower Manhattan, July 12 - August 4.

**CONTACT:** [@vampyrevamp](mailto:@vampyrevamp) | [www.jewellegomez.com](http://www.jewellegomez.com)  
**PHOTO:** Irene Young

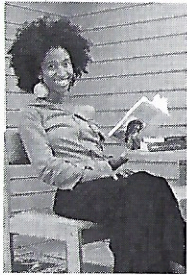
**CASSANDRA GRANT** was among a group of powerful Black lesbian sisters in the 70's who founded Salsa-Soul Sisters Third World Women, Inc.; a voice, a movement that became a force to be reckoned with within the Gay Community. They were faced with a time when discrimination, fear, and oppressive gay cultural practices had to change. Cassandra is married to Sharon Lucas, another original member of Salsa. Cassandra is an educator, activist, who lives her life with a passion for working with her people and children. She believes that it is important to be grounded spiritually and culturally and your journey through life. Find Your Passion and Act On It!!!



**CONTACT:** [gran\\_luc@msn.com](mailto:gran_luc@msn.com)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS** is the critically acclaimed author of *M Archive: After the End of the World, Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity* (shortlisted for a LAMBDA Literary Award) and the co-editor of *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*. With her partner Sangodare (Julia Roxanne Wallace) she is the co-founder of the Mobile Homecoming project, an experiential archive amplifying generations of Black LGBTQ Brilliance. Alexis was also the first researcher to work in the Audre Lorde Papers at Spelman College and the June Jordan papers at Harvard University. She uses archival research to create interactive educational ceremonies through her multi-media community school *Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind*.



**CONTACT:** [alexispauline@gmail.com](mailto:alexispauline@gmail.com)

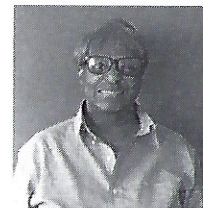


**FELICIA HOLLEY** is a retired Word Processor Supervisor who has been a member of GRIOT Circle for 5 years and is a primary volunteer at GRIOT assisting with the Lunch Program and providing Medicare Minutes information to members. Felicia resides in the Bronx, New York and volunteers in her community churches. She enjoys knitting, reading, and needlepoint.

**TANDRA LAGRONE** is the Executive Director at In Our Own Voices, a national nonprofit working to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual, political, cultural and economic survival and growth of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people of color communities. Tandra previously was Director of Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region, one of the country's largest organizations for girl's rights. She is an advocate for HIV/AIDS treatment in the African American community, especially for women and young black men. The Albany native has worked as a domestic violence, youth, and LGBT advocate for over 20 years.



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**CHANCER LLOYD** is a lesbian senior living openly in New York. From the day of her retirement in 2013 she has spent most of her energy being a part of GRIOT Circle Inc., a non-profit organization serving LGBT seniors. In her capacity as a GRIOT Volunteer and Events Committee Member, Chancer helps plan, setup and does outreach for various GRIOT programs, festivities and outings.

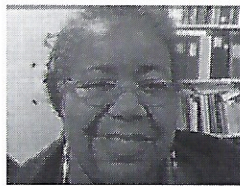
## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**ZAKIYA J. LORD** was born and raised on the tiny island of Bermuda. Zakiya has over 15 years of leadership experience, having started her career as a clinical therapist in Alabama, and served in leadership positions, in both Chicago and Bermuda. Presently, Zakiya has been serving as Astraea's Regional Development and Engagement Officer since 2015, where she works to raise financial and community resources to continue Astraea's legacy of funding LGBTQI activism around the world and within the US.

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**STAHIMILI MAPP** is a board member of the LGBT Kwanzaa Community of NYC. As the treasurer she oversees the financial well-being of this important organization. She has produced Women's Day LGBTQ oriented programming for WBAI radio and managed NKIRU BOOKS in Brooklyn. Stahimili is a retired teacher of science and additionally, she's been an adjunct professor of science and African Women's literature at Fordham University, Marymount College and The College of New Rochelle. Stahimili enjoys making jewelry, reading Black women's literature and gardening in her spare time.



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**RONI MINTER** has been a fierce advocate for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women. Drawing on her own personal experiences Roni founded Sistas Healing Old Wounds, Inc. (SHOW) in 2011. SHOW works to ensure that incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women with in New York State have their unique needs met through several initiatives the organization has implemented to combat unsuccessful transitions from correctional settings. Roni served as Community Chair of the New York State HIV Prevention Planning Group and was lead on identifying Gaps in services through the Regional Gaps Analysis, with a specific focus on Gaps in services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women.

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**CARA PAGE** is a Black Feminist Queer cultural/memory worker & organizer. For the past 20 plus years she has fought for LGBTQIA liberation, within racial and economic & reproductive justice movements. Cara is the former Executive Director of the Audre Lorde Project and is a member of Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Project South, the Audre Lorde Project (ALP), and INCITE! She is a current recipient of the Barnard Center for Research on Women Activist-in-Residence Fellowship in which she is committed to amplifying work that centers and reimagines our traditions of wellness & safety as integral to our collective resiliency & liberation.



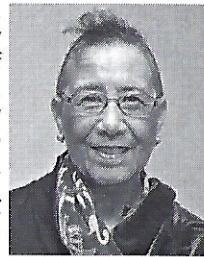
## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



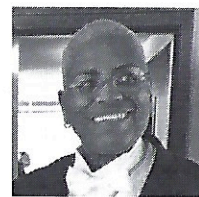
**PATRICE PAYNE** is a visual artist and an educator on a passionate quest to create meaningful content. Since receiving an MA in Art & Design Education from RISD, Patrice has worked for several organizations and schools designing and teaching art curricula. In 2011, she led a free arts workshop called Act with Art, which encouraged youth to use art to explore social and cultural issues in their communities. She has received grants from the Puffin Foundation, LTD. and the Brooklyn Arts Council and has presented her work in several exhibitions throughout the Northeast.

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**DR. WILHELMINA PERRY** is a community and social work educator, spiritual leader, homeless youth and marriage equality advocate, author and the co-founder of LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent. This non-profit strive to reduce homophobia in the African American community-praticularly in churches – by promoting LGBTQ inclusiveness. Dr. Perry is a co-founder of the Circle of Life Celebration and Pride Memorial and co-founder & steering committee member of the Black and Latino LGBTQ Coalition. She has authored several publications related to her social work at San Diego State University and was honored with the Encore Purpose Prize Fellowship in 2014.



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Yorùbá Priestess **IMANI RASHID** has been a leader and an agent of promoting change for four decades. She is a visionary, entrepreneur, writer, motivational speaker, performing artist and institution builder. Imani is a retired New York City Board of Education teacher, founder of the Kwanzaa in the LGBT Community Organization and the author of "Kwanzaa in the Lesbian and Gay Family". Her community work includes the "Imani Rasheed Retreat Center for Healing" in the Hamptons that has caters to the needs of the LGBT community and her newest initiative the LGBT Kwanzaa Storytelling for Children co-chaired with its Board Members, Cassandra Grant and The African Folk Heritage Circle.

**CONTACT:** [imansirashid@aol.com](mailto:imansirashid@aol.com)

**KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN** is an activist poet and teaching artist who is passionate about anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-imperialist education. She loves to read and write, especially poetry. She believes in the power of all people, and particularly Black people, to liberate themselves. Much of her work focuses on questions of Black liberation and women's liberation as it relates to Black women. In addition to being a published author, Kristin is the founder of Pens Up Press, a radical printing press for Black authors, and the founder of Uproar Poetry, an online poetry platform for activist poets.



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## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**DR. GERYLL “G. LOVE” ROBINSON** is a Doctor of Naprapathy, Shamanic Practitioner and Teacher, Diviner, Poet, and Reiki Master. She is the visionary spaceholder for SoulShifting Retreats; an International Movement of practitioners of Indigenous technologies, and a co-steward of Sojourners Land QTPOC Eco-spiritual land movement in rural Tennessee. The work that moves through Dr. G. Love is an ever-expanding tapestry of syncretic healing, indigenous technologies, community spirit, personal insight, storytelling, humor, art, beauty, mysticism, and activism and is to be shared and utilized as a doorway, anchor, and guide for our journey as a new paradigm generation of visionary liberated souls.



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**GABBY SANTOS** is the Director of LGBT Health Services for In Our Own Voices. She has worked with survivors of trauma since 1994 in roles ranging from inmate support group facilitator, to policy work on behalf of LGBT POC. Gabby is committed to promoting the sexual health of LGBT POC and their communities in order to end health disparities. She provides leadership to Unity Through Diversity, a National LGBT POC Health Conference, and the Annual Black & Latin@ Gay Pride of the Capital District of NY. She is also a member of the Arte Sana board of directors and ALAS, the national Latina Alliance Against Sexual Violence.

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**FLORIE ST. AIME**, a LMSW born, raised, working and living in Brooklyn NY, describes herself as an anti-oppression based clinician whose work is rooted in naming and blaming social constructs instead of individuals; encouraging healing and self-care as resistance; and reintroducing human connection and acts of love as radical action. Florie co-facilitates Radical Social Work Group- Clinical Work group where clinicians meet monthly to discuss and exercise how to increase liberatory practices while working within oppressive systems.



**CONTACT:** floriest.aime@gmail.com

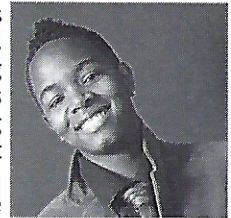
## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



**PAULENE TOUSSAINT** has worked to ensure that women who are formerly incarcerated with substance abuse or domestic violence issues do not continue to be a forgotten population. Paulene has dedicated her time by working with Sistas Healing Old Wounds in a consultant capacity to lowering the risk of recidivism for this population. Paulene currently holds a position with Stony Brook University so she also brings a strong Academic component to SHOW. Working with formerly

incarcerated women to address past traumas while encouraging obtaining either a GED or College Degrees.

**JULIA ROXANNE WALLACE** (also known as Sangodare) creates media and art for healing and transformation. Julia is an artist, filmmaker and preacher. As artist in residence at UMN and visiting faculty in Film Studies at Lawrence University, Julia facilitates interactive spaces for transformation and transcendence building on familial legacies from three generations of Black Baptist preachers and church workers serving communities in the South. Along with primary collaborator, Sista Docta Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Julia co-created Mobile Homecoming and Black Feminist Film School. Mobile Homecoming is a national intergenerational experiential archive project that amplifies generations of Black LGBTQ brilliance.



**YOLANDA VIVIAN WILLIAMS** is an Academic/ Retention Advisor with the Office of Minority Affairs at Eastern Illinois University . She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in African-American Studies and a Masters of Science in Education all from Eastern Illinois University. Ms. Williams is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Education Administration with a specialization in Higher Education Leadership at Indiana State University. Her research interest includes: LGBTQ+ in Historically Black Sororities, Black LGBTQ+ History and Black Women and Depression. Yolanda has been a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for 27 years.

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**CAROLYN WYSINGER** is an author, speaker, educator & the host of The C-Dubb Show Podcast. She received her BA from California State University Long Beach and her MFA from Antioch University - Los Angeles. Her work has appeared in Everyday Feminism, Elixher, Black Girl Dangerous, Autostraddle, Media Diversified, the Oakland Post & BK Nation. Her first book, “Knockturnal Emissions: Thoughts on #race #sexuality #gender” #community” was released in 2013. She is a former Human Rights commissioner for the City of Richmond and currently serves on the boards for BUTCHVoices, Richmond Rainbow Pride & Lambda Democratic of Contra Costa County.



**CONTACT:** crwysinger@hotmail.com

We Salute

*Tina Campt*

Executive Director  
Barnard Center for Research on Women  
2014 - 2018



*thank you for . . . everything.*

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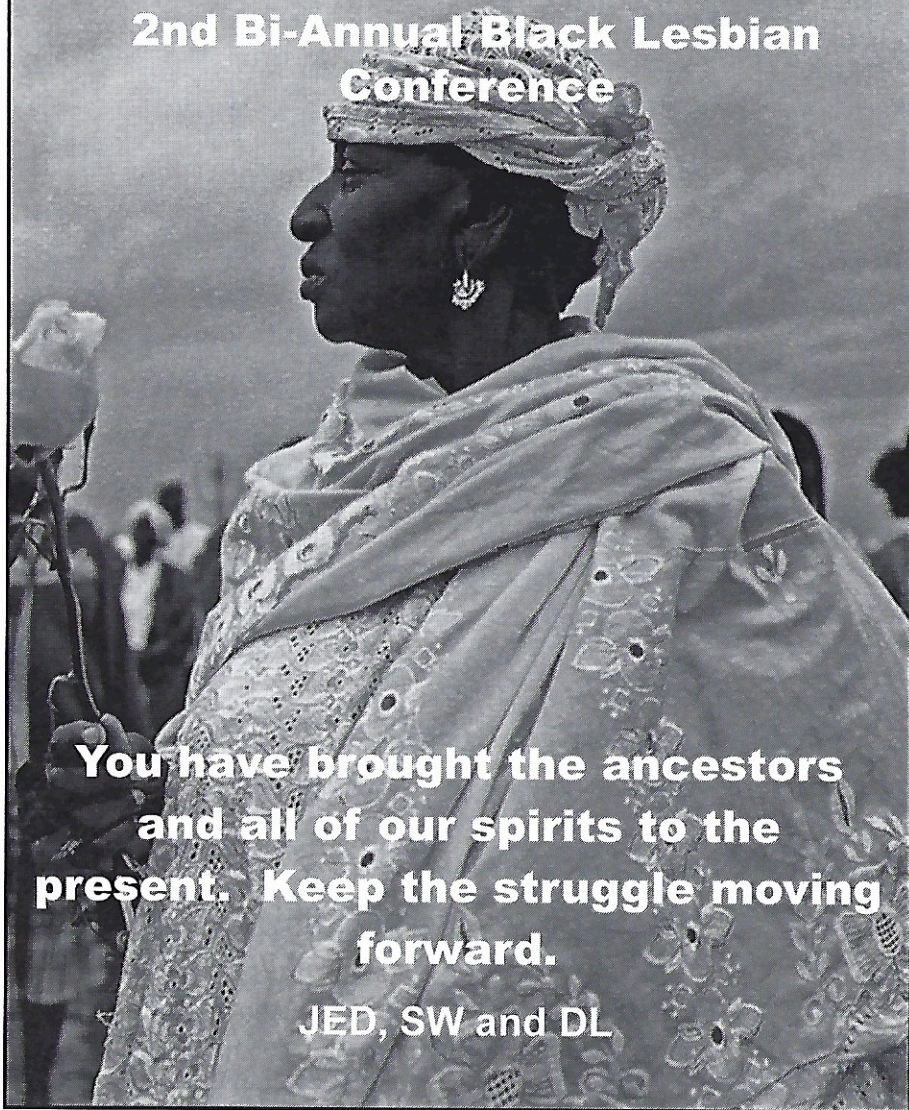
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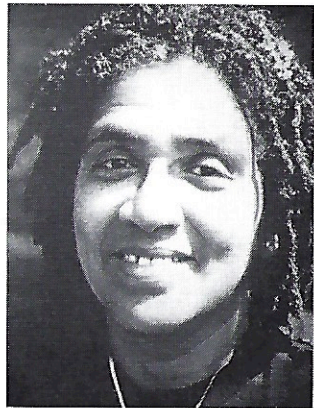
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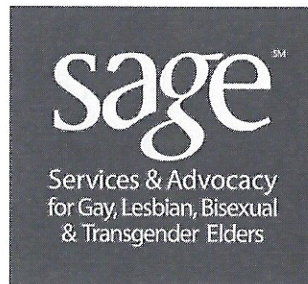
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