

Miami Book Fair/Miami Dade College
+ Sosyete Koukouy present / *ap prezante*

LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL

Foli Liv Nan Ti Ayiti

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Starts 11 a.m. | Little Haiti Cultural Center

Dimanch 4 me 2025, apati 11 a.m.

nan Sant Kiltirèl Little Haiti



Little Haiti Book Festival
Online

SUNDAY, MAY 18

DIMANCH 18 ME

MiamiBookFair.com/LittleHaiti
SosyeteKoukouy.org



THIS FESTIVAL IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Welcome to the 2025 Little Haiti Book Festival

DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Little Haiti Book Festival — a gathering of hearts, voices, and visions rooted in Haitian creativity and community. Each May, as we enter Haitian Heritage Month, we come together at the Little Haiti Cultural Center to honor a vibrant legacy. This festival, co-presented by Sosyete Koukouy and Miami Book Fair, is a commitment to storytelling, endurance, and the lasting beauty of Haitian culture.

This year's program continues our tradition of honoring Haiti's artistic richness through literature, music, dance, theater, and visual art. We are proud to offer a space where children discover the joy of language, where teens explore identity through performance, and where adults engage in meaningful conversations on immigration, memory, justice, and home. Through these offerings, we affirm our belief that the arts are not a luxury — they are essential.

Our panels bring together some of the most dynamic thinkers, writers, and advocates from across the Haitian diaspora. These conversations are not only timely, they are urgent. They collectively speak to the complexities of migration, the strength of grassroots organizing, the challenge of preserving cultural memory, and the transformative power of community care. They are opportunities to listen, to question, and to imagine a better future together.

At the heart of our festival is the marketplace — a bustling space filled with books, crafts, games, and language. It's a place where culture is touched, tasted, heard, and felt. Here, Kreyòl lives beside English and French. Here, a new generation is reminded that Haitian heritage is something to be celebrated every day.

This festival would not be possible without the passion and dedication of so many: our artists, authors, panelists, vendors, volunteers, sponsors, and cultural partners. Your love for Haiti and its people fuels everything we do.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and resolve. The Little Haiti Book Festival is a bridge — between generations, between countries, between dreams and action. Thank you for crossing that bridge with us, year after year.

Warm regards,



Michèle Jessica Fièvre Logan ("M.J. Fievre")

Program Coordinator
ReadCaribbean & Little Haiti Book Festival
Miami Book Fair
Sosyete Koukouy of Miami



Lissette Mendez
Executive Director
Miami Book Fair

Welcome to the 2025 Little Haiti Book Festival

ATYABA POU NOU TOUT!

Se ak anpil plezi e ak kè kontan, nan non Sosyete Koukouy Miyami ak Biwo Santral Koukouy yo, mwenn swete tout moun atyaba nan onzyèm ane FOLI LIV NAN TI AYITI. Sosyete Koukouy, premye mouvman literè nan lang kreyòl ayisyen an, fonde an 1965, bay lebra ak Miami Book Fair ki gen plis pase 40 ane eksperyans, pou nou reyalize kokennchenn evenman literè sa a. Miami Book Fair se pi gwo aktivite lakilti nan peyi Etazini.

Nou renmèsye tout volontè yo, estaf ki travay san pran souf depi 6 mwa ak tout pwofesyonèl nan kominote a ki kore nou pandan onz ane sa yo e ki penmèt reyalizasyon bèl aktivite literè sa a. Yon renmèsiman espesyal bay M.J. Fievre, kowòdonatris FOLI LIV NAN TI AYITI. Li travay maten-midi-swa pou rann evènman an posib. Yon gwo bravo pou lidèchip li.

Jodi a, se youn nan pi bèl okazyon pou ekriven pale, diskite epi pataje ak piblik la eksperyans ak kreyasyon literè yo.

Yon lòt fwa ankò Sosyete Koukouy di nou mèsi. Sonje byen, liv se rezèvwa lakonesans. Tanpri achte yon liv. Ankouraje otè yo. Mennen timoun yo.

Jan Mapou

Prezidan

Sosyete Koukouy



SPECIAL THANKS TO



**GREEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



**Kimberly Green
Latin American and
Caribbean Center**

**for their generous multiyear
commitment to keeping the
LITTLE HAITI
BOOK FESTIVAL
a vibrant part of our community.**

SEE YOU IN 2026!



WE LOVE OUR PRESTIGE PATRONS!



GREEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Kimberly Green
Latin American and
Caribbean Center



"Our collaboration with the Green Family Foundation is rooted in a shared belief: that culture is not a luxury but a necessity. Their support empowers us to design programming that speaks to the mind and heart — centering Haitian voices, investing in local talent, and cultivating spaces where storytelling can move, educate, and inspire. Together, we're cultivating future thinkers, readers, and creators."

— Lissette Mendez
Executive Director, Miami Book Fair

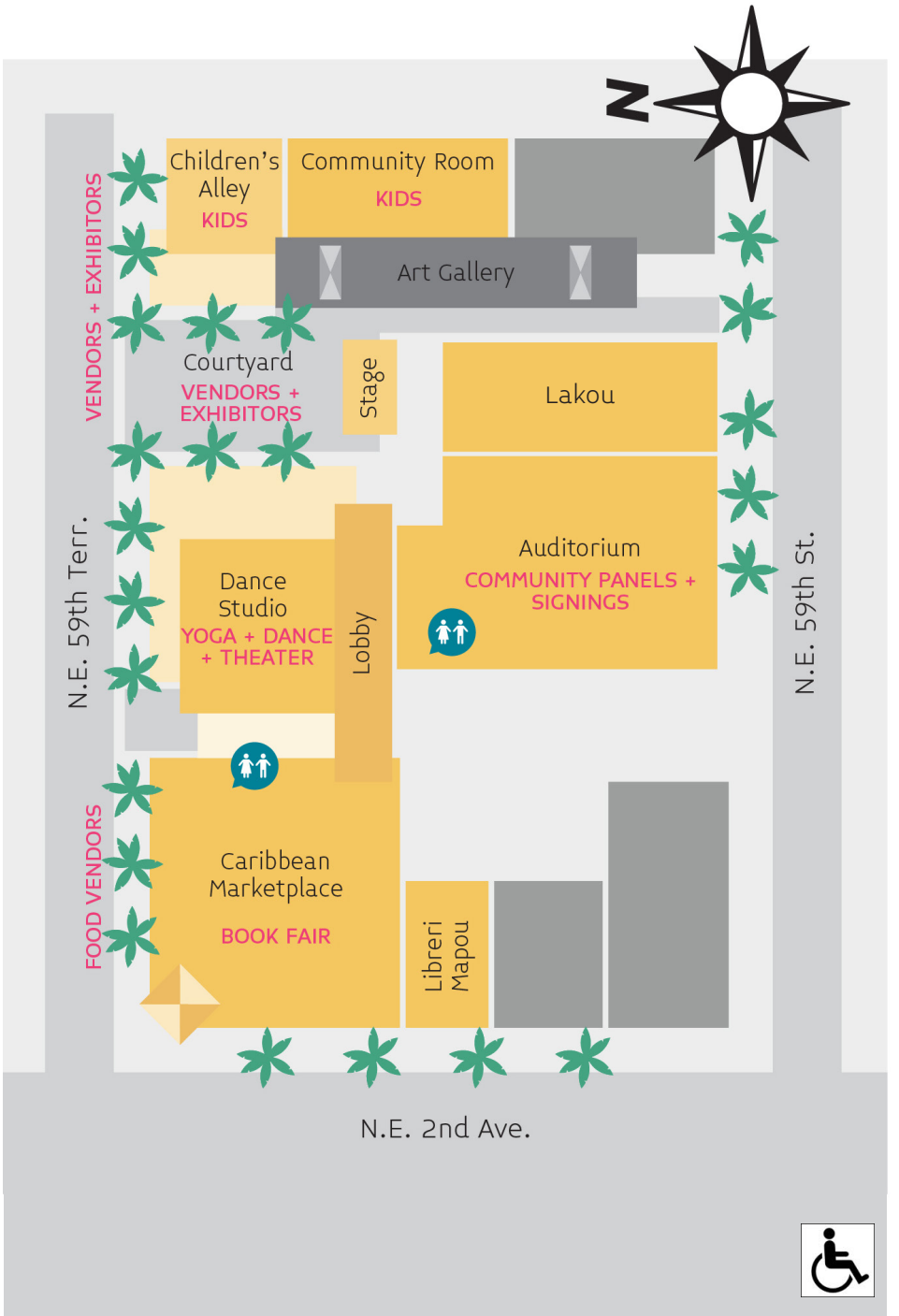
"The Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center helps us place Haiti exactly where it belongs — in conversation with the world. Its support strengthens our ability to highlight Haiti's role in shaping regional and global histories. Through this partnership, we're not only celebrating art and culture — we're deepening the conversation, asking better questions, and inviting the public to see Haiti not as an island apart, but as a vital voice in the chorus of the Americas."

— Jan Mapou
Sosyete Koukouy

"Libreri Mapou is a cultural anchor, a keeper of language, and a home for Haitian thought. Its continued presence at the festival affirms the centrality of literature in our collective identity. With every book on its tables and every conversation sparked between generations, Libreri Mapou reminds us that the written word is both a bridge and a mirror. We are proud to walk alongside this vital community stakeholder."

— Michèle Jessica Fièvre Logan ("M.J. Fievre")
Program Coordinator, ReadCaribbean & Little Haiti Book Festival
Miami Book Fair

FESTIVAL MAP



TIME	COURTYARD	CHILDREN'S ALLEY	IN THE BUILDING
ALL DAY	Participate! Haitian music with DJ Nickymix + discover the magic with emcee Mecca "Grimo" Marcelin	Create! Kids art-making studio with GO GO MOAD and artist Asser Saint-Val	LAKOU Learn! Historical puzzles with Game Time Ayiti
11 A.M.		Participate! Storytelling & Beignets with Liliane Nerette Louis	DANCE STUDIO Learn! Participate! Meditation & Yoga for All Ages with Alexandra Jeanty-Leclerc
12 P.M.		Participate! Storytelling, Rhythm & Drums with Yanui of Tradisyon Lakou Lakay	AUDITORIUM Learn! Panel: The Future of Little Haiti with Joann Milord, François Alexandre, Abraham Metellus, and Leonie M. Hermantin
1 P.M.	Participate! Dance performance with Nancy St. Leger of NSL Danse Ensemble	Participate! Once Upon a Time in Haiti with Lucrèce Louisdhon-Louinis	DANCE STUDIO Participate! Haitian theater workshop with Elizabeth Guerin and Florence Jean-Louis Dupuy
2 P.M.		Participate! <i>A Fish Called Tanga</i> with Marie Ketsia Theodore-Pharel	AUDITORIUM Learn! Panel: Retounen Lakay — Protected Status, Policy Shifts & Deportation with Ira J. Kurzban and Paul Christian Namphy
3 P.M.		Participate! Special reading with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien	ART GALLERY Create! Ekphrastic poetry workshop with poets Fabienne Josaphat and Herold Pierre ; special keynote with artist Serge Toussaint
3:30 P.M.	Participate! Live performance with Papaloko & Loray Mistik		DANCE STUDIO Learn! Participate! Contemporary Haitian dance with Nancy St. Leger of NSL Danse Ensemble



MiamiBookFair.com/LittleHaiti
MiamiBookFair.com/ti-ayiti





DJ NICKYMIX



MECCA "GRIMO" MARCELIN

ALL DAY | TOUT LAJOUNEN

ALL DAY | MARKETPLACE A bustling destination packed with exhibitors, food vendors, and a mini book fair featuring local authors and publishers with books in English, Haitian Creole, French, and Spanish.

Se sa nou rele FOLI LIV nan Tí Ayiti. N ap jwenn liv nan plizyè lang: an kreyòl, an angle, an franse, e menm an panyòl!

ALL DAY | COURTYARD HEART-PUMPING BEATS WITH DJ NICKYMIX, one of the most famous Haitian DJs of the diaspora and host at Radio Carnivale, the first Haitian radio station in the U.S. — spinning Haitian konpa, roots, and rara music!

DJ NICKYMIX pral mete bèl anbyans: mizik konpa, rasin, rara, rege! Se sa nèt! Ala bèl fèt la pral bèl!

ALL DAY | COURTYARD DISCOVER THE MAGIC with cultural ambassador and creative advocate, Mecca "Grimo" Marcelin, who will entertain and guide you through the event as you enjoy DJ Nickymix's heart-pumping beats. **Bèl animasyon avèk MECCA "GRIMO" MARCELIN.** Ayayay! Se pa ti kè kontan!

ALL DAY | COURTYARD FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS, courtesy of Miami Book Fair and The Children's Trust's Books for Free program.

LIV GRATIS POU TIMOUN, koutwazi "Books for Free," you pwogram The Children's Trust mete sou pye an kolaborasyon avèk Miami Book Fair. Pase pran liv pa w ak ti lezanj yo!

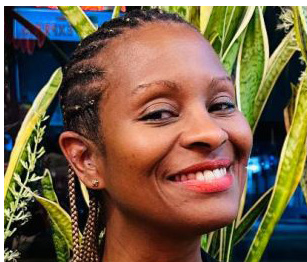
ALL DAY | CHILDREN'S ALLEY CREATE!

Kids Art-Making Studio with GO GO MOAD — Immerse your children in Haitian art and culture while fostering their creativity! This year's activity invites participants to reflect on identity, belonging, and resilience through collaborative artwork. Led by artist **Asser Saint-Val**, children will express stories of home, culture, and memory. Plus, enjoy engaging **historical puzzles from Game Time Ayiti**, sparking fun and learning around Haiti's vibrant past.

Mennen timoun yo vin fè pèzèl ki reprezante moniman istorik nou genyen lakay.



LILIANE NÉRETTE LOUIS



ALEXANDRA JEANTY-LECLERC



YANUI

MORNING | NAN MATEN

11 A.M. CHILDREN'S ALLEY —

STORYTELLING & BEIGNETS Through captivating tales, cultural ambassador **Liliane Nérette Louis** will guide children on a journey through Haiti's traditions, humor, and wisdom.

Mennen timoun yo vin koute kont ak lejann nou yo. Madam Liliane se yon mètkont estwòdinè!

11 A.M. DANCE STUDIO — MEDITATION & YOGA FOR ALL AGES WITH ALEXANDRA JEANTY-LECLERC,

Mindful Art educator and author of *Mindful Pokie*, who will share simple yet effective techniques to calm your mind, reduce stress, and increase focus. Suitable for all experience levels, this workshop offers a welcoming and inclusive space to explore the benefits of a mindful yoga practice.

Meditasyon ak yoga pou moun tout laj! Alexandra Jeanty-Leclerc pral pataje teknik senp men efikas pou kalme lespri ou, diminye estrès, e ogmante konsantrasyon. Atelye sa a adapte pou tout nivo eksperyans.



NOON | A MIDI

12 P.M. CHILDREN'S ALLEY — STORYTELLING, RHYTHM & DRUMS WITH YANUI Embark on a journey through the stories, rhythms, and dances that define Haiti's spirited culture.

Yanui se fondatè ak prezidan Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, yon òganizasyon kominotè ki ede timoun dekouvri talan kache yo gras a pwogram edikatif tankou dans, tanbou, kreyasyon literè, enfòmasyon, prezantasyon sou sèn, ak kreyòl ayisyen, pami lòt bagay.

TRADISYON LAKOU LAKAY INC. (TLL, INC.) is a Miami-based nonprofit arts and culture organization focused on educating and enriching individuals through Haitian Folk arts. Its mission involves uplifting the mind, body, and spirit of its community through a variety of programs, including dance, drumming, creative writing, and photography. TLL offers seasonal camp programs such as Spring Fest and Summer Intensive Institute, which are designed to foster skills in arts and leadership among children and youth. TLL also conducts the Youth Engagement Study Circle (YES-C), a program aimed at developing communication and critical thinking skills among older youth. The organization's activities are deeply rooted in Haitian cultural traditions, providing a space for community gathering and cultural expression.



12 P.M. AUDITORIUM — PANEL: THE FUTURE OF LITTLE HAITI This panel brings together community leaders, artists, and advocates to discuss the evolving identity of Little Haiti. From development pressures to cultural preservation, panelists will explore what's at stake — and what's possible — for this vital Miami neighborhood. Together, **Joann Milord, François Alexandre, and Abraham Metellus** will imagine a future rooted in equity, creativity, and community voice. Moderated by **Leonie M. Hermantin** of Sant La. Sponsored by **The Children's Trust** and **KLOTA**.



JOANN MILORD



FRANÇOIS ALEXANDRE



ABRAHAM METELLUS

JOANN MILORD is a seasoned leader in economic development and community revitalization who currently serves as president/CEO of the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust, where she manages a \$6 million budget to support redevelopment and cultural preservation initiatives. With a strong background in loan underwriting, business development, and strategic planning, she has led impactful programs through roles at North Miami Beach CRA, Miami Bayside Foundation, and the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. A passionate advocate for small-business empowerment, Milord is also a published author, educator, and founder of the YOPRO Awards, and has been recognized for her contributions by the city of Miami, the Haitian Consulate, and the Florida Redevelopment Association.

FRANÇOIS ALEXANDRE, born in Okay, Ayiti, is a dedicated community leader, entrepreneur, and father whose work centers on service, sustainability, and self-determination. A graduate of Florida International University, he is the founder/CEO of Konscious Kontraktors Ink, a construction cooperatives consulting firm providing affordable home repairs to underserved communities. As board president of Concerned Leaders of Ti Ayiti (KLOTA) and advisor to TAPRARI, he champions environmental justice and community resilience. A survivor of police brutality, Alexandre has turned hardship into purpose, launching grassroots initiatives such as the Kare Pakage and Klean Streets Klean Mind to uplift Ti Ayiti. In 2021, he extended his advocacy by running for Miami's District 5 commission seat, remaining steadfast in his commitment to building lasting, people-centered change.

LEONIE M. HERMANTIN is a Haitian-born community development expert with more than 20 years of grassroots experience in Miami's Haitian community. She has held several key leadership roles, including executive director of the Haitian-American Foundation, director

of research and strategic planning at Sant La, and deputy director of the Lambi Fund of Haiti. Through her firm, Hermantin Consulting LLC, she has worked on initiatives supporting education and development in both Haiti and the U.S., collaborating with organizations like The Children's Trust, FOKAL, and FIU. She currently serves as director of development, communications, and strategic planning at Sant La, and holds a JD from UC Berkeley and a master's in urban and environmental planning.

ABRAHAM METELLUS is a certified general contractor and real estate sales associate with a background in civic engagement, construction, and cultural preservation. His work spans affordable housing, public infrastructure, and community revitalization projects throughout South Florida. With roots in church and community service, he remains committed to building sustainable, culturally grounded spaces that empower underserved communities.

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST is a dedicated funding organization committed to improving the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. By investing in programs that support early education, health, safety, and youth development, the Trust helps ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.



KLOTA (KONSCIOUS LEADERS OF TI AYITI) is a grassroots organization based in Little Haiti that empowers youth through education, cultural programming, and community engagement. By fostering leadership and civic responsibility, KLOTA nurtures the next generation of changemakers dedicated to uplifting and preserving Haitian identity and values.





NSL DANCE ENSEMBLE



LUCRÈCE LOUISDHON-LOUNIS

1 P.M. | INÈ NAN APRÈMIDI

1 P.M. COURTYARD — A PERFORMANCE FROM NSL DANSE ENSEMBLE featuring vibrant and authentic Haitian folk dances that will transport you to another time and place. *Twoup lan pral fè dans folklorik ayisyen ki vivan ak otantik pou mennen w tounen nan yon lòt epòk, tan lontan nan peyi Ayiti.*

NSL DANSE ENSEMBLE is a vibrant Haitian folkloric dance company based in Miami. Founded in 1998 by Nancy St. Léger, an accomplished Haitian American dancer and choreographer, the ensemble is dedicated to preserving and promoting Haitian culture through dance. Celebrated for their dynamic performances, the NSL dancers showcase a wide variety of authentic Haitian folk dances, which are deeply rooted in the nation's rich history of independence and cultural pride. The ensemble performs at various events and festivals across South Florida, bringing the spirited and profound essence of Haitian folklore to life.



1 P.M. CHILDREN'S ALLEY — ONCE UPON A TIME IN HAITI WITH MASTER STORYTELLER LUCRÈCE LOUISDHON-LOUNIS, who will take the audience on a journey showcasing Haiti's rich history, traditions, and folklore. These stories highlight the unique blend of African and European influences that inform Haitian culture, providing an entertaining and educational glimpse into its rich heritage. *Lucrèce Louisdhon-Louinis pral tire kont! Lucrèce se yon sanba, yon bibliyotekè, ak yon dansè pwofesyonèl.*

LUCRÈCE LOUISDHON-LOUNIS is a professional storyteller, librarian, and dancer. She traveled to New York City from her native Haiti to earn a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in library science from St. John's University. After graduating with honors in 1986, she became a children's librarian at the Queens Public Library and later an assistant coordinator of children's services. Louisdhon-Louinis joined Miami-Dade's public library system in 1997 and quickly ascended to the role of assistant director of outreach, programming, and special services. One of her major accomplishments during her tenure there was implementing the Art of

THANK YOU TO OUR LITERARY LUMINARIES



LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL COMPLEX



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District 3
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District 5
Commissioner
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LITTLE HAITI REVITALIZATION TRUST



Office of Community
Advocacy Board of County
Commissioners



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
Community Action 6
Human Services Department



CITY OF MIAMI
Chairwoman and District 5 Commissioner
Christine Yang



NORTH MIAMI
City of North Miami
Mayor Ails Deasime



ELIZABETH GUERIN



FLORENCE JEAN-LOUIS DUPUY



MARIE KETSIA THEODORE-PHAREL

Storytelling (AOS), an international cultural exchange program. Today she is the executive director of the Louinès Lounis Haitian Dance Theater, a cultural dance company that performs authentic Haitian folk dances, songs, and rhythms throughout the U.S. and Canada.

1 P.M. DANCE STUDIO — THEATER WORKSHOP: EXPRESSION, IDENTITY & HERITAGE THROUGH PERFORMANCE This interactive workshop, co-led by veteran Haitian theater artists **Elizabeth Guerin** and **Florence Jean-Louis Dupuy**, invites fairgoers to explore self-expression and storytelling through the lens of Haitian cultural identity. Participants will engage in theater warmups, roleplay, improvisation, and guided scene work inspired by themes from Haitian history, daily life, and personal experience. The session will provide a safe, creative space for youth to develop confidence, practice collaboration, and connect with their cultural roots through performance. The workshop runs 60-90 minutes and will be held in Haitian Creole and English.

ELIZABETH GUERIN is a Haitian actress, writer, and media executive with deep roots in the performing arts. She began her career in Haiti

as a child actor and radio host, later gaining widespread recognition for her roles in theater and broadcast media. In 2006, she founded Imaginart Media Productions, producing Haitian Creole-language plays and cultural programming in the U.S. and Caribbean. Guerin is also a co-owner of Island TV, where she serves as vice president of production. Her lifelong dedication to Haitian theater and storytelling continues to shape and elevate Haitian Creole-language performance across platforms.

FLORENCE JEAN-LOUIS DUPUY is a Haitian director, playwright, producer, and educator with more than three decades of experience in the performing arts. She is the founder of Atelier Théâtre Écllosion, a company dedicated to producing live performances rooted in Haitian culture and storytelling. Jean-Louis Dupuy is widely known for her Haitian Creole adaptation of *The Vagina Monologues* (*Pawol Chouchoun*) and for directing major works such as *Soufle Van*, performed during the bicentennial celebration of Haitian independence. Her repertoire spans historical dramas, musical theater, and comedy, with productions staged in Haiti, the U.S., Canada, and France.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



Family Action
Network
Movement



M . O
A .
D . . .
Miami Dade College





IRA J. KURZBAN



PAUL CHRISTIAN NAMPHY



FABIENNE JOSAPHAT

2 P.M. | DEZÈ NAN APRÈMIDI

2 P.M. CHILDREN'S ALLEY — *A FISH CALLED TANGA* WITH MARIE KETSIA THEODORE-PHAREL

Unique narratives showcase Haiti's vibrant essence and heritage, offering listeners a journey through its rich traditions and imaginative stories.

Marie Ketsia Theodore-Pharel pral rakonte timoun yo bèl istwa yo p ap janm bliye. Tim-tim? Bwa-sèch!

2 P.M. AUDITORIUM — RETOUNEN

LAKAY: PROTECTED STATUS, POLICY SHIFTS & DEPORTATION This timely panel brings together legal experts, advocates, and community leaders to examine the shifting landscape of U.S. immigration policy and its profound impact on Haitian families.

Panelists **Ira J. Kurzban** and **Paul Christian Namphy** will discuss the end of protected status, the rise in deportations, and the urgent need for policy reform while highlighting the role of grassroots advocacy organizations like FANM in shaping a more just and humane immigration system.

IRA J. KURZBAN is a nationally recognized immigration and civil rights attorney and a founding partner of the Miami-based law firm Kurzban, Kurzban, Tetzeli & Pratt, P.A. With more than 40 years of legal experience, he has argued landmark immigration cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and authored the widely respected *Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook*. A former national president and general counsel of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Kurzban

HONORED GUEST & SUPPORTER:

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARLEINE BASTIEN

MARLEINE BASTIEN is the current representative for District 2 on the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. Born in Jérémie, Haiti, she migrated to the U.S., where she became a passionate advocate for immigrants, women, and children. Bastien holds degrees in social work from Miami Dade Community College and Florida International University. She is the founder and executive director of Family Action Network Movement (FANM), formerly known as Haitian Women of Miami, an organization renowned for its advocacy on immigration, housing, and health access. Bastien's significant contributions to social justice have been recognized with numerous awards, including being listed as one of the "35 Most Remarkable Women in the World" by Essence magazine in 2005.

Thank you, Commissioner Bastien, for your generous contribution to the 2025 Little Haiti Book Festival!



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
MARLEINE BASTIEN



HEROLD PIERRE



SERGE TOUSSAINT

has been a tireless advocate for immigrant rights, particularly within the Haitian community. He has also taught immigration law at the University of Miami School of Law and is widely regarded as one of the foremost experts in the field.

PAUL CHRISTIAN NAMPHY is an experienced public policy advocate and community organizer currently serving with FANM (Family Action Network Movement), a leading Haitian American advocacy organization based in Miami. With a background in civil engineering and public health, Namphy previously coordinated national water and sanitation programs in Haiti, playing a critical role in the country's response to the cholera epidemic. At FANM, he brings this systems-focused perspective to his work on immigration, housing, and human rights, championing the needs of underserved communities through grassroots mobilization and policy reform.

3 P.M. | KLÒCH LA SONNEN TWAZÈ

3 P.M. CHILDREN'S ALLEY — SPECIAL READING WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

MARLEINE BASTIEN Gather the little ones for a joyful storytime with Bastien, a beloved community leader and champion for children and families. In this special reading, she will share a children's book that celebrates imagination, kindness, and culture — offering young readers a moment of connection and inspiration during the festival.

Madam Bastien se Komisyonè Distrik 2, k ap travay osen kominote an.

3 P.M. ART GALLERY — FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA: EKPHRASTIC POETRY WORKSHOP

Poets **Fabienne Josaphat** and **Herold Pierre** guide attendees in an exploration of poetic expressions as they interact with works by local artists.

Menm si w panse ou pa powèt, vin patisiye nan bèl aktivite sa a!

FABIENNE JOSAPHAT is the recipient of the 2023 PEN Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, and the author of the forthcoming novel *Kingdom of No Tomorrow*. Her first novel was *Dancing in the Baron's Shadow*; her publications include poems in *Kitchen Table Quarterly*, *Grist Journal*, *Hinchas de Poesia*, and *Eight Miami Poets*, and essays in *The Washington Post* and *Teen Vogue*. She is currently at work on a third novel.

HEROLD PIERRE aka Alouwou Mandjah, is an acclaimed Haitian writer and poet who is proficient in Haitian Creole, French, and English. He is educated in visual arts, architecture, and networking services technology, and his work reflects a deep connection to Haitian culture. Winner of the 2013 Carnafam poetry contest in Florida, Pierre actively contributes to literary projects and cultural programs. His anticipated poetry book and existing works online showcase his versatile talent and engagement with diverse audiences.

Our keynote artist speaker for this event is **SERGE TOUSSAINT**, a Haitian American muralist and sign artist from Carrefour, Haiti. Toussaint's murals are prominent throughout Miami-Dade County, especially in Little Haiti, where they depict Haitian history, cultural icons, and everyday life. His art often combines vibrant colors with themes reflecting the experiences of the local community. In addition to murals, Toussaint creates functional sign art for local businesses, enhancing the visual landscape of neighborhoods. He has also contributed to community education by offering free art classes at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. Toussaint's work was recognized with a Florida Folk Heritage Award in 2016, honoring his contributions to the state's cultural legacy.



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3:30 P.M. DANCE STUDIO — CONTEMPORARY HAITIAN DANCE WITH NANCY ST. LEGER The founder of NSL Danse Ensemble will guide you through a series of movements and choreography designed to help you connect with the rhythm and spirit of Haiti, providing you with a deeper understanding of the art form.

NSL Danse Ensemble, se yon twoup dans k ap travay pou prezèsasyon dans fòlklorik ayisyen toutbon an. Dansè NSL yo danse tout kalite dans tradisyonèl ki esprime espri endepandan, fyète, ak richès kiltirèl Ayiti.

3:30 P.M. COURTYARD — LIVE MUSIC WITH PAPALOKO, whose work fuses traditional Haitian rhythms like rasin, vodou, and rara with jazz, rock, and Afrobeat influences. His music reflects deep spiritual and cultural roots, layered with powerful percussion and thought-provoking lyrics. Papaloko's performances are dynamic, often blending sound, movement, and visual expression to create an immersive experience. At the Little Haiti Book Festival, his presence brings vibrant energy and a rich celebration of Haitian heritage through music that moves both body and spirit.

Vini danse ak Papaloko, yon atis ayisyen ki jwe mizik ki cho tankou solèy Ayiti.

IN MEMORIAM:

MICHEL ADOLPHE GABRIEL BIENAIME

Michel Adolphe Gabriel Bienaime was a respected Haitian American patriarch and community advocate remembered for his deep devotion to family, faith, and the Haitian diaspora in South Florida.

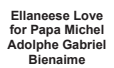
Born in Haiti, he made Miami his home in the late 1970s, marrying Jennett "Mother Love" Bienaime in 1978 and becoming the cornerstone of a blended family of eight children. Bienaime was an active participant in the life of Little Haiti, speaking out against gentrification at public forums, protesting for Haitian immigrant protections like TPS, and supporting the work of local organizations such as FANM. He served quietly but consistently, often behind the scenes, whether fixing things at the community center or showing up early to set up chairs at events. His activism was always paired with strong faith

and cultural pride; he was a member of Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Miami and remained closely tied to his Haitian roots; a memorial mass was held for him in his hometown of La Vallée, Haiti.

Fluent in Haitian Creole and French, he passed down customs, values, and stories to younger generations, serving as a vital bridge between Haiti and the diaspora. In 2025, Little Haiti Book Festival pays tribute to Bienaime's enduring legacy — a man whose name means "well-loved," and whose life reflected that truth in every way. His example of community service and cultural stewardship continues to inspire, reminding us of the quiet yet powerful ways one individual can uplift an entire neighborhood.

Rest in Paradise, Papa
Ellaneese Love

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS GUARDIANS



SUNDAY, MAY 18



MYRIAM J.A. CHANCY



ISABELLE CAMILLE



LYONEL GERDES

ONLINE PROGRAM/PWOGRAM SOU ENTÈNÈT

All Sunday, May 18, online programs will be streamed live on MiamiBookFairOnline.com and will also be simultaneously available on the Facebook pages of Miami Book Fair and Sosyete Koukouy, as well as those of our valued partners: Chokarella, The Haitian American/L'Union Suite, and the Haitian Ladies Network. Whether you're tuning in from home or abroad, you'll have multiple ways to join us for these powerful conversations exploring Haitian identity, culture, community, and resistance.

11 A.M. PANEL — NARRATIVES OF RESISTANCE: UNBREAKABLE BONDS & REVOLUTIONARY LOVE, with **Edwidge Danticat** (*We're Alone*), **Myriam J.A. Chancy** (*Village Weavers*), and **Fabienne Josaphat** (*Kingdom of No Tomorrow*). Moderated by **Vania André**, editor-in-chief and publisher of *The Haitian Times*. In English.

1 P.M. PANEL — HAITIAN CURRENTS: CULTURE, IDENTITY & TURBULENCE, with **Nadege Fleurimond** (*Haiti Uncovered*) and **Isabelle Camille** (*Sole's Mom*):

A Transgender Journey of Love, Loss, and Letting Go). Moderated by **Ketsia Theodore-Pharel**. In English.

3 P.M. PANEL — HAITIANS AN AYITI, HAITIANS ANDEYÒ: STORIES FROM HOME & ABROAD, with **Lyonel Gerdes** (*Miami, Florida*), **Hervé Fanini-Lemoine** (*Forgotten Essentials*), **Daniel-Gérard Rouzier** (*Mémoires d'un Fou*), and **Bito David** (*My Haitian Neighbor: A Cultural Handshake*). Moderated by Chokarella creator and host **Carel Pedre**. In English and Haitian Creole.

5 P.M. PANEL — THE FUTURE OF LITTLE HAITI, with community leaders **Joann Milord**, **François Alexandre**, and **Abraham Metellus**. Moderated by **Leonie M. Hermantin**. Organized by The Children's Trust and KLOTA.

7 P.M. PANEL — RETOUNEN LAKAY: PROTECTED STATUS, POLICY SHIFTS & DEPORTATION, with immigration experts **Ira J. Kurzban** and **Paul Christian Namphy**. Moderated by **Vania André**, *The Haitian Times*.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA PARTNERS



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PRESTIGE PATRONS

- The **GREEN FAMILY FOUNDATION (GFF)** is a private, Miami-based philanthropic organization that supports social programs in global health, education, and community development. Under the leadership of its president, Dr. Kimberly Green, the foundation has spearheaded numerous initiatives in Haiti and in Miami's Little Haiti, reflecting a deep commitment to empowering the Haitian community through cultural preservation and educational outreach. GFF's generous sponsorship of Little Haiti Book Festival helps celebrate Haitian literature and heritage in South Florida.

- The **KIMBERLY GREEN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CENTER (LACC)** is a leading academic center at Florida International University dedicated to the study and promotion of Latin American and Caribbean cultures. As a federally designated National Resource Center, LACC engages in extensive outreach, hosting more than 100 events each year related to the region and its diaspora communities. The center has a long-standing commitment to Haiti through its Haitian Studies Program and Haitian Summer Institute, and it proudly supports Haitian cultural initiatives, such as Little Haiti Book Festival, to foster education and cultural exchange.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY** regularly supports cultural events that celebrate the region's diversity, including Haitian Heritage Month activities. Through its Department of Cultural Affairs and other agencies, the county provides funding and venues for festivals like Little Haiti Book Festival. This support reflects Miami-Dade's commitment to honoring Haitian contributions and enriching the cultural life of all residents. One of the key avenues for this support is the Community Grants (CG) Program, administered by the county's Department of Cultural Affairs. This program offers quarterly funding to nonprofit organizations developing community-based cultural programs, events, and publications with a strong artistic component. It emphasizes projects that promote community involvement, outreach, and the preservation of heritage, traditions, and culture. The program is particularly attentive to the needs of Indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and encourages collaborations between social service organizations and cultural groups using the arts as a means of intervention. By providing financial assistance and resources, CG plays a vital role in sustaining and enhancing the county's vibrant cultural landscape.

- **LIBRERI MAPOU** is a beloved Haitian-owned bookstore and cultural hub in the heart of Little Haiti. Founded in 1990 by author, playwright, and activist Jan Mapou, Libreri Mapou has become a Miami institution dedicated to Haitian literature and culture. Housing thousands of titles by Haitian authors in Kreyòl, French, and English, the bookstore serves as a gathering place for scholars and the community alike. Libreri Mapou is a founding partner of Little Haiti Book Festival (originally the Haitian-American Book Fair), continuing its mission to promote Haitian storytelling and heritage.

LITERARY LUMINARIES

- **CITY OF MIAMI** is the municipal government of Miami, which includes the Little Haiti neighborhood within its boundaries.

The city actively celebrates Haitian Heritage Cultural Month with events featuring Haitian art, music, and literature. It partners with local organizations to host community festivals and provides facilities such as the Little Haiti Cultural Center for cultural gatherings. By co-sponsoring LHBF, Miami demonstrates its dedication to preserving the city's Haitian roots and supporting multicultural education for its citizens.

- **LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL CENTER (LHCC)** is a multidisciplinary cultural complex in Little Haiti that serves as a vibrant home for Afro-Caribbean arts and community programs. LHCC hosts art galleries, theater performances, classes, and festivals celebrating Haiti's rich cultural legacy. It is the longtime venue for Little Haiti Book Festival, offering space for literary panels, children's activities, dance, and more. By fostering cultural exchange and youth engagement, LHCC plays an integral role in preserving Haitian culture in Miami and makes the festival possible.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA** is known for her inclusive leadership and support of the county's diverse communities. She has championed programs for economic empowerment, arts, and youth education across all cultural groups. She recognizes the importance of Haitian Heritage Month and lends her office's support to Haitian cultural celebrations. As a "Literary Luminary" sponsor of Little Haiti Book Festival, Levine Cava underscores the county's commitment to uplifting the Haitian community through literacy and culture.

- The **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, comprising 13 elected officials, governs policy and funding for the county. The board has demonstrated strong support for cultural diversity and educational initiatives, passing resolutions to honor Haitian Heritage Month and fund community programs. Its collective sponsorship of Little Haiti Book Festival — alongside the mayor — reaffirms the commission's commitment to celebrating the Haitian American heritage that enriches our region.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARLEINE BASTIEN** represents District 2 on the Miami-Dade County Commission, which includes portions of Little Haiti. A Haitian American community leader and longtime social justice advocate, Bastien is the founder of Family Action Network Movement (FANM) and has spent decades fighting for immigrants' rights, affordable housing, and women's empowerment. Now, as an elected official, she continues to champion the needs of the Haitian community. Bastien's support of Little Haiti Book Festival highlights her dedication to education, culture, and the arts as tools of empowerment in her district.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER KEON HARDEMON** — Commissioner Keon Hardemon serves District 3 on the Miami-Dade County Commission and formerly represented the area (including Little Haiti) on the Miami City Commission.

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSIONER KEON
HARDEEMON

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSIONER EILEEN
HIGGINS

MIAMI CITY COMMISSIONER
CHRISTINE KING

NORTH MIAMI MAYOR ALIX
DESULME

Throughout his public service, Hardeemon has been a strong proponent of neighborhood revitalization and cultural programming in historically underserved communities. He has supported initiatives like the Little Haiti Cultural Center and Haitian Heritage Month celebrations. By sponsoring Little Haiti Book Festival, Hardeemon helps ensure the preservation of Haitian culture and supports youth literacy and community pride in District 3.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER EILEEN HIGGINS** represents District 5 on the Miami-Dade County Commission, covering parts of the city of Miami. Higgins is an advocate for inclusive economic development and multicultural engagement, working with various immigrant communities in her district. She has participated in Haitian Heritage Month events and partnered with local organizations to improve access to county services for Haitian Creole-speaking residents. Her backing of Little Haiti Book Festival demonstrates her belief in building bridges across cultures and promoting educational opportunities for all of Miami-Dade's children.

- **LITTLE HAITI REVITALIZATION TRUST** is a community-driven initiative devoted to investing in the future of Little Haiti while honoring its rich cultural legacy. Established in partnership with the city of Miami, the fund channels resources into projects that uplift local residents — from supporting small businesses and affordable housing to funding arts, education, and cultural programs that celebrate Haitian heritage. By ensuring that redevelopment in Little Haiti benefits the people who call it home, the Revitalization Trust serves as a guardian of the neighborhood's identity, helping to preserve Haitian Creole traditions, language, and pride for the next generation. Its outreach includes grants and sponsorships that have bolstered everything from youth workshops to Haitian Heritage Month events, all with the goal of strengthening this vibrant community. As a proud sponsor of Little Haiti Book Festival, Little Haiti Revitalization Trust reinforces the festival's mission by empowering community storytelling and literacy, making certain that Haitian culture continues to flourish in Miami.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOODWILL AMBASSADORS** are a volunteer corps dedicated to assisting at public events and fostering positive relationships between county government and the community. This program's volunteers represent

the county at cultural festivals, parades, and civic activities, offering help and information to attendees. At Little Haiti Book Festival, Goodwill Ambassadors can be seen greeting guests and supporting organizers, ensuring a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. Their presence exemplifies community spirit and the county's motto of "One Miami-Dade" by bridging cultures and making everyone feel included.

- The **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CAHSD)** is the county's largest public provider of social services, impacting the lives of more than 100,000 residents annually. Guided by its mission of "empowering families, individuals, and communities through the provision of comprehensive social services," CAHSD offers client-centered support across all stages of life — from before birth to the elderly. Its diverse programs include Head Start early childhood education, youth employment training, housing and utility assistance, substance abuse treatment, senior services, and more. In Little Haiti, CAHSD operates the Haitian-American Senior Center and provides vital assistance to Haitian families, including help with benefits enrollment and emergency relief. By participating in Little Haiti Book Festival, CAHSD connects residents directly with county resources — supporting grandparents raising grandchildren, helping parents enroll kids in Head Start, and ensuring the Haitian community knows that local government is here to help them thrive.

- **MIAMI CITY COMMISSIONER CHRISTINE KING** serves as chair of the Miami City Commission and is the commissioner for District 5, which includes Little Haiti. She is the first woman to chair the commission and has focused on uplifting underserved neighborhoods through economic initiatives and cultural programs. King frequently engages with Little Haiti's residents and has celebrated Haitian heritage, from hosting cultural events at City Hall to supporting local arts in the district. Her support of Little Haiti Book Festival aligns with her mission to enhance community vibrancy and ensure that the rich traditions of Little Haiti continue to thrive for future generations.

- A neighboring city of the largest Haitian American populations in South Florida, the **CITY OF NORTH MIAMI** actively honors Haitian heritage. Each May it hosts Haitian Heritage Month celebrations featuring art exhibitions, music, and storytelling for the community. The city's leadership

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includes Haitian American elected officials who prioritize cultural inclusion. By partnering with Little Haiti Book Festival, **North Miami Mayor Alix Desulme** extends the city's support for Haitian arts and education beyond its limits, demonstrating solidarity with Little Haiti and a shared commitment to Haitian cultural preservation and literacy.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

- **BOOKS FOR FREE** is a literacy initiative spearheaded by The Children's Trust in collaboration with Miami Book Fair at Miami Dade College. The program aims to place free, high-quality books into the hands of children who need them most, fostering a lifelong love of reading. Through a network of nearly 80 public bookshelves located in clinics, parks, and community centers across Miami-Dade County, Books for Free distributes approximately 2,443 new and gently used books each week. This equates to more than 250,000 books annually, ensuring that children, many from under-resourced neighborhoods, have access to engaging literature they can take home and share with their families. The program extends its reach at events like Little Haiti Book Festival, nurturing a culture of reading within the community. By eliminating cost barriers, Books for Free plays a vital role in promoting early literacy, educational equity, and community involvement throughout the county.

- **READ TO LEARN BOOK CLUB** is a cherished early literacy initiative from The Children's Trust that brings the joy of reading directly into the homes of Miami-Dade's youngest learners. Launched in 2015, the program provides a free monthly book — delivered by mail — to children from birth through age 4 1/2, ensuring that every child can begin building their own library. With more than 1.6 million books distributed to date, the program offers titles in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, reflecting the rich diversity of the community it serves. By empowering parents and caregivers to read aloud in their home languages, including Haitian Kreyòl, the book club supports early brain development, school readiness, and a lifelong love of reading. At Little Haiti Book Festival, The Children's Trust shares this impactful resource with Haitian American families, reinforcing the message that reading starts at birth and every child deserves stories of their own.

- **FAMILY ACTION NETWORK MOVEMENT (FANM)**, formerly known as Haitian Women of Miami, is a powerful Haitian-led nonprofit organization based in Miami, founded in 1991 by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien. With a mission to uplift and empower Haitian American families, FANM provides a wide range of wraparound services, including immigration assistance, domestic violence intervention, health care access, counseling, job training, civic education, and after-school programs. Beyond direct services, FANM is a force in advocacy, championing causes such as affordable housing, immigration reform, and climate justice, while ensuring that the voices of low-income and immigrant communities are heard in policy debates. Through leadership

development, cultural programming, and grassroots activism, FANM continues to strengthen the Haitian American community in South Florida. As a 2025 sponsor of Little Haiti Book Festival, the organization will be on-site offering valuable information about its programs and furthering its commitment to education, empowerment, and community connection.

- **SANT LA (HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER)** is a cornerstone nonprofit serving the Haitian American community of South Florida. Its mission is to empower, strengthen, and uplift Haitian families, providing a lifeline of support in education, employment, and social services. Since opening its doors in 2001, Sant La has offered free programs, including financial counseling, English and citizenship classes, youth mentorship, and access to health and immigration resources. By addressing the needs of immigrants and first-generation Haitian Americans, the organization helps ensure their success and stability in the diaspora. Warm and welcoming, Sant La is a place where Haitians can find guidance, celebrate their heritage, and build a brighter future together.

- **KLOTA (KONSCIOUS LEADERS OF TI AYITI/KONCERNED LEADERS OF LITTLE HAITI)** is a grassroots leadership initiative based in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood, dedicated to empowering residents — especially youth — and preserving the community's cultural and economic future. Co-founded by Haitian American social entrepreneur François Alexandre, KLOTA works to "bridge community to better government" by engaging in civic advocacy, youth leadership training, and cultural preservation. The coalition organizes public forums, service projects, and creative partnerships with organizations like TAPARI and Future of Cities, all aimed at strengthening community identity amidst rapid change. As a proud partner of Little Haiti Book Festival, KLOTA helps shape inclusive programming, uplifts young voices, and embodies the spirit of konbit, working together for the good of all.

- **MOAD (MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN AT MDC)**, the flagship art museum of Miami Dade College, is dedicated to contemporary art and design exhibitions and educational outreach. Located in the historic Freedom Tower, MOAD strives to be a catalyst for community dialogue and empowerment through the arts. The museum extends its reach beyond its walls with programs like the GO GO MOAD mobile art studio for kids, which brings hands-on art activities to community events. At Little Haiti Book Festival, MOAD's education team hosts creative art-making sessions for children through "Create! With GO GO MOAD", incorporating Haitian themes and encouraging youth to express themselves artistically. MOAD's partnership in the festival connects visual art with literary culture, inspiring the next generation of artists and readers in Little Haiti.

- **IRIS PHOTO COLLECTIVE** is a group of accomplished photographers of color — including Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Carl Juste — committed to documenting the experiences of communities of color in their own voices. Based in Little Haiti at the IPC ArtSpace gallery, the collective

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creates exhibitions and programs that bridge Haitian, Caribbean, and African diaspora stories with the wider community. Its location in Little Haiti is a gallery and event space dedicated to nurturing connections between Haitian and Latin American artists and the public. By joining Little Haiti Book Festival, Iris Photo Collective enriches the event with visual storytelling, displaying powerful images of Haitian life and offering workshops that encourage creative self-expression through photography.

- **LOGAN MASTERWORKS** is a Miami-based “arts and letters” company providing writing, translation, and publishing services at loganmasterworks.com. Founded by Haitian-born author and editor Michèle Jessica (M.J.) Fièvre and artist Thomas Logan, Logan Masterworks functions as a guild of professionals — including writers, translators, and illustrators — dedicated to helping diverse voices tell their stories with quality and authenticity. The firm offers coaching for authors, ghostwriting, editing, Haitian Creole translation, and even interpreter training, bridging language and culture in literature. As a sponsor of Little Haiti Book Festival, Logan Masterworks amplifies Haitian American storytelling, supporting local writers and ensuring that Haitian Creole language and narratives are well represented in Miami’s literary scene.

GENEROUS GUARDIANS

- **DR. ANGELO E. GOUSSE**, a renowned Haitian American urologist and founder of Gousse Urology in South Florida, is internationally recognized for his pioneering work in bladder health and reconstructive urology. Yet his impact extends far beyond the operating room. A passionate community advocate, Gousse launched the Haitian Creole-language radio show “Consultation Urologique en Kreyòl” to educate Haitian audiences about health, and co-founded the Haitian American Leadership Organization (HALO) to mentor emerging Haitian professionals. Through his practice, he supports free health seminars, scholarships for Haitian American youth, and medical philanthropy in Haiti. His generous sponsorship of Little Haiti Book Festival reflects his enduring commitment to uplifting the Haitian diaspora through health care, education, and cultural pride, making him a trusted leader and ally in the movement for community empowerment.

- **COLUMBUS CLINICAL SERVICES, LLC** is a dynamic Miami-based medical facility dedicated to advancing health care through clinical research, education, and community engagement. Specializing in Phase I-IV clinical trials across multiple specialties, the center partners with pharmaceutical and biotech companies, medical device manufacturers, and CROs to bring cutting-edge treatments to diverse patient populations. By prioritizing representation and expanding access to research, Columbus Clinical Services helps accelerate innovation while improving community health outcomes. Beyond trials, it offers health services for children, adolescents, and adults, and regularly provides wellness screenings, educational resources, and

outreach to underserved communities. Its participation in Little Haiti Book Festival highlights a commitment to health equity and empowerment, offering festival attendees a chance to learn more about its services and how clinical research can benefit the Haitian community and beyond.

- **THE CENTER FOR HAITIAN STUDIES (CHS)** is a Florida nonprofit founded in 1988 to provide health and social services to disenfranchised Haitian communities in Miami’s Little Haiti and surrounding areas. In keeping with its mission, CHS offers free primary and specialty medical care — including mental health, pediatrics, and OB/GYN — to uninsured patients, and it supports new immigrants with health education and cultural integration programs. Over the decades, CHS became renowned as Miami’s main provider of HIV/AIDS-related services for Haitian Americans, and it continues to lead culturally sensitive public health initiatives such as COVID-19 education and vaccination campaigns in the community. Through these efforts, the center has greatly impacted the well-being of South Florida’s Haitian population by delivering accessible care and advocacy tailored to its needs.

- **CENTER FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY (CFSS)** is a Miami nonprofit organization founded in 2006 to help immigrants and low-income individuals achieve economic and social self-reliance. Led by executive director Edeline B. Mondestin, RN, a Haitian American community advocate, CFSS empowers families by offering programs such as job training, financial literacy, family counseling, and youth mentorship. CFSS has been particularly active in the Haitian community, connecting residents to resources and organizing leadership initiatives in Little Haiti. By supporting Little Haiti Book Festival, the center reinforces its mission to educate and uplift, encouraging self-sufficiency through knowledge, culture, and community engagement.

- **THE ALLIANCE FOR AGING**, the designated Area Agency on Aging for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting and advocating for the optimal quality of life for older adults and their families. Through a coordinated network of services — including home-delivered meals, transportation, health care access, adult day care, and caregiver support — the organization ensures that seniors can age with dignity, independence, and respect. In Miami’s Haitian community, it helps fund vital programs like the Haitian American Senior Center, ensuring elderly immigrants receive culturally attuned support. By partnering with Little Haiti Book Festival, the Alliance for Aging provides essential information to Haitian seniors and their families, while also fostering intergenerational connections — reminding us all that a love of reading, storytelling, and culture truly has no age limit.

- A nonprofit organization devoted to supporting individuals facing personal crises or hardships, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE** provides counseling, support groups, and advocacy to people dealing with issues such as domestic violence, mental health struggles, and other family challenges. By reassuring community members that help is available and no one has

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to struggle in isolation, the organization fosters hope and healing. As a partner in Little Haiti Book Festival, You Are Not Alone spreads its empowering message to attendees, reminding families and especially youth that the community cares, resources exist for those in need, and together we can overcome difficulties.

- **ROSE MAY ANGLADE** is a Haitian American real estate professional with more than a decade of experience helping families achieve the dream of homeownership. An agent with eXp Realty, Anglade has served both the South Florida and Atlanta communities, guiding many first-time homebuyers through the process and helping them build generational wealth. She remains actively involved in Haitian diaspora events, often hosting homebuyer workshops in Kreyòl and volunteering in local charities. By sponsoring Little Haiti Book Festival, Anglade is giving back to the community, encouraging Haitian American families to plant roots in Miami, and supporting the educational growth of the neighborhood she loves.

- **MIDGARD LITTLE HAITI HOLDINGS LLC**, a subsidiary of South Florida's Midgard Group and part of an international real estate conglomerate, plays a pivotal role in the revitalization of Little Haiti through community-minded development. Known for its investments in emerging Miami neighborhoods, Midgard emphasizes partnership with residents and cultural preservation, ensuring that growth benefits the people who live and work in the area. Through community meetings, support for small businesses, and projects like the upcoming Lakou cultural hub, the company strives to align development with neighborhood needs and values. Midgard's sponsorship of Little Haiti Book Festival reflects its commitment to cultural enrichment and educational equity, serving as a gesture of corporate social responsibility and a sincere effort to be a good neighbor in shaping the future of Little Haiti.

- **LAKOU** is a welcoming community space in Little Haiti whose name means "courtyard" or "shared yard" in Haitian Creole. True to its name, Lakou serves as a gathering place for people, ideas, and experiences at the heart of Little Haiti. This multifunctional cultural hub hosts a range of events, from food vendors and art exhibitions to live music and family activities, all celebrating the neighborhood's vibrant Afro-Caribbean heritage. Lakou embraces the spirit of togetherness: it's "the beat of Little Haiti," where neighbors and visitors alike come to enjoy Haitian cuisine, storytelling, and community warmth in an open-air setting.

- **LITTLE HAITI VILLAGE** is a nonprofit community garden and cultural hub in the heart of Little Haiti that is cultivating more than just plants — it's growing community. Through its vibrant urban garden, local families and volunteers come together to grow fresh fruits and vegetables while reconnecting with the land and Haitian agricultural traditions. This green oasis serves as a gathering place where neighbors swap stories, children learn about their roots, and everyone

finds nourishment for body and soul. By promoting sustainability and self-sufficiency, Little Haiti Village helps preserve a cherished part of Haitian heritage — the spirit of konbit, or working together — in a modern urban setting. The result is a stronger, healthier neighborhood that blossoms with pride and unity. As a sponsor, Little Haiti Village brings its nurturing spirit to Little Haiti Book Festival, helping to sow the seeds of knowledge, cultural pride, and community celebration for all to enjoy.

- **ELIO'S KITCHEN** is a local catering company founded during the COVID-19 pandemic with a mission of community service. Entrepreneur Cristina Lama-Evensky started Elio's Kitchen to cook and deliver meals to frontline health care workers, a mission that has since expanded beyond the pandemic. Known for its delicious homemade cuisine and generosity, Elio's Kitchen continues to partner with charities to feed those in need across Miami. As a food sponsor of Little Haiti Book Festival, Elio's Kitchen brings that same spirit of care, nourishing festival volunteers and attendees with wholesome meals. Its involvement adds a literal flavor of goodwill to the festivities, reminding everyone that community support and great food go hand in hand.

- **CHALÈ LAKAY** is a family-owned business rooted in South Florida, co-founded by Karoll-Ann Fanfan, her sister Djenane Fanfan, and their cousins. The enterprise is dedicated to bringing the authentic taste of Haiti to the diaspora and beyond through a curated selection of traditional Haitian products. Its offerings include kremas in various flavors, manba (peanut butter), konfiti (fruit preserves), akasan (a cornmeal-based beverage), and aromatic essences like star anise and vanilla. Each product is crafted with premium ingredients, celebrating Haiti's rich culinary heritage. Chalè Lakay's commitment to quality and tradition makes it a cherished brand among those seeking genuine Haitian flavors. As a participant in Little Haiti Book Festival, Chalè Lakay offers attendees a delightful opportunity to experience the warmth and richness of Haitian culture through its beloved culinary creations.

MEDIA PARTNERS

- **MIA MEDIA GROUP**, based in Miami, is one of the nation's largest Black media publishers, reaching more than 1 million readers with its bimonthly magazines. The company publishes *Legacy Miami* and *Legacy South Florida* — business and news magazines that serve South Florida's Black community with insightful coverage of business, politics, education, and culture — as well as *M+A Magazine*, a luxury lifestyle and entertainment publication. Its mission is to highlight and celebrate Black excellence and leadership by showcasing the achievements of Black professionals and community leaders through compelling editorial storytelling. By partnering with major newspapers like the *Miami Herald* and *Sun Sentinel* to distribute its Legacy publications, MIA

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Media Group ensures that stories of Black achievement reach a broad audience, amplifying its positive impact on the South Florida community.

- **L'UNION SUITE** is a Haitian American media platform based in South Florida dedicated to highlighting Haiti's culture, lifestyle, and diaspora achievements. Founded as a blog in 2011, it has grown into a popular hub that shares positive and uplifting stories about Haiti and its global community. Through its active social media presence and online content, L'Union Suite connects Haitian Americans with their heritage and current events. A proud supporter of Little Haiti Book Festival, L'Union Suite helps amplify Haitian voices and celebrate the community's storytelling traditions.

- **CHOKARELLA**, led by renowned media personality Carel Pedre, began as Haiti's No. 1 morning radio show and has evolved into a dynamic multimedia platform. Broadcasting music, interviews, and cultural programming, Chokarella serves as a bridge connecting Haitian audiences at home and abroad with the latest in music and community stories. Its engaging content — from on-air radio segments to digital videos — keeps the Haitian diaspora connected to its roots and informed about creative initiatives. As a media partner of the festival, Chokarella brings added energy and reach, sharing the festival's celebration of Haitian culture with listeners everywhere.

- **THE HAITIAN LADIES NETWORK** is a global platform connecting and empowering tens of thousands of women of Haitian descent worldwide. Based in Washington, D.C., this vibrant group builds community through year-round programs, an annual Haitian Ladies Weekend, and daily online engagement that celebrates Haitian culture and history. By providing a space for Haitian women to share their stories, mentor each other, and honor their heritage, the network plays a vital role in community storytelling and cultural preservation. Haitian Ladies Network's enthusiastic support of Little Haiti Book Festival reflects its mission to uplift Haitian voices — especially women's voices — and inspire the next generation of leaders and storytellers.

- **PIKLIZ.COM** is an online Haitian cultural hub that showcases the richness of Haiti's diaspora through media and photography. Over the years, Pikliz has documented countless Haitian events, concerts, and community celebrations — from Big Night in Little Haiti music shows to cultural festivals — preserving these moments in extensive photo galleries. In addition to event coverage, the site shares news links and stories relevant to Haitian communities, serving as a digital scrapbook of Haitian life at home and abroad. By capturing the energy of gatherings like Little Haiti Book Festival, Pikliz.com supports the festival's mission to celebrate Haitian art and culture, allowing those memories to be shared globally.

- **IMAGINART MEDIA PRODUCTIONS** is a marketing and production company specializing in reaching Haitian and

Caribbean audiences. Based in South Florida, Imaginart uses creative media — from video and radio to online campaigns — to amplify Haitian culture and client projects in the community. The company has been instrumental in promoting cultural events and stories, ensuring they "rise above the noise" in a crowded media landscape. By leveraging its expertise in storytelling and outreach, Imaginart helps bring Haitian art, literature, and businesses to the spotlight. As a media partner for Little Haiti Book Festival, it plays a key role in spreading the festival's message, handling production and publicity efforts that connect the event with a wide audience and showcase Haitian stories.

- **ISLAND TV** is a 24-hour television network with a Caribbean heartbeat, dedicated to sharing Caribbean culture — and notably, Haitian culture — with viewers in South Florida and beyond. Founded in 1996, this Miami-based TV channel offers distinctive programming in English, French, and Haitian Creole, from news magazines to talk shows and live cultural events. It serves as a premier platform for the global dissemination of Caribbean experiences, with a particular focus on Haitian community content through its Creole-language shows and dedicated Island TV channel for Haiti programming. By broadcasting community news, Haitian music, and original shows featuring local talent, Island TV keeps the diaspora connected and informed about issues that matter. Its support of Little Haiti Book Festival includes coverage and promotions that bring the festival's literary celebrations into viewers' homes, further uniting the community through shared culture.

- **AYITI TV** is a South Florida-based, 24-hour Haitian television network broadcasting primarily in Haitian Creole to the Haitian diaspora community. Founded by pioneering Haitian media professionals, Ayiti TV offers diverse programming including entertainment, music, news, and informative talk shows, all thoughtfully tailored to Haitian audiences. The channel actively promotes Haitian arts and culture, regularly covering and supporting major cultural events and festivals to amplify Haitian art, music, and literature. A valued media partner of Little Haiti Book Festival, Ayiti TV shares festival highlights, helping viewers stay connected to Haitian cultural heritage and community storytelling, thus preserving and celebrating Haitian identity in South Florida and beyond.

- **RADYO LEKÒL** ("School Radio") is an educational radio program broadcast in Haitian Creole that has served the Miami community for decades. Established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it was the city's first radio program aired entirely in Haitian Creole, created to enhance communication with Haitian families. Each week, Radyo Lekòl delivers school news, community updates, and learning resources, ensuring non-English-speaking Haitian parents stay informed and engaged. This commitment to inclusive storytelling and education preserves language and culture while empowering listeners with knowledge. As a festival partner, Radyo Lekòl helps spread the word about

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Little Haiti Book Festival events, encouraging families to participate in celebrating Haitian literature and heritage.

- **WSRF** is a Haitian American radio station in South Florida that has become a cornerstone of the Haitian community. Notably the first and only Haitian-owned radio station in the United States, WSRF broadcasts a full mix of news, talk, music, and community programming primarily in Haitian Creole and French. From early morning talk shows to late-night kompa music, the station's 10,000-watt signal carries the sounds and stories of Haiti across the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. WSRF's dedication to serving Haitian listeners through both traditional radio and online streaming helps keep Haitian culture alive and thriving in the diaspora. Its partnership with Little Haiti Book Festival underscores a shared commitment to informing, entertaining, and uniting the community around its rich cultural heritage.

- **RADIO MEGA** is one of the largest Haitian radio stations in South Florida, dedicated to informing and entertaining the area's vibrant Haitian community. Broadcasting on 1700 AM (Miami) and via FM in Haiti, Radio Mega offers a rich mix of programming primarily in Haitian Creole and French. Listeners tune in for everything from daily news updates and talk shows to kompa music and call-in programs, all curated to reflect Haitian interests and culture. The station's broad reach (serving a community of hundreds of thousands) and its commitment to quality programming have made it a staple in many Haitian American households. Its support of Little Haiti Book Festival is evident in its on-air promotion of festival events and discussions, helping to draw crowds and spread the festival's message of cultural pride and literacy.

- **RADYO FANM** — known on-air as "Vwa FANM" — is a beloved Haitian radio program in Miami that has been uplifting women and families in the community for 27 years. Hosted by the nonprofit Family Action Network Movement (FANM) every Sunday on local station WLQY 1320 AM, this Haitian Creole-language show addresses issues ranging from health and economic empowerment to domestic violence and cultural celebration. With community advocates like Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien as key voices, Radyo FANM provides information and advocacy, interwoven with Haitian music and open dialogue, to improve the quality of life of its listeners. The show's long-running presence has nurtured a sense of unity and awareness in Miami's Haitian community, particularly among women. As a media partner of the festival, Radyo FANM shares news of Little Haiti Book Festival with its audience and echoes the festival's emphasis on community, culture, and the importance of sharing our stories.

- **RADIO VEYE YO** (meaning "keep watch" in Haitian Creole) is a pioneering Haitian community radio program that has been a steadfast voice for Miami's Haitian diaspora since the late 1970s. Born from the grassroots movement led by Father Gérard Jean-Juste to support Haitian refugees,

this Haitian Creole-language broadcast became a lifeline of news, advocacy, and cultural storytelling for new arrivals and longtime residents alike. Each week, Radio Veye Yo delivers lively talk shows on social justice, community news from here and Haiti, and traditional Haitian music, all aimed at uplifting listeners and preserving a spirit of vigilance and hope. Decades on, it remains a pillar of the community, keeping Haitian heritage alive on the airwaves. As a media partner of Little Haiti Book Festival, Radio Veye Yo extends its mission by spreading the word about festival events and inspiring pride in Haitian culture, ensuring the community's stories are heard loud and clear.

- **HAÏTI EN MARCHÉ** is a long-running weekly newspaper that has been the voice of the Haitian diaspora in Miami since the late 1980s. Published primarily in French (with some content in Kreyòl), it delivers in-depth news stories about Haiti alongside coverage of diaspora events and culture. For decades, Haïti en Marche has kept Haitians abroad connected to developments in their homeland, from politics and economy to arts and community news. Its pages often highlight local Haitian American achievements and important cultural happenings, thereby acting as a chronicle of the diaspora's story. As a media partner, Haïti en Marche supports Little Haiti Book Festival by informing readers about festival activities and reinforcing the importance of literature and cultural exchange in the Haitian community.

- **LE FLORIDIEN** is a Miami-based bilingual newspaper (English and French) that serves the Haitian American community across South Florida. Founded in 2001, it has since become an important daily resource for Haitian diaspora readers, delivering responsible and informative content that reflects their lives and concerns. Le Floridien covers a broad range of topics — from Haiti's latest news and local community updates to cultural events, editorials, and youth achievements — bridging the language gap by publishing in both French and English. Through its print edition and online platform, Le Floridien keeps the community connected and engaged with thoughtful journalism. By partnering with Little Haiti Book Festival, the newspaper helps publicize the festival's programs and underscores its commitment to educating and uniting the Haitian community through storytelling and literature.

- **THE HAITIAN TIMES** is an award-winning news publication dedicated to covering Haiti and its global diaspora. Established in 1999 in New York City, it has long been a trusted source of news, analysis, and culture for Haitian Americans and English-speaking audiences interested in Haiti. The outlet publishes in English, offering diaspora readers insightful reporting on Haitian politics, economy, arts, and community issues that might otherwise go untold in mainstream media. Through its website and social media channels, The Haitian Times connects Haitians around the world with stories that matter — from profiles of Haitian creatives to investigations that hold institutions accountable — all while celebrating Haitian resilience and achievements.

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At Little Haiti Book Festival, The Haitian Times lends its voice as a media partner by highlighting the festival's literary highlights and emphasizing the power of journalism and storytelling in strengthening cultural identity.

• **BPX TV RESEAU** is a dynamic Haitian television network connecting the diaspora through empowering, culture-rich programming. With studios in Miami, New York, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and reporters around the globe, BPX TV Reseau broadcasts a diverse array of shows — from news and talk programs to music, drama, and documentaries — all dedicated to Haitian and Caribbean stories. The network prides itself on being a beacon of Haitian culture in the media, offering 24/7 content in Haitian Creole and French that educates, entertains, and unites viewers. Whether highlighting community achievements, covering cultural events, or showcasing artists and authors, BPX TV Reseau plays a vital role in preserving Haitian heritage and fostering pride among Haitian Americans. As a media partner of Little Haiti Book Festival, BPX TV Reseau extends the festival's reach by providing coverage and promotions that bring the festival's literary celebration into homes across the diaspora, reinforcing unity and pride in Haitian identity.

AUTHORS

• Founded by Charlynn Sona Fortune-Williams, **A BETTER PATH ONLINE** offers supportive mental health counseling and personal development guidance. Fortune-Williams is a licensed clinical social worker who has expanded her passion for helping others into authorship. Her new book, *Marriage Is a Trap* (2025), challenges conventional ideas of marriage and encourages conscious, fulfilling relationships. Through both her therapy services and writing, she empowers individuals to heal, grow, and find their own better path.

• **ALEXANDRA CHARLOT** is an emerging Haitian author and creative artist. She published the French-language novel *Méandres de vie*, a story blending real-life events with imaginative twists to portray the struggles and resilience of a Haitian family. Through themes of love, poverty, and ultimate triumph over adversity, her work reflects the harsh realities of rural Haitian life and the enduring spirit of its people. In addition to writing, Charlot is involved in community arts and infuses her passion for Haitian culture into all her endeavors.

• **ALEXANDRA JEANTY-LECLERC** is an author and educator who brings the power of mindfulness to young readers. Based in Little Haiti, she created the character "Pokie" — a DJ from the Love Museum — to teach children meditation, compassion, and love for nature. Her book, *Mindful Pokie* (2023), blends storytelling with calming practices, reflecting her unique approach of intertwining art, yoga, and Haitian cultural elements to nurture children's well-being. Through her writing and community workshops, Jeanty-Leclerc empowers kids with tools for self-confidence and kindness, inspiring the next generation with lessons of peace and empathy. *2025 Presenter*

• **CASTRO DESROCHES** is a first-generation Haitian American writer and cultural organizer known for his satirical and historical works. Titles such as *Les Enfants Malades de Papa Doc* and the English-language *Tales from the Island of Papa Doc* showcase his blend of humor and political insight into Haiti's history. He has published numerous books in French and English that lampoon dictatorships and explore Haiti's political saga, often through bold satire. Desroches is also active in the Haitian literary community, helping organize Haitian book fairs and cultural events, and brings to the festival thought-provoking books that reflect on Haiti's past and present with wit and wisdom.

• **CHERYL Y. DUSEK** is a Miami-based children's book author, illustrator, and longtime early childhood educator. After more than 20 years as a pre-K teacher, she published her first book, *Maybe One Day: What Do You Want To Be?*, which encourages children to dream about future careers. The book earned rave reviews, and Dusek has shared it at numerous family events, schools, and book fairs across South Florida. Named Miami-Dade's Paraprofessional of the Year in 2009 and honored with a "Cheryl Dusek Day" in Surfside for her dedication to education, she brings her passion for teaching and storytelling to every audience. At the festival, she will inspire young readers with her engaging story and warm, creative spirit.

• **DJENANE S. GOURGUE** is a Haitian American community leader, entrepreneur, and now author, who has channeled her life's challenges into inspiration. A 20-year cancer survivor and vice president of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce, Gourgue's memoir, *Pressevéance: My Life, My Loves, My Destiny*, chronicles her journey of resilience, faith, and empowerment. In it, she shares how she overcame cancer and dedicated herself to uplifting others through economic development and cultural advocacy. Festivalgoers will be encouraged by Gourgue's story of perseverance and her continued commitment to empowering the Haitian community.

• **DR. EMMANUELLA "EMMA" ETIENNE DENIS** is a Haitian American educator, psychologist, and family counselor who has turned her multicultural experience into a compelling book, *Navigating the World as Third Culture Individuals*, a guide that blends personal stories, psychological insights, and practical advice for people growing up between cultures. Denis draws on her expertise in education and counseling to help "third culture" readers embrace their diverse identities and find a sense of belonging amid different environments. At the festival, she offers thoughtful perspectives on thriving in an interconnected world — a valuable message for anyone who has ever straddled two homes or cultures.

• *Fanm Solèy* ("Sun Woman") is a powerful, youth-oriented play written by Haitian playwright and educator **FLORENCE JEAN-LOUIS DUPUY**. The piece highlights the pivotal role of women in Haiti's past and future, calling on young people to help build a better society. Performed for

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student audiences across Haiti, *Fanm Solèy* uses theater to inspire civic engagement and pride in Haiti's heroines. Jean-Louis Dupuy brings this vibrant story to the festival, in book format, to inspire through themes of empowerment and cultural pride. The play has been touring schools in Haiti and was featured at the 2024 Festival Quatre Chemins. *2025 Presenter*

- **FRANCKY L. JEANTY** is a Haitian American author and motivational speaker committed to helping others turn adversity into success. In his debut book *Transformation to Greatness*, he masterfully shares his tumultuous journey from the Haitian countryside to opportunities in the United States. Blending personal testimony with practical guidance, Jeanty shows readers how to leverage past challenges as stepping stones toward personal growth. His uplifting message of resilience and self-improvement will resonate with anyone looking to redefine their mindset and embrace their inner greatness.

- **HAITIAN CHILDHOOD RHYMES & GAMES** is a bilingual (Haitian Creole-English) children's sound book created by author Emanna Louis to preserve and share Haiti's playful oral traditions. This interactive book features classic Haitian nursery rhymes and game songs, complete with audio so children can hear the melodies as they read along. Published by The Voice Inside Your Head LLC, the book "unlocks core memories" for Haitian parents and creates new ones for the next generation. At the festival, families can experience the joy of these traditional rhymes — maybe even singing along — bridging generations through music and language.

- **IMMACULA MARIE OLIGARIO** is a holistic health coach and author who empowers others to embrace healthy lifestyles. A naturopathic practitioner and founder of Yes I Can Seminars, Oligario authored *Smoothie Detox Reset Challenge: Your Road to Better Health and Permanent Weight Loss*, a guide packed with green smoothie recipes, nutritional insights, and practical planning tools for lasting wellness. She advocates "forget the diet, embrace a lifestyle" as her mantra for combating obesity and chronic illness. Her book *Too Powerful to Be Powerless* continues her mission to inspire people to find strength, motivation, and purpose in every aspect of life. At the festival, she will share her journey of natural healing and tips for achieving vibrant health.

- **IRSA VIEUX** is a Haitian novelist known for her series *Baptême de feu* ("Baptism by Fire"), which narrates interwoven stories that capture Haitian life and resilience. She has published multiple volumes of this work with Butterfly Publications, engaging readers with eloquent storytelling and complex layers of Haitian culture (the author is praised for her "meticulous research and passionate writing"). Now based in Miami, Vieux often presents her books at community literary events — her recent book signings in Little Haiti drew fans eager to get the latest volume. Festival attendees can meet her and discover her passionate tales, which reflect Haiti's enduring spirit.

- **ISABELLE CAMILLE** is a Haitian American educator with 34 years of experience, is now a memoirist who bravely shares her family's story to foster love and acceptance. Her debut book, *Sole's Mom: A Transgender Journey of Love, Loss, and Letting Go*, is a heartfelt memoir chronicling how she came to understand and embrace her child's true gender identity. In this powerful narrative, Camille moves from the hopes and dreams she held for her daughter to the profound acceptance of her son — offering a raw, inspiring look at a parent's unconditional love. Her story is not only a personal healing journey but also a call for compassion towards LGBTQ+ youth in the Haitian community and beyond. *2025 Presenter*

- **DR. JEAN-BAPTISTE CHARLOT, MD, FACOG**, is a distinguished Haitian American obstetrician-gynecologist and educator who has applied his scientific insight to literature. A former U.S. Air Force major and longtime Miami physician, Charlot authored *Comprendre le Monde à Travers la Biologie: Quelle leçon pour l'Humanité?* ("Understanding the World through Biology: What Lesson for Humanity?"), a thought-provoking exploration of science and philosophy. He has also written faith-based works like *Growing in the Love of Christ*, reflecting his commitment to spiritual growth and community service. At the festival, he shares his unique perspective where medical science, education, and faith converge, inviting readers to ponder big questions about life, God, and humanity's future.

- **JHONNY THERMIDOR** is a Haitian-born poet and author known for his heartfelt explorations of love and faith. Often called the "Poet of Love," Thermidor has published several books, including *The Language of Love* and *A Romantic Dream*, that showcase his gift for lyrical expression and inspirational storytelling. His writing blends personal experience with themes of spiritual growth and cultural identity, reflecting his optimistic outlook and pride in his Haitian heritage. Through both poetry and prose, Thermidor aims to uplift readers and is a cherished voice within the Haitian literary community.

- **JINICA DAUPHIN** is a Haitian American children's author and former elementary school teacher who celebrates Haitian culture through her stories. Based in Central Florida, she debuted with *Haitian Flag Day: Fleurina's Way*, a charming tale that introduces young readers to the pride and traditions of Haiti's flag celebration. Dauphin has since authored other culturally rich books, such as *Haitian Hot Chocolate* and *Your Crown/Kouwon Ou* — a bilingual book about the beauty of Haitian hair, blending Haitian Creole and English to engage her audience. As both an author and the founder of Phin Publishing, she is passionate about representation in literature, bringing colorful characters and heartfelt lessons for families to enjoy.

- **DR. JUDITE BLANC** is a Haitian psychologist and scholar dedicated to exploring the enduring impacts of slavery and colonialism on Afro-Caribbean communities. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Blanc earned her doctorate in psychology from the Sorbonne (Université Paris 13) and now teaches at the State University of Haiti. She is the co-editor of

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Pensée afro-caribéenne et (psycho) traumatismes de l'esclavage et de la colonisation, a recent collective work examining colonial trauma, the quest for reparations, and Afro-Caribbean identity. Active in movements for reparative justice, Blanc has served on Haiti's national restitution task force and as the country's representative to the Caribbean (CARICOM) Reparations Commission. Through her research, publications, and leadership of the Association Sikotwomatis ak Afrikanite, she advances a deeper understanding of historical trauma and healing across the African diaspora. Blanc's work is both scholarly and visionary, celebrating Afro-descendant resilience and fostering dialogue on the legacies of the past to inspire empowerment and change.

• **KARLINE DELPÊCHE LINDOR** is a dynamic Haitian diaspora author and ghostwriter whose work celebrates resilience, culture, and the power of women's voices. She has dedicated her career to amplifying silenced narratives, embodying the motto "J'écris pour les voix réduites au silence" ("I write for voices reduced to silence"). Lindor writes fluently in English and French, with her work published in both languages. Her recent novels showcase this bilingual artistry: *Heart Thieves* is a suspenseful saga of betrayal and redemption, and *Matriarch's Secrets* is an emotionally rich story that explores the inner struggles and hidden triumphs of its women characters. Through these and other creative endeavors, Lindor honors her Haitian heritage and brings to life the complexities of diaspora experiences. Her passionate storytelling and community engagement (including appearances at events like Little Haiti Book Festival) have made her a cherished voice in contemporary Haitian literature, inspiring readers and shining a spotlight on the beauty of the culture and the strength of its people.

• Written by Marie M. Pierre, **KIDS LOVE ADVENTURES** is an independent children's book series that celebrates imagination and learning. Pierre, born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, discovered her passion for creative writing in high school and made her publishing debut with *The Adventure of Being a Kid*, a collection of imaginative childhood tales. She continues to write engaging stories, including *Jacob and Jonathan Defeat the Dragon*, which often feature Haitian American characters and themes. At the festival, Pierre will share vibrant stories that inspire young readers and highlight the joy of exploration across cultures.

• **FRANTZ "KIKI" WAINWRIGHT** is a multitalented Haitian American artist whose work spans poetry, theater, music, and comedy. He moved to Miami in 1982 and later co-founded Sosyete Koukouy, a cultural organization dedicated to preserving Haitian heritage. His creative accomplishments range from leading the folk music band Ayabonmbe to authoring

the Creole play *Vilokan: Teyat Total an 3 Tablo*, showcasing his commitment to Haitian storytelling and folklore. Whether performing on stage or mentoring youth, Wainwright infuses his art with humor and heart, celebrating Haitian identity and ensuring the community's stories continue to thrive.

• **LANGLICHMIE NORMILE** is a Haitian-born filmmaker, author, and philanthropist who draws strength from her rich cultural heritage. Now living in Miami, Normile works in health care by day but pursues her passion for storytelling through writing and film. She has written on spiritual themes — for instance, her Kindle essay *Spiritual Fasting: A Mystical Fast or Vodou Fast* explores the intersection of faith and Haitian Vodou traditions. Her work often highlights the "fighting spirit" she gained from being raised in Haiti, and she actively gives back to the community through youth arts initiatives. At the festival, Normile shares her unique voice as a young Haitian creative, bridging the worlds of spirituality, art, and social impact.

• **LILIANE NERETTE LOUIS** is a renowned Haitian storyteller and author who has spent a lifetime sharing folkloric tales. After growing up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, listening to Creole stories, she moved to Miami in 1977 and began enchanting audiences at festivals and schools with Haiti's oral traditions. She has published beloved collections of folk tales — notably *When Night Falls, Kric! Krac!: Haitian Folktales* (1999) — as well as children's books like *Pumpkin Soup Is for Sunday*, preserving the magic of Haitian storytelling for new generations. Through her vivid stories and books, Nerette Louis keeps Haiti's culture alive and earned a Florida Folk Heritage Award in recognition of her contributions. 2025 Presenter

• **LOLA PASSE** is a South Florida children's author whose imaginative stories carry important environmental messages. A mother of three and lifelong ocean lover, her *Ocean Heroes: Saving the Heart of the Sea*, is an enchanting adventure that inspires kids to learn about marine life and protect the ocean. The story follows young Alayla and her friends — including a friendly dolphin and a rainbow fish — on a quest to heal the polluted sea, teaching children about teamwork and conservation along the way. Passe's vibrant tale captivates young readers while encouraging them to become real-life "ocean heroes." She will share her passion for storytelling and marine conservation at the festival, showing that even little heroes can make a big difference.

• **LYONEL GERDES** is a Haitian American author, journalist, and educator whose memoirs chronicle a life journey from Haiti to the United States. Born in Haiti's Port-au-Prince and raised in Les Cayes, Gerdes survived a tumultuous childhood under the Duvalier era, experiences he recounts in *Les Cayes, Haiti: A*

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Memoir, offering an intimate look at overcoming family trauma. He continued his story in *Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Duvaliers' Pax Haitiana Dynasty and My Coming of Age*, reflecting on adolescence during the dictatorship and the quest for freedom. Now living in Miami, Gerdes has also written about immigrant life in *Miami, Florida: A Sunshine State's Unauthorized and Unredacted Journey*. His writing offers a frank and unflinching portrait of resilience. At the festival, he will share these powerful personal histories and what they mean for Haiti's future. *2025 Presenter*

- **M. KETSIA THEODORE-PHAREL** is a celebrated Haitian American writer whose work bridges children's literature and adult fiction. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and now based in South Florida, she infuses her stories with Haitian culture, history, and imaginative flair. Her acclaimed children's book *A Fish Called Tanga* invites young readers into the magic of Haitian storytelling, while her novels and short stories explore themes of identity, community, and resilience in the Haitian diaspora. Theodore-Pharel's engaging narratives and her advocacy for Haitian literature have made her a respected voice in the community, inspiring readers of all ages to explore the richness of Haiti's heritage. *2025 Presenter*

- **MAMA'S LEGUME** is a heartwarming children's book by Ashley Registe that celebrates Haitian culture through the love of cooking. The story follows a mother and daughter as they bond over making "legim," a traditional Haitian vegetable stew, with each step infused with family love and Haitian Creole language. Registe's delightful tale captures the essence of Haitian tradition, showing how recipes can carry heritage and bring generations together. Young readers will enjoy the vivid illustrations and the message that cooking together can be an act of love. At the festival, Registe will read this culturally rich story and encourage families to cherish their food traditions.

- **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARLEINE BASTIEN** — known for her leadership and advocacy — is also an author who uses storytelling to uplift the Haitian community. Her children's book, *The Adventures of Angelina*, follows a Haitian family as it finds a new home in "the land of the free," celebrating Haitian art, history, and culture while teaching lessons of resilience and unity. As the executive director of FANM (Family Action Network Movement), Bastien has spent decades championing women, children, and Haitian families. In her writing, she channels that same dedication, sharing Haitian values and experiences with warmth and hope for the next generation. *2025 Presenter*

- **MARYSE R. DENIS** is a Haitian author and humanitarian whose work honors Haiti's global contributions and spirit of resilience. Her 2023 book, *Haiti: Legacy and Contribution to the World*, is a meticulously researched

tribute to the profound impact of Haitian history and culture on the world stage. Through passionate writing, Denis highlights Haiti's gifts — from revolutionary ideals to artistic achievements — carrying a message of optimism and pride in Haitian heritage. Beyond writing, she has been active in charity work, and her book serves as both an educational resource and an inspiration to uplift Haiti's image. She will share insights from her work at the festival, reminding attendees of Haiti's enduring legacy and the importance of celebrating its contributions.

- **MICHAELLE VALCOURT, MSN, RN**, is a Miami-born nurse, entrepreneur, and children's book author who focuses on emotional wellness for kids. As a mother of four and a health care professional, Valcourt created the Mastering Our Emotions book series to help young readers understand and manage their feelings. Her books include *Jeremiah's Journey: A Story on How to Manage and Control Anger* and *Mya's Positive Mindset: A Story of How to Overcome Sadness*, which teach children healthy ways to cope with big emotions through engaging stories and relatable characters. Valcourt also founded a line of stylish nurse apparel, reflecting her dedication to caring for others both in and out of the hospital. At the festival, she will share tips on nurturing emotional intelligence in children, drawing from her unique blend of medical and literary expertise.

- **MISTER FIGG** is a South Florida children's author known for imaginative adventures that whisk young readers into fantastical worlds. Raised in Miami (with roots in Brooklyn, New York), Mister Figg has written several fun and educational picture books, including *Orange Orangutan* and *Papete's Backyard: Food Chain Adventure*, that blend entertaining storytelling with gentle lessons about nature and science. His tales might transport kids to a candy-filled fantasyland or turn an ordinary backyard into a thrilling safari, all while sparking curiosity and creativity. At the festival, he will share his playful stories (and maybe some interactive activities), inviting children to join the adventure and discover the joy of reading.

- **M.J. FIÈVRE** is a prolific Haitian American author and the driving force behind ReadCaribbean programming at Miami Book Fair. As the program coordinator, Fievre curates and promotes Caribbean literature and authors, organizing panels, performances, and discussions that celebrate the diversity of the Caribbean experience. Through her leadership, this festival-within-a-festival has become a vital platform showcasing Haitian and Caribbean voices, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and pride. She also coordinates Little Haiti Book Festival, fostering community engagement and celebrating Haitian literature, culture, and arts through vibrant programming and inclusive events. Fievre is the author of the bestseller *Badass Black Girl*, and her passion for

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storytelling shines through in every project she touches.
2025 Presenter

- **MY POETIC PULSE** is a poignant poetry collection by Patrick Louis, a Miami-based Haitian poet who writes with raw emotion and authenticity. In this book, he delves into the intense feelings of everyday life — love, loss, hope, and self-reflection — offering readers an intimate look at the resilience of the human spirit. An award-winning poet (honored by the International Society of Poets), Louis uses his verse to encourage others to speak their truth and embrace their authentic voice. At the festival, he will share selections from *My Poetic Pulse*, inviting the audience on a heartfelt journey that affirms the power of honesty and emotional courage in poetry.

- **MYRLANDE DESSOURCES** is a Haitian American nurse and novelist who transforms her experiences and imagination into compelling fiction. Her debut novel, *Happiness Never Comes Alone* (2021), follows a young nurse named Anabelle navigating challenges at a prestigious hospital — a story informed by Dessources's background in nursing. She has also ventured into historical fiction with *Adasa: The Last African Warrior*, set in the 1800s, featuring a brave princess who fights to save her kingdom. Through both contemporary drama and epic history, Dessources's writing highlights themes of resilience, courage, and the pursuit of happiness against the odds. She balances a healing profession with her passion for writing, and festivalgoers can meet this multifaceted author to hear how she does it.

- **PASCALE MILLIEN** is a Haitian American storyteller, dancer, and community activist devoted to preserving Haitian culture through the arts. An accomplished choreographer and performer, Millien infuses her deep love of Haitian folklore into everything she does. She is the author of *Tim Tim Jaden Kreyasyon*, a collection of Haitian Creole folktales that she shares with children to promote and safeguard her homeland's oral traditions. Millien captivates audiences with her warmth and passion. Her work highlights the beauty of Haiti's storytelling heritage and its power to instill hope, resilience, and cultural pride in the next generation. *2025 Presenter*

- **PRÉCIEUSE LAVOIX** is a Haitian writer and storyteller known for publishing a variety of books in Kreyòl. Under the imprint Piblikasyon Maskriti, Lavoix has produced children's stories, poems, and essays entirely in Haitian Creole, showcasing the beauty and expressiveness of Haiti's native tongue. Her works often depict everyday life and wisdom, making literature accessible to Haitian Creole-speaking audiences and encouraging pride in the language. At the festival, she will highlight the importance of Haitian Creole literature and share her passion for telling Haiti's stories in the voices of its people.

- **QUINTESSANCE** is the creative moniker of an emerging author. We invite festival attendees to visit Quintessence at

their booth to discover more about their unique offerings and contributions firsthand.

- **RONALD JOSEPH** is a Haitian comic book creator whose work spans horror, science fiction, and action. He has illustrated notable independent titles such as *Endangered* (a postapocalyptic sci-fi saga), *Loup Garou* (a werewolf horror one-shot), and *The Silver Star* (a World War II action-horror adventure). Joseph has also contributed his artistry to mainstream comics, providing artwork for IDW series like G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero, Transformers, ROM, and Micronauts. His dynamic, genre-blending style and the unique cultural perspective of his Haitian heritage have made him a celebrated figure in both indie and mainstream comics.

- **ROXANE LEDAN**, known by her artistic name, Taïno-L, is a Haitian photographer and documentarian born in Les Cayes, Haiti, as well as an author who is deeply passionate about her country's spiritual heritage. Embracing the island's Taïno (Indigenous) legacy through her pseudonym, Ledan infuses her creative work with themes of ancestral identity and Vodou spirituality. As founder of the cultural initiative Ayiti Bèl, she has documented Haitian traditions and ceremonies — such as Vodou rites — in her photography and film projects, highlighting the fusion of Taïno and African influences in Haitian identity. Through her art and writings (including a recent work on Vodou vèvè symbols, Ledan fosters a deeper appreciation of Haiti's rich spiritual roots and champions the preservation of its cultural identity.

- **SHAVEST "MARGARITA" BROTHERSTON** is a children's author dedicated to celebrating African diaspora history through engaging storytelling. Her debut book *The ABCs of the African Diaspora* is an inspiring alphabet journey that highlights Black historical figures, cultures, and achievements, from sprint legend Usain Bolt to civil rights hero Fannie Lou Hamer. Shavest wrote this vibrant book to empower young readers with knowledge of their roots, believing that understanding history fosters self-love and confidence. *The ABCs of the African Diaspora* has quickly become a family favorite for its colorful illustrations and uplifting message, encouraging children to take pride in their heritage and dream big.

- **SHEDIA ASIYA NELSON** is a Miami-based author, poet, playwright, and arts educator with an impressive portfolio. She has published five books of poetry and is known for "healing love stories" that take readers on journeys of discovery, reflection, and self-examination. Nelson manages youth arts programs at local nonprofit URGENT, Inc., where she's directed and choreographed dozens of theater productions to empower young creatives. Her multitaled background in dance and theater enriches her writing, infusing her poems with vivid emotion and performance energy. At the festival, she will present her inspiring literary works and discuss how she uses art to heal and uplift the community, inviting listeners to find

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their voice through creativity.

• **THERE'S POWER IN LETTING GO: LET GO AND LET GOD** is a compelling novel by Haitian American author Rose M. Douyon that explores faith, love, and resilience. It follows a young woman named Alexandra through heartbreak and betrayal, ultimately guiding her toward healing through spiritual surrender. Douyon's storytelling delivers a message of hope, showing that sometimes the act of letting go can unlock one's inner strength and open the door to new beginnings. At the festival, she will share insights from Alexandra's journey and how trusting in a higher plan helped her heroine find empowerment in faith. Readers seeking inspiration will find that *There's Power in Letting Go* is a heartfelt testament to the power of resilience and God's grace.

• **TARAH ROCH** is a Haitian author whose forthcoming epistolary memoir *Become Who You Are: Letters to My Son* compiles heartfelt letters imparting life lessons to her child. The book's title and purpose stem from an encouraging message Roch received at her own graduation — "become who you are" — which inspired her to share wisdom about authenticity and self-discovery with her son. In these letters, she offers moving insight into the history of Haiti, her personal childhood experiences there, and her relationship with God, intertwining cultural heritage with personal growth. Written to uplift and guide, this trilingual memoir (available in English, French, and Haitian Creole) stands as a culturally rich and inspirational testament about identity, faith, and a mother's love for both Haitian and international readers.

• **VERONIQUE M. PIERRE** is an inspirational author and speaker who encourages women to find strength through self-love and healing. She is the author of *The Strongest Woman in the World Is You*, a 21-day guide to self-healing and self-discovery. In this workbook-style tome, Pierre shares personal insights and faith-based encouragement, empowering readers to embrace their God-given resilience and worth. A devoted mother and woman of faith, she infuses her writing with positivity and gratitude, often using the hashtag #GodIsGood in her messages. At the festival, she will offer uplifting words and practical tips from her guide, inspiring attendees to embark on their paths to inner strength and wellness.

• **WILSON MACENO** is a Haitian author and thinker from Les Cayes, Haiti, with a background in theology and information systems. In his provocative book *The Burden of Religion in Haiti: A Call for Revolution*, Maceno explores the complex role of faith in Haitian society — from the vibrant rituals of Vodou to the steadfast presence of Christianity — and argues that Haiti must rethink the influence of religion to achieve true progress. Drawing on his academic insights and personal experiences, he calls for a "revolution" in how Haitians engage with religion and development. Maceno's writing is bold and thought-provoking, designed to spark conversation about the intersection of spirituality and social change. He

will share his perspective on Haiti's spirituality at the festival, inviting lively discussion on this important topic.

• **YOU DON'T LOOK HAITIAN: A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY** is a beautifully written children's book by Velouse Smith that addresses cultural identity and pride. Through a lyrical story and vibrant illustrations, the book follows a Haitian American girl who hears "you don't look Haitian" and learns to proudly celebrate her heritage instead of feeling hurt. Smith's story is both educational and empowering, teaching children that Haitian culture is diverse, beautiful, and something to be proud of. At the festival, through her brand Tout Moun Bè LLC ("Everyone is Beautiful"), she will read from *You Don't Look Haitian* and discuss its message of self-confidence and cultural empowerment for the next generation.

• **YVETTE ISRAEL LEROY** (known by her stage name, "Wanègès") is a Haitian-born poet and performer keeping Haitian Creole spoken-word artistry alive in Miami. Raised in Hinche, Haiti, she carried her heritage to the U.S. in 1985 and emerged as a dynamic voice in the diaspora arts scene. Wanègès released her first Haitian Creole poetry album *Galata yon Samba* in 2001, captivating audiences from New York to Canada with her rhythmic, heartfelt verse. As the author of the bilingual collection *NOSTALJI: Kont ak pwezi ayisyen*, she honors Haiti's language and legacy through poetry, using her art to strengthen cultural pride and community ties.

MEDIA, PUBLISHING & LITERACY

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BOOKClub

• **BOOKLEGGERS LIBRARY**, Miami's first and only free "pop-up" bookstore dedicated to sharing literature with the community, is a nonprofit mobile library. The library travels to events inside a charming book trailer, giving away free books to encourage reading and build community connections. Visitors to the Bookleggers booth can browse a diverse selection of books for all ages and genres, and even take home a book (or a few) at no cost. This friendly book exchange invites festivalgoers to relax and discover new stories, adding a welcoming literary touch to Little Haiti Book Festival and celebrating the joy of reading together. 2025 Partner

• **CHELA'S BOOKS AND THINGS** is a family-owned bookshop and publishing venture focused on multicultural children's literature and educational materials. Founded by author Michele Jeanmarie, this company offers a variety of books ("and things") that celebrate diverse cultures and languages. Jeanmarie's own children's book, *Brown Girl, Brown Girl, Hasn't Anyone?*, shares a heartfelt story of friendship and identity, reflecting Chela's mission to inspire young readers. Festivalgoers can browse an array of bilingual and culturally rich books at Chela's booth, finding stories that enlighten and entertain (and yes, plenty of "books and things" to discover!).

2025 LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL: EXHIBITORS & VENDORS

- **CSIMON PUBLISHING L.L.C.** is a Haitian-owned publishing house devoted to uplifting poetry and Haitian literature on the global stage. Founded in 2022 by poet and writer Cherlin "Simon C." Simon, this press emphasizes cultural exchange and literary innovation, giving a platform to diverse voices in Haitian poetry worldwide. CSimon Publishing not only produces high-quality poetry collections and novels, but also engages the community through writing workshops, poetry readings, and events that inspire creativity. Attendees can learn about CSimon's latest titles and initiatives, and connect with a "Poetry Nation" dedicated to uniting people through the power of verse.

- **EDUCA VISION INC.** is a leading publishing company specializing in Haitian and Caribbean educational materials and literature. Florida-based since 1991, it has produced hundreds of books spanning bilingual textbooks, children's stories, dictionaries, and cultural works. Its mission is to promote literacy and learning in Haitian Creole and English, providing resources that celebrate Haitian heritage while supporting students of all ages. At the festival, Educa Vision showcases its diverse catalog, from colorful picture books to scholarly texts, continuing over three decades of empowering the community through education and publishing.

- **KREYÒL AND BEYOND** is an initiative dedicated to celebrating the Haitian Creole language and extending its reach to new audiences. Through educational workshops, bilingual publications, and cultural exchange events, the team behind Kreyòl and Beyond encourages both Haitians and non-Haitians to learn and appreciate Kreyòl. It produces resources, such as phrasebooks and storybooks, that highlight the beauty of Haiti's mother tongue while showing its connections "beyond" Haiti — in music, literature, and everyday life.

- The **MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM** is Florida's largest public library network, comprising more than 50 branches dedicated to fostering community literacy, learning, and engagement. Beyond its extensive collection of books and digital resources, the library actively supports Miami's diverse communities through free educational workshops, cultural events, language programs, and children's reading initiatives. With a special focus on accessibility and inclusivity, it offers multilingual services in Haitian Creole, Spanish, and English to ensure that all residents have equitable learning opportunities. At the festival, representatives from the library will showcase resources and programs, highlighting the importance of libraries in empowering communities and fostering cultural understanding. *2025 Partner*

- **MONOPOLY HAÏTI** is a special edition of the classic Monopoly board game that celebrates Haiti's culture and landmarks. Developed by Zel & Co, this game features Haitian iconic locations — from historic sites to famous markets — each with fascinating details accessible through

QR codes. Players can buy and trade Haitian cities and monuments, making it a fun way to learn about Haiti's geography and heritage while enjoying a beloved game format. Whether you're building hotels in Port-au-Prince or collecting rent in Jacmel, Monopoly Haiti offers an entertaining journey across the country, all in one colorful box. Come check out this creative twist on a family game-night favorite, which puts "tout Ayiti nan yon bèl ti bwat" — all of Haiti in one beautiful box!

- The **SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (SWP)** is a revolutionary political organization that promotes working-class solidarity and socialism. At its table, SWP members will offer literature from *The Militant* newspaper and Pathfinder Press, including books on labor history, Black liberation, and the Cuban Revolution, all aimed at educating people about workers' struggles internationally. You can stop by to discuss issues like workers' rights, anti-imperialism, and social justice from a Marxist perspective. Whether you're interested in the Haitian labor movement or global current events, the SWP brings a range of viewpoints and publications to foster discussion and awareness.

ARTS, CRAFTS & OTHER CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

- **A REFLECTION OF ME, INC.** is a Miami-based nonprofit co-founded by Isaie "Zeek" Mathias and Leonie Timothee to celebrate Haitian culture through photography and art. With initiatives like Juicing With Art, they use multimedia art — including photography and sculpture — to spark dialogue and preserve personal and family histories. Through community programs such as student scholarships, photography workshops, and intergenerational storytelling, A Reflection of Me empowers individuals to see the beauty in their reflections and heritage. Mathias and Timothee are passionate about the role their art and programs will play for Haiti, South Florida, and beyond.

- **AKAJOU CREATION** is a handmade jewelry and personalized gift brand created by Nellssie Marie Francois Jerome. The pieces draw inspiration from Haitian culture, especially the vibrant art and iconic gingerbread houses of Cap-Haïtien. Starting as a small jewelry venture, Jerome expanded Akajou into a full-fledged gift shop offering custom mugs, engraved coasters, and unique keepsakes, each carrying a touch of Haitian heritage. Festivalgoers can expect colorful statement pieces and one-of-a-kind gifts that celebrate individuality, culture, and the joy of personalized gift-giving.

- **ANNICK DUVIVIER** is a Haitian-born, Miami-based visual artist renowned for her vibrant mixed-media collage paintings. Her artwork draws on themes of nature and cultural identity, reflecting a passion for life and creativity. In addition to her fine art, Duvivier recently authored and illustrated a bilingual children's book, *James and Marie*

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Become Friends, which fosters a cross-cultural friendship between a Haitian girl and an American boy. Festival attendees can admire her colorful art pieces and learn how she shares Haitian culture through both visual art and storytelling.

- **APPAREL MILOU** is a vibrant Miami-based brand celebrated for its distinctive Haiti-inspired clothing, jewelry, and artisanal crafts. Each creation beautifully captures the essence of Haitian culture, blending traditional motifs and techniques with modern designs. Known for its colorful apparel, intricately designed accessories, and unique handcrafted jewelry, Apparel Milou brings a fresh, authentic flair to everyday fashion. By participating in community events like Little Haiti Book Festival, the brand actively shares Haiti's rich cultural heritage, helping attendees connect with the beauty and craftsmanship that represent Haitian artistry. At its festival booth, guests will discover thoughtfully crafted pieces that tell stories of tradition, identity, and creativity, bringing a piece of Haiti's vibrant spirit into their lives and homes.

- **ERITAJ 100% LAKAY** ("Heritage 100% Homegrown") is a Haitian-owned business celebrating Haitian heritage through made-in-Haiti products. Owned by Carine "Caresse" Jean-Louis, Eritaj offers handmade art, fashion, and home décor — including its signature "VèVè Collection" inspired by Vodou symbols — all proudly produced by Haitian artisans. The brand also hosts social and cultural events to promote Haitian traditions. Festival attendees can explore Eritaj's unique creations (each item truly "100% lakay") and learn more about Haiti's rich cultural legacy through this vibrant boutique brand.

- **FARILIA JOSEPH** is a talented local artist showcasing vibrant Haitian arts and crafts at the festival. Her handmade creations reflect Haiti's rich cultural heritage, blending traditional motifs with a contemporary flair. Through colorful paintings, textiles, and decor, Joseph invites fairgoers to experience the warmth and creativity of Haitian craft traditions, making everyone feel connected to the island's artistic spirit. Her engaging presence at the festival celebrates community, culture, and the joy of artistry.

- **GREEN SPACE MIAMI** is a community-focused arts organization dedicated to empowering local voices and creativity. Established by the Green Family Foundation in 2020 as its first physical art space, it serves as a platform for discovering and promoting Miami-Dade's diverse artists and culture. Green Space Miami hosts year-round exhibitions, workshops, and events that elevate the ideas and stories of artists from our multilingual, multicultural communities. Guided by principles of inclusion and education, this vibrant hub in the MiMo District (near Little Haiti) brings people together at the intersection of art, heritage, and sustainable urban development, fostering creative community growth. 2025 Partner

- **ISLAND SPACE** is a dynamic cultural nonprofit and Caribbean museum devoted to showcasing and celebrating the diverse heritage, art, and history of the Caribbean diaspora. This year, Island SPACE proudly presents *Heritage en Couleur*, an immersive cultural showcase happening May 24 from 4–8 p.m. Attendees can expect a vibrant celebration filled with captivating art exhibitions, interactive live painting sessions, a community mural project, insightful artist talks, cultural exhibits, energetic live music performances, spoken-word artists, and renowned Haitian performers. Additionally, festivalgoers will enjoy delicious Haitian cuisine, refreshments, and unique shopping opportunities from local vendors and artisans, creating an unforgettable cultural experience that beautifully highlights Haiti's rich and colorful legacy. 2025 Partner



- **JIVANA P. CONDAK** — "TRIBAL PRINCESS" is a talented face painter offering creative and colorful designs for children and families. She brings a dash of enchantment to Little Haiti Book Festival, transforming little faces into works of art that spark joy and imagination. In addition to her passion for face painting, Condak serves as the music director at Do Re Mi Music Studio for Kids, where she nurtures young talents through music. At the festival, her primary focus is on painting smiles — quite literally — by delighting children with her artistic flair. 2025 Partner

- **LOUIS ROSEMOND** is a talented Haitian American visual artist whose vibrant work celebrates Haitian heritage and the dynamic experiences of the Caribbean diaspora. Renowned for his vivid use of color and expressive style, Rosemond's work masterfully portrays scenes of Haitian culture, spirituality, and everyday life, inviting audiences into narratives filled with joy, resilience, and rich cultural identity. Actively engaged with the South Florida art community, his work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, cultural festivals, and local galleries, establishing him as a beloved and influential figure in Miami's artistic landscape. Rosemond continues to inspire and educate through his art, passionately advocating for cultural pride and artistic expression within the Haitian American community.

- **MYRIAM PIERRE** is a visual artist based in Miami who is deeply connected to the Haitian community. Her work often explores themes of cultural identity, heritage, and the Haitian diaspora experience. Through her art, she aims

2025 LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL: EXHIBITORS & VENDORS

to celebrate and preserve Haitian culture, engaging with both traditional and contemporary artistic expressions. Pierre's contributions enrich Miami's vibrant art scene, offering a unique perspective that resonates with diverse audiences.

- **THE GIFT GENIE LLC** is a one-stop custom gift shop owned and operated by Keneisha Harding, an entrepreneur and busy mom of three who specializes in creating personalized products for every occasion — from hilarious gag gifts to heartfelt keepsakes. Whether it's a custom-engraved tumbler with daily affirmations or a unique token of appreciation, The Gift Genie prides itself on making gift-giving magical and easy. At the festival, it showcases a variety of Harding's creative, handcrafted gift items, demonstrating how a touch of personalization can turn any present into a cherished memory.

- **VINTAGE1804** is a Haitian-inspired fashion and art brand created by Roe Michel, centered on empowerment, heritage, and style. Combining photography, design, and a deep love for Haitian culture, Michel's collections feature bold apparel — such as T-shirts emblazoned with "1804" (the year of Haiti's independence) and the Haiti coat of arms — as well as vintage-inspired accessories that celebrate Black pride and resilience. With a strong following online and a boutique in North Miami, Vintage1804 aims to make a statement: wear your history proudly and carry the spirit of 1804 into everyday life. At the festival, Roe Michel will showcase some of her signature pieces and share how fashion can be a vehicle for cultural expression and empowerment.

SCRUMPTIOUS HAITIAN TREATS

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- **CARIB BLENDS CATERING & CONCESSIONS LLC** is a Miami-based company that brings "a taste of paradise" to any event with its vibrant Caribbean-inspired cuisine. This vendor features a full-service food trailer and offers a wide range of treats, from refreshing tropical smoothies and juices to comforting island-style finger foods and hearty Caribbean entrées. Its menu is a blend of flavors from across the Caribbean, including Haiti, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Cuba, and more. Combining traditional spices into unique dishes that showcase the richness of island cooking, Carib Blends promises that attendees can look forward to bold, authentic flavors and an inviting island flair in every bite as it delivers a truly immersive Caribbean culinary experience at the festival.

- **CHEF PATRICK RESTAURANT & CATERING** is a locally owned eatery and catering service in Miami known for its flavorful Haitian and Caribbean cuisine. Led by an experienced chef, this business prides itself on delivering high-quality food and excellent service to every customer. The menu features authentic Haitian home cooking — think tender meats marinated in Creole spices, savory slow-

cooked stews, and classic sides like rice and plantains — all prepared fresh with a homemade touch. At the festival, the Chef Patrick team will be serving generous portions of these delicious island specialties, giving attendees a satisfying taste of Haiti's vibrant culinary tradition.

- **ISLAND VILLE CATERING SERVICES** is a South Florida catering company offering the home-cooked flavors of Haiti and the Caribbean. Based in Margate, it specializes in traditional Haitian cuisine made with fresh ingredients and plenty of love. From spicy stews to flavorful grilled meats and savory pastries, each dish reflects Haiti's rich culinary heritage and is prepared with care and authenticity. Attendees can expect warm, friendly service and a delicious taste of the islands — a spread of authentic Haitian favorites that will make everyone feel right at home.

- **LICETTE LAURENT** is a beloved food vendor celebrated for her delicious array of Haitian treats that authentically capture the vibrant street food culture of Haiti. Her specialties include mouthwatering *pate kòde* — golden, crispy Haitian fried dough filled with savory ingredients — alongside delightful *fridwòdòy*, *pen patat* (Haitian sweet potato bread), *akra* (crunchy, flavorful fritters made from vegetables or pulses), and irresistible *bonbon* sweets. With each handcrafted snack, Laurent carefully preserves the traditional flavors and culinary heritage of her homeland, sharing a taste of Haiti that evokes nostalgia and joy. Festival attendees eagerly line up to enjoy her snacks, which blend the comforting warmth of home cooking with the festive spirit of Haitian street cuisine, creating unforgettable gastronomic memories.

- **MAMA'S CUISINE** is a well-regarded Haitian restaurant in Miami, cherished for its flavorful and authentic Haitian dishes. Renowned particularly for its succulent oxtail, Mama's Cuisine delights diners with dishes celebrated for their unique sauces and artful presentation. Guests enjoy meals in a warm, welcoming ambiance complemented by a spacious back patio, perfect for dining and gathering with friends and family. At Little Haiti Book Festival, Mama's Cuisine brings attendees a genuine taste of Haiti, inviting everyone to savor the rich culinary heritage that makes Haitian cuisine so beloved in Miami.

- **MENA RESTAURANT** is a cherished local Haitian eatery renowned for delivering authentic and richly flavorful Haitian cuisine. Celebrated by residents and visitors alike, this establishment offers a menu brimming with traditional Haitian dishes, from hearty *griyo* (fried pork) and *bannann peze* (fried plantains) to flavorful rice and beans, stewed vegetables, and savory soups. Mena Restaurant prides itself on using fresh ingredients and time-honored recipes that have been passed down through generations, capturing the essence and heart of Haitian culinary tradition. Festivalgoers can savor generous servings of these beloved dishes, served with warmth and genuine Haitian hospitality, making each meal feel like a homecoming.

- **N'TEA SHOP** is a South Florida-based tea business proudly operating in Miami's Little Haiti community.

2025 LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL: EXHIBITORS & VENDORS

Founded by Haitian American entrepreneur Nelda Augustin, the shop offers bold, herbal tea blends that highlight natural wellness and Haitian culture. Every cup is served "with a story," inviting customers to taste the culture in each sip for a tea experience that's equally rich in heritage and flavor. Located at Little Haiti's Caribbean Marketplace, N'Tea Shop has become a hub at community events — from the bustling Little Haiti Book Festival to weekly market gatherings — and often introduces visitors to Haitian favorites like warming bouillon soup alongside its teas. Under Augustin's leadership, N'Tea Shop emphasizes community and cultural exchange, living up to the mantra that it's "more than just tea, it's a community."

- **SEASONINGS OF HAITI** is a specialty vendor bringing the vibrant flavors and aromas of Haitian cuisine directly to your kitchen. Dedicated to authenticity, it provides a carefully curated selection of Haitian spice blends, sauces, marinades, and culinary products that celebrate the island's rich cooking traditions. Each blend is thoughtfully crafted to reflect the authentic flavors of traditional Haitian dishes such as griyo, pikliz, and diri ak pwa (rice and beans), enabling anyone to create delicious Haitian-inspired meals at home. Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to sample and purchase these exceptional culinary products, gaining not only incredible flavor but also a deeper appreciation of Haiti's diverse and vibrant gastronomic culture.

LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL THANKS THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



- The **AMERICAN RED CROSS** is a humanitarian organization known for providing emergency assistance, disaster relief, and lifesaving training. In South Florida, the Red Cross works with diverse communities, including the Haitian community, to offer disaster preparedness education and support. At the festival, the Red Cross team will share information on safety preparedness, health resources, and ways to volunteer or get involved. Its presence highlights a commitment to helping families stay safe and resilient in the face of emergencies.
- **GROUPE DE SUPPORT CONTRE LE CANCER (GSCC)** is a nonprofit organization leading cancer support and advocacy within the Haitian community. Founded in Haiti in 1999 by breast cancer survivors and caregivers, GSCC began by providing moral support to patients and promoting the importance of early detection. Over time, its mission expanded to include all types of cancer as the need grew. GSCC conducts education sessions to raise cancer awareness and organizes fundraisers to help finance treatment for patients who cannot afford care. With compassion and dedication, this support group offers hope and practical assistance, from guiding women through screenings to subsidizing lifesaving therapies, ensuring that

no one in the Haitian community faces cancer alone. *2025 Partner*

- **REACH244 INC.** is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing educational, health, and economic opportunities to underserved communities. Through various programs and partnerships, REACH244 works to "reach" those in need, offering tutoring and scholarships, health fairs, job training, and more. Its mission is to uplift families by connecting them with critical resources and creating lasting change. At the festival, REACH244 Inc. will share information about its community initiatives and how visitors can get involved in making a positive impact (from mentoring youth to supporting local health drives).
- **THE WOMEN BREATHE AGAIN NETWORK, INC.** is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping women heal and thrive after experiencing hardship or trauma. Through support groups, empowerment workshops, and mentorship programs, this network enables women to "breathe again" — regaining hope, confidence, and a sense of purpose after challenges such as domestic violence or loss — and often shares inspirational stories of women who have transformed their lives. At the festival, the Women Breathe Again team will offer information on its resources and may feature an anthology of personal essays by survivors, demonstrating that with support, every woman can find her voice and strength again.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

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- **CREMAS FESTIVAL** is a celebration of Haiti's iconic holiday drink, kremas, and it invites the community to showcase their best family kremas recipes in a friendly competition to crown the "King or Queen of Cremas." This festival embodies community pride and cultural heritage, bringing people together over a beloved traditional beverage. At Little Haiti Book Festival, the Cremas Festival team will share information (and perhaps a taste!) of this annual event, which honors Haitian tradition and the spirit of unity in Little Haiti. *2025 Partner*
- **SUPER BEAUTY DISCOUNT** is a thriving beauty supply store in Miami dedicated to providing the community with a vast selection of high-quality beauty and personal care products at affordable prices. Catering to diverse beauty needs, this beloved local retailer offers an impressive range including baby care essentials, hair care products, skincare items, cosmetics, styling tools, and fragrances. Known for exceptional customer service and a friendly shopping atmosphere, Super Beauty Discount has become a trusted destination for beauty enthusiasts and professionals alike. Festival attendees are encouraged to visit its booth to explore an array of products, discover new favorites, and learn beauty tips from knowledgeable representatives ready to assist with personalized recommendations.



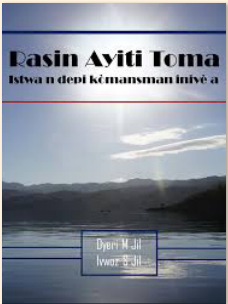
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SPOTLIGHT: JERRY GILLES

JERRY GILLES is the author of the groundbreaking science book *Rasin Ayiti Toma: Istwa nou depi kòmansman inivè a*, a comprehensive exploration of the universe's origins, tracing the fascinating emergence of life and complexity from simple energy over a 13.8 billion-year timeline. Remarkably, this work stands as one of the first extensive science books written entirely in Haitian Creole, making complex scientific theories accessible and engaging for Haitian Creole-speaking audiences.

Gilles, a dedicated educator and advocate for Haitian culture and knowledge, has generously made this important contribution available online for free as an electronic edition at bookmanlit.org, offering it as his gift to the Haitian community. Through his work, he emphasizes that scientific understanding belongs to all humanity, and he strives to empower



Haitian readers by bridging the gap between advanced scientific concepts and everyday language.

Little Haiti Book Festival attendees are invited to learn more about this inspiring initiative and explore Gilles' pioneering effort to enrich Haitian literature and education through accessible science.

LITTLE HAITI BOOK FESTIVAL

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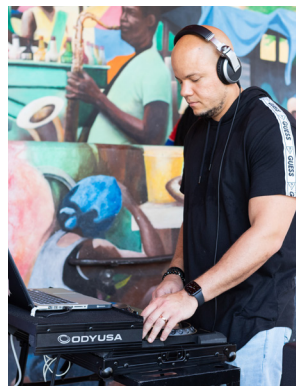
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The Little Haiti Book Festival is part of Miami Book Fair's ReadCaribbean Program.

ReadCaribbean is a series of readings, discussions, writing workshops, and more highlighting the vibrant and diverse literary culture of the Caribbean. It is a Miami Book Fair program created with the support of the Green Family Foundation and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.



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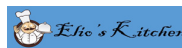
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