

# **Glenn North Press Kit**

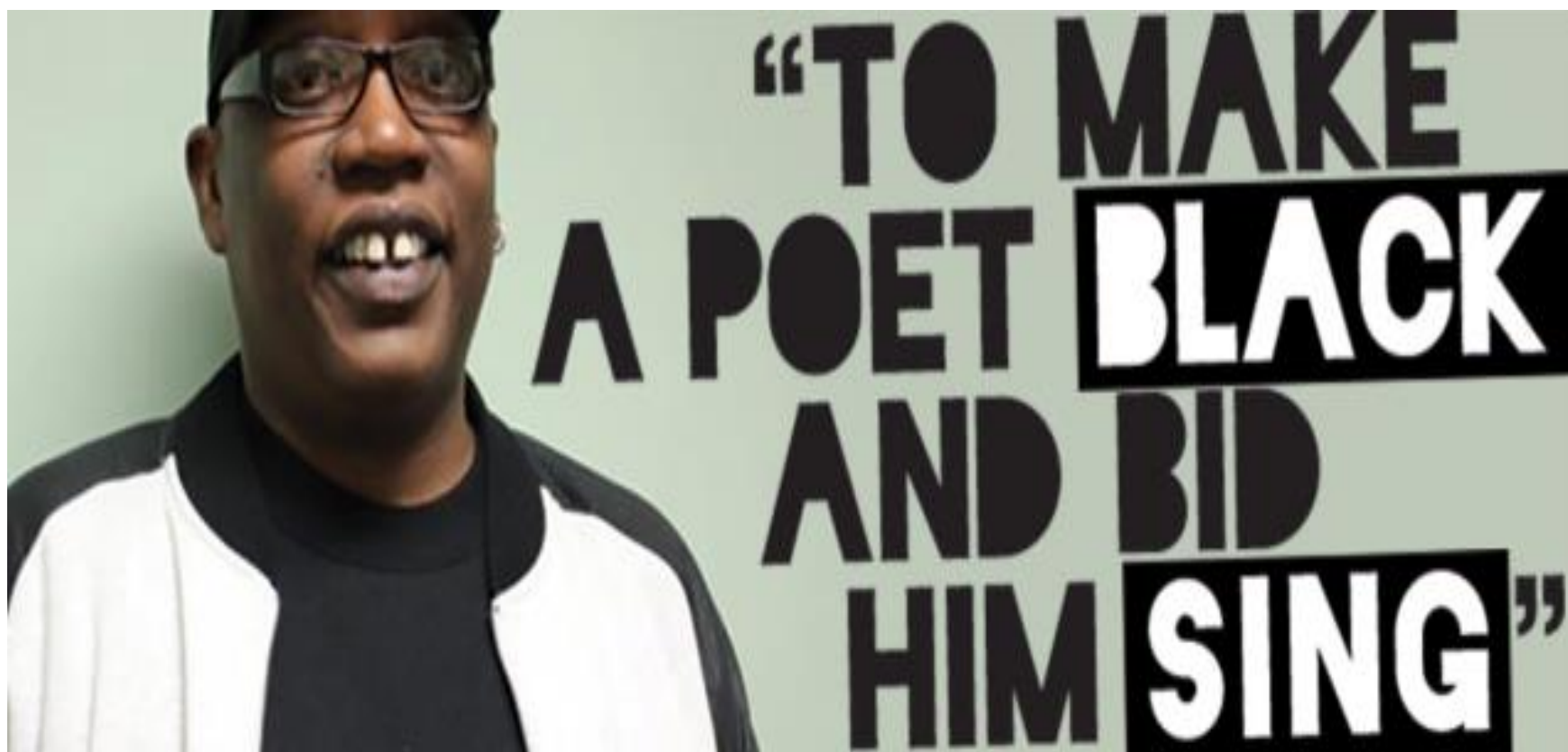


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## About



**Glenn A. North is an award-winning poet, activist, educator, and arts executive based in Kansas City.**

**He is currently the Executive Director at the Bruce A. Watkins Cultural Center.**

**He has previously served at the American Jazz Museum and The Black Archives of Kansas City / Mid-America.**

**Most recently, Glenn earned his M.F.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His thesis was entitled "Pro-Black Prosody".**

**In addition to presenting poetry, Glenn also conducts workshops on Ekphrastic poetry, using poetry to address issues of social justice, and self-empowerment for disenfranchised students through reflective poetry.**

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## GLENN NORTH

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A proven leader in the arts and culture community with over 20 years of experience in multidisciplinary program development, community building, institutional outreach, and youth advocacy.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**The Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center– *Executive Director* 2018-Present**  
Oversees the operation of the cultural center. Responsible for charting the future of the Cultural Center ensuring its growth and sustainability. Curates both the permanent exhibit and incoming exhibits. Community engagement, programming, social and racial equity initiatives, and long/short term vision.

**The Black Archives of Mid-America – *Director of Education & Public Programs* 2013-2018**  
Created new programming initiatives including “The Soul of Art” Pop-Up Gallery, The Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series, and the Horace Peterson III Lecture Series to raise the level of community engagement and buy-in as it pertains to the Black Archives. I have also cultivated partnerships for upcoming programs with other arts and culture organizations including The Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and KCPT (the local PBS affiliate)

**The American Jazz Museum – *Education Director/Poet-in-Residence* 2004-2013**  
Conceptualized and implemented interdisciplinary education programming emphasizing the relationship between jazz and other art forms and areas of academic endeavor. Produced special events such as the Annual City-Wide Kwanzaa Celebration and the monthly open-mic poetry series, *Jazz Poetry Jams*. Curated numerous art exhibits for the American Jazz Museum’s *Changing Gallery* along with developing the public programming to accompany those exhibits.

Created and facilitated educational tours of the permanent and touring exhibits. Served as an ambassador of the museum developing strategic partnerships with regional and national arts and culture institutions. Managed education staff, interns, and museum volunteers.

**Kansas City Mentoring Initiative – *Director, Urban Transcendence Poetry Project* 2002-2004**  
Created pedagogy and methodology necessary to use poetry as a tool for mentoring urban youth. Facilitated poetry writing and performance workshops for area middle and high school students. Developed department curriculum to meet district standards. Served as Editor-in-Chief of *Urban Transcendence Poetry Magazine*. Supervised poetry magazine staff and interns.

**Youthfriends, KCK – *Poetry Instructor* 2000-2002**  
Facilitated poetry writing and performance workshops in Wyandotte County after school programs and Jackson County Juvenile Detention Centers. Conducted weekend poetry workshops for Kansas University Health Careers Pathways Program. Developed lesson plans to demonstrate the relationship between poetry, math, and science.

**Verbal Attack! – *Founder, Creative Director* 1997-2000**  
Developed vision for an open-mic poetry series that would serve as a nexus for poets and local artists of every discipline. Curated programming that featured poets, musicians, and visual artists. Managed small programming budget and hosted monthly performances.

## EDUCATION

<b>BLS</b> , English, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri	<b>2006</b>
<b>MFA</b> , Poetry, University of Missouri- Kansas City	<b>2020</b>

## ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

- Ekphrastic Poetry/Poetry in Art Exhibits: “The Colors of Jazz” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, March 2011; “America: Now and Here” Leedy-Voulkus Art Center, May 2011; “Reflections of Jazz” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, July 2011; “Beyond Words: A Fusion of Poetry, Jazz, and Visual Art” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, April 2013; “Let The Church Say Amen” Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, August 2014; “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” Portfolio Gallery & Art Center (St. Louis, MO) October, “Can You See Me” Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, “The Hope and Gratitude Project” with Ada Smith as part of Art in the Loop.
- “The Art of Journaling” art-inspired journaling workshop for patrons of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- “Spaces Within Spoken Out Loud” ekphrastic poetry workshop for patrons of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- “*Impressions and Improvisations*” youth poetry workshop inspired by the art of Romare Bearden for The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- Poetry writing and performance workshops for Kansas City, Kansas (USD 500) Public Schools including Wyandotte HS, Washington HS, F.L. Schlagle HS, and Sumner HS.
- Poetry/journaling workshop for Gifted and Talented Teachers of Kansas City Missouri School District
- “Write On!” creative writing workshop for Greater Kansas City Writing Project. Introduced pedagogical approaches to help area teachers improve student writing abilities.
- “Cracking the Code” poetry interpretation workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Holliday Montessori (KCMSD) to improve poetry interpretation scores on Missouri Aptitude (MAP) Test
- Spoken word poetry workshops for numerous local arts organizations including Arts Partners, The Coterie Theater, and The Writer’s Place.
- Poetry writing and performance workshops for adjudicated youth in Jackson County Detention Center, and Hilltop and McCune Residential Centers.
- Identity and courage poetry projects for youth residing at reStart Inc. an Interfaith Ministry with Homeless Persons.
- Conceptualized and implemented language arts curriculum in conjunction with three-month study of drug addiction and the anatomy of the brain for students attending Summer Science Academy at Kansas University.
- Created and implemented “Music Across the Curriculum” 2 credit-hour course for Ottawa University graduate students.
- Designed and presented “Survey of Harlem Renaissance” poetry seminar for students of William Jewell College.
- Featured Artist, *Lincoln Heights* television series (ABC Family Channel)
- Writer (narrative poem) and voice over work for award-winning short film *May This Be Love*
- Writer, Director, *Something Simple: The Power of Langston Hughes*, commissioned by Kansas City Public Library and Metropolitan Ensemble Theater.
- Writer, *Who Was Sundiata?* dramatic poetry and storytelling presentation commissioned by Kansas City Public Library.
- Recordings projects of original spoken word poetry include: *Out of the Comfort* by the Jazz Disciples and *Check Cashing Day* by Bobby Watson & the I Have a Dream Project.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications include

- *Pro-Black Prosody (Master's Thesis)*
- *City of Song (Poetry Collection)*
- *The African American Review*
- *American Studies Journal*
- *New Letters*
- *Cave Canem Anthology XII*
- *Caper Literary Journal*
- *The Kansas City Star*
- *Platte Valley Review*
- *One Shot Deal*
- *The Sixth Surface*

## AWARDS AND HONORS

<b>Poet Laureate of the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District, Kansas City, Missouri</b>	<b>2016--Present</b>
<b>Crystal Field Poetry Award, Kansas City, Missouri</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award, Kansas City, Missouri</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Cave Canem Poetry Writing Fellow, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</b>	<b>2009-Present</b>
<b>Callaloo Creative Writing Fellow, St. Louis, Missouri</b>	<b>2008</b>

## ONLINE PRESS

- [KC Studio - Glenn North : Truth Teller](#)
- [KC Studio - Harmony on the Vine](#)
- [KCUR - Glenn North: Fostering Raw Self-Expression At 18th And Vine](#)
- [KCUR - Reconsidering The Legacy Of KC's Champion Cakewalker](#)
- [Fox 4 KC - Kansas City poet Glenn North reads new poem to bring awareness to violence](#)
- [Fox 4 KC - Artist paints the town red with flowers, pairs with poet to combat Kansas City violence](#)
- [KBIA - A Kansas City Poet Hopes The Next Normal Isn't Anything Like The Old Normal In Terms Of Equality](#)
- [KCUR - LISTEN: Glenn North Performs 'In Your Face' Poetry](#)
- [KCUR - Seven Collages By This Kansas City Artist Inspired Seven New Poems By Area Writers](#)
- [KCUR - This Kansas City Artist Paints To Make Black Men More Visible](#)
- [KCUR - Slam Poetry Meets Jazz](#)
- [Kansas City Star Sonie Joi Ruffin's vibrant fabric works explore tragedy and transcendence](#)
- [Kansas City Star KC celebrates Hale Woodruff: Three museums showcase artist's stunning murals, quiet life](#)
- [KC Studio - Harold D. Smith, Jr.: Can You See Me?,” Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art](#)



## POETRY SAMPLES

- [Black Cultural Institutions as Spaces for Community Healing](#)
- [Interview with poet Glenn North](#)
- [A Poet Questions the Oppressor by Glenn North](#)
- ["Lynch Family Blues"](#)
- [Empathy](#)
- ["A Psalm for the Word Warriors"](#)
- [Prodigal Poem](#)
- [Praise Song for Julia Lee](#)
- [Yard Work, A Poem for Malik](#)
- [Interview with New Letters](#)

