

BLC

BLACK
LITERARY
COLLECTIVE

Black Literary Collective

BLC was founded by a group of successful award winning Black authors in California to address the need for socially/culturally relevant Black content in local, national and international learning spaces. Their bodies of work are firmly rooted in the Black experience and eloquently inspire and empower young learners who are able to see themselves in these writings. The work of the BLC directly interrupts curricula that too often does not prioritize the Black experience in classroom settings. BLC sessions are exciting and innovative experiences that schools, teachers and learners benefit from and thoroughly enjoy. Contact the BLC to find out how to bring BLC sessions, programming and curricula to your community.



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PROGRAMS



1

A Blank Canvas (Creative Writing Forum)

The objective of this writing program is to provide a safe arena for healthy and dynamic written creative expression inspired by a participant's lived experience. Writing can be an incredible platform for self-exploration, reflection, and growth. Through the literature students will be exposed to and create, they will amplify their voices and narratives, allowing them to develop healthy and pro-social strategies for navigating their environments.

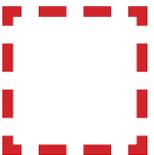
Participants will use the medium of prose to explore their narrative through various writing exercises and discussions, bringing them closer to their joy, pain, power, and most importantly, their overall sense of self. Participants will also have the opportunity to have their finished works published in the BLC's annual anthology program.



To create a space in a school setting where students can safely engage in exploration and articulation of their histories and narratives. This will be accomplished via decolonizing students' understanding of narrative, storytelling, and literature. After this is established, participants will begin building a new foundation and relationship with narrative and literature, centering their experiences at the heart of the created material. Culminating in a published volume of student work. Lastly, students will acquire an entrepreneurial understanding of independent publishing through relationships with creative mentors who have successfully navigated the publishing industry.



Articulation is Power students holding their book of published work.



3

Collaborative Programming

In an attempt to create engaging, educational and empowering programs the Black Literary Collective often collaborates with learning spaces to develop unique programming that is site and community specific. The BLC does not operate with a one size fits all mentality. Flexibility, adaptability and co-design are essential tools for a culturally relevant and rigorous framework.

A partnership with the BLC will give students, teachers and administrators access to a powerful network of dynamic community leaders and artists who are published authors, with extensive education, curriculum design and program implementation experience.



4

New LAWS (Leaders, Artists, Warriors, Scholars)

The goal of our New LAWS program is to cultivate the body, mind and creative energy of our future leaders. Learners will develop critical analysis and thinking skills through a variety of learning experiences that incorporate historical and contemporary concepts, philosophies and issues relevant to their context and current conditions. Participants will also engage in a curriculum that highlights the history, contributions, styles and legacies of powerful black leaders; they will also develop their own leadership skills through face to face interactions with community mentors and leaders.

Power To The People

(A social justice journey through Hip Hop)

5

Power to the People is a unique learning experience that allows learners to explore the revolutionary, innovative and historical practices of Hip Hop through a culturally relevant lens that emphasizes important social justice concepts. In addition, learners will begin to master technical skills of recording, composing and production allowing them to articulate themselves through the Hip Hop art form.

6

YES (Young Empowered Storytellers)



▶ Storyboards Program (Children's Stories)

The Storyboards Program is designed to bring all stages of the publishing process into elementary classrooms. Storytellers in grades 1 - 4 will experience culturally relevant children's stories as they begin developing their own classroom story. BLC facilitators will introduce creative writing concepts and techniques such as character development, plot design and editing. Each storyteller will contribute by developing one scene in the classroom story. BLC facilitators will support the storytellers throughout the publication process including engaging a professional illustrator to design the images. The program culminates with a book launch for the storytellers children's book.

▶ Flash Anthologies Program (Short Stories)

The Flash Anthologies Program is a powerful creative writing program designed for students in grades 4 - 6. BLC facilitators will help the storytellers discover the genre of flash fiction, which consists of no more than 1,000 words. BLC facilitators will support storytellers through the process of story development, editing and illustration design. Each storyteller will work to develop an individual flash fiction story that will be published as part of a class anthology.

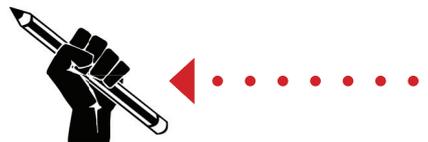
The SPCE Program is a culturally relevant thematic approach to studying black history and culture. Every month/module is framed to highlight historic aspects of black history that occurred in a specific time frame. Making the history and concepts more relative and debunking the misnomer that black history and culture is only significant in February.

The guiding tenet to the program is Marcus Garvey's quote, "a people without knowledge of their past, history, culture or origin is like a tree without roots." The SPCE program will develop learners who are deeply rooted in a knowledge and understanding of their culture, history and role in contemporary society.

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WE (Women's Empowerment Program)

The WE program is designed to engage middle and high school aged students in a creative and cultural dialogue. The program builds upon the spirit of excellence and resilience that is the foundation of black female identity through the medium of storytelling. Students will explore themes such as race, gender and class through the study of poetry, short stories, music and personal essays. The program provides a safe space for the young black female voice. Participants will be supported by experienced facilitators who will help guide them through curriculum that will allow them to critically engage with the creative process.



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