

# A Gathering of Flames:

*Celebrating 20 Years of Torch Literary Arts*  
Austin, TX - September 25-27, 2026

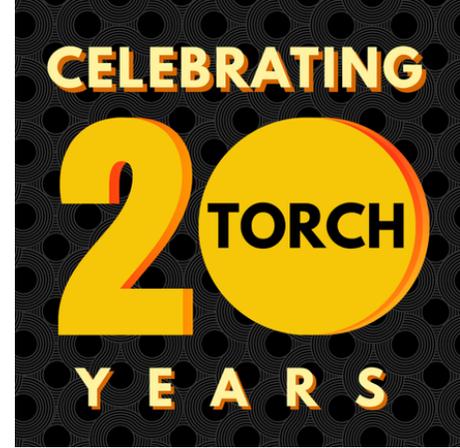
## Sponsorship Opportunities

CELEBRATING

20 TORCH  
YEARS



# Who We Are



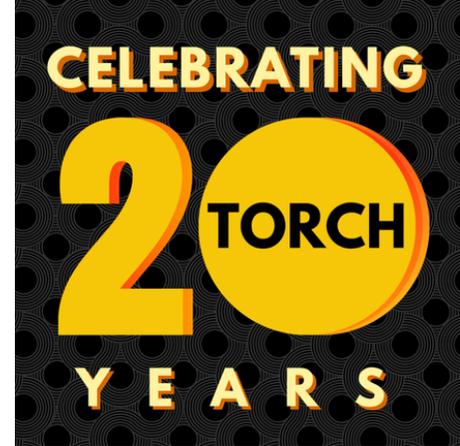
Torch Literary Arts was founded in 2006 by Texas Poet Laureate Amanda Johnston to create advancement opportunities for Black women writers and amplify diverse voices across the literary landscape.

To fulfill its mission, Torch publishes the award-winning *Torch Magazine* and delivers impactful programs, including the annual Torch Retreat, creative writing and professional development workshops, the Wildfire Reading Series, Writers Across the Diaspora, the In Conversation Series, Writing Circle, and special events with community and corporate partners. In recognition of its reach, impact, and service, Torch received the inaugural Writing Organization Award from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in 2025.

For 20 years, Torch Literary Arts has served as a leading voice for Black women writers across the diaspora. Our features and fellows have received notable recognition and awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, Pen American Literary Awards, SXSW, Emmy Awards, and others.

We look forward to celebrating two decades of literary excellence at this monumental gathering and looking toward a bright future for Torch Literary Arts and the vibrant community of writers we serve.

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overview



## ***A Gathering of Flames*** **September 25-27, 2026** **Austin, TX**

- Local & National Reach
- Inaugural Torch Awards Gala
- Notable Headlining Authors
- Curated Readings & Panels
- Workshops & Networking
- Vendors & Booksellers
- Parties & Fellowship



Vanessa Jackson (*SNL*, NBC) and Chinaka Hodge (*Ironheart*, Disney+)

# *Confirmed Featured Authors*

**Sharon Bridgforth**



Inducted in the Texas Institute of Letters in 2025, Sharon Bridgforth is a United States Artists Fellow, winner of Yale's Windham Campbell Prize in Drama, Playwrights' Center Core Member, McKnight National Fellow and a New Dramatists alumnae. A Doris Duke Performing Artist she has received support from Creative Capital, MAP Fund and the National Performance Network.

**Rachel Eliza Griffiths**



Rachel Eliza Griffiths is a poet, visual artist, and novelist. Her work has been published in The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Best American Poetry, and many others. Her debut novel, *Promise*, was a Kirkus Reviews and Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year. Her highly acclaimed debut memoir, *The Flower Bearers*, was published by Random House in 2026.

**Patricia Smith**

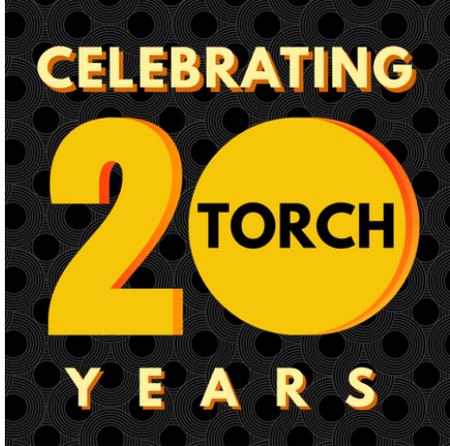


Patricia Smith is the author of ten books of poetry, including *The Intentions of Thunder: New and Selected Poems* (Scribner 2025), winner of the National Book Award for Poetry; *Unshuttered*; *Incendiary Art*, winner of the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the 2017 Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the 2018 NAACP Image Award, and finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize.

**Crystal Wilkinson**



Crystal Wilkinson, a recent recipient of a Writing Freedom fellowship, is the award-winning author of *Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts*, a national-bestselling memoir, *Perfect Black*, a collection of poems, and three works of fiction—*The Birds of Opulence*, *Water Street* and *Blackberries*. Her memoir *Heartsick* is forthcoming from Crown.



*Want to reach a wider audience?*

## Let Us Promote Your Brand

### Meet Your Market

Learn how the Torch community invests in your market and attract them to your business.

### Tailored Events

See how our events are tailored to meet your promotional needs and have fun!

### Strategies that Work

Work with our team to develop brand integration strategies with impact metrics.

Torch has **featured over 300 writers** globally and receives **150,000 monthly views** on social media!

**Join our 20th Anniversary partners & sponsors!**



**CELEBRATING**  
**20** **TORCH**  
**YEARS**

# OUR REACH

*Align your brand with  
our community of loyal,  
longterm supporters.*

## KEY STATS

ARTS AND CULTURE IN  
THE U.S. CONTRIBUTES  
\$1.2 TRILLION TO THE  
NATIONAL ECONOMY

## WHO WE REACH

70% WOMEN - 20% MEN - 10% NONBINARY  
INTERESTS: READING, CULTURE, WRITING  
PERFORMING ARTS, TECH, STYLE, FINANCE  
FINE ARTS, COMMUNITY, WELLNESS

## THE NUMBERS

40+	PARTNERSHIPS
300+	FEATURED ARTIST
2,000+	NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS
5,000+	ANNUAL ATTENDEES
15,000+	SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
25,000+	UNIQUE WEB VISITORS
150,000+	MONTHLY VIEWS

# Community Connection

CELEBRATING  
**20** TORCH  
YEARS



# Media

## Local, National, International Visibility

Torch Literary Arts Recognized at the Ireland House During SXSW with Prime Minister of Ireland Micheál Martin



CBS AUSTIN

NEWS WEATHER WE ARE AUSTIN SPORTS GAME CENTER

### Torch Literary Arts promotes creative writing by BIPOC women writers

by We Are Austin | Mon, March 3rd 2025 at 12:13 PM



This month Torch Literary Arts is taking things up a notch in honor of Women's History Month. Executive Director Johnston and Communications Associate Brittany Heckard joined We Are Austin in studio with a rundown of the events they have lined up for March.

WOMAN CURRENT ISSUE CONNECTS CLUB EMPOWER CULTURE

### Give Back: Torch Literary Arts — Visibility & Representation Matter

April 1, 2022 In Art, Culture, Empower Reading Time: 8 mins read



### 'In those rooms': Torch Literary Arts highlights and celebrates Black women writers

KUT 90.5 | By Michael Lee  
 Published April 12, 2024 at 4:38 PM CDT

LISTEN • 1:59



All sponsorship levels include visibility before, during, and after the event, with opportunities to engage directly with Torch’s literary and cultural community.

<b>SPONSORSHIP LEVELS</b>	<b>SILVER \$5,000</b>	<b>GOLD \$10,000</b>	<b>EMERALD \$15,000</b>	<b>DIAMOND \$20,000</b>	<b>PLATINUM \$30,000</b>
Major Sponsor Web Recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gala Seating & Swag Access to All Events	✓ 5 Seats	✓ 10 Seat Table	✓ 10 Seat Table	✓ 10 Seat Table	✓ 2 Tables
Step & Repeat Logo Party Sponsor		✓	✓	✓	✓
Brand Placement Program & Signage			✓	✓	✓
Reading & Panel Recognition				✓	✓
Presenting Partner Recognition (Max 3)					✓



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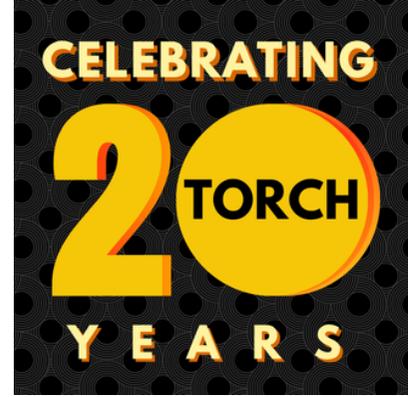
We'd love to connect and explore a partnership that aligns with your brand's values and reach.

Amanda Johnston - Founder / Executive Director  
[ajohnston@torchliteraryarts.org](mailto:ajohnston@torchliteraryarts.org)

Brittany Heckard - Communications Associate  
[bheckard@torchliteraryarts.org](mailto:bheckard@torchliteraryarts.org)

(512) 641-9251  
[TorchLiteraryArts.org](http://TorchLiteraryArts.org)

## Contact Us



# Thank you to our Torch supporters!

