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CAVE CANEM FOUNDATION TO HOST POETRY READING IN PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Foundation Supports Writing Project for Emerging African American Poets

BROOKLYN, NY / PITTSBURGH, PA (July 16, 2013) – Participants in “Being Ourselves in Our Poetry,” a Pittsburgh-based Cave Canem Foundation workshop, led by instructor **Kelli Stevens Kane**, will give a reading on **July 31, 6:15 pm**, at **Hill House Association, Kaufmann Center, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room, 1835 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh**. The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will follow. Showcasing new writing by seven workshop poets, the reading is the capstone to a 10-session workshop for African American writers, funded by the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation. This is the fourth such Pittsburgh workshop-with-public reading conducted by Cave Canem and funded by The Pittsburgh Foundation. A fifth Cave Canem workshop will be conducted in fall 2013. For more information, visit www.cavecanempoets.org.

Workshop instructor **Kelli Stevens Kane** is a poet, playwright and oral historian. Her manuscript *Hallelujah Science* was a Finalist for the 2011 Four Way Books Levis Poetry Prize and a Semi-finalist for the Persea Books 2011 Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize in Poetry. An August Wilson Center fellow, Cave Canem fellow, Flight School fellow and two-time recipient of the Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh Grant, she recently presented an oral history-based reading and conversation series, "Big George's Wylie Avenue: Wisdom of the Hill," at four venues in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Kelli performs nationally at such venues as Cornelia Street Cafe and Bowery Poetry Club in New York City, and has opened both the National Poetry Slam in Cambridge, MA, and TedXWomen Pittsburgh. She serves as Program Director for “Poetic Side” on Radio Feebs, a Europe-based internet radio station.

Cave Canem Foundation was founded in 1996 by poets **Toi Derricotte** and **Cornelius Eady**

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to remedy the under-representation of African American poets in writing workshops and MFA programs. The organization has grown from an initial gathering of 26 poets to become an influential movement with a renowned faculty and a high-achieving national fellowship of 359. Headquartered in Brooklyn, NY, Cave Canem's many programs include an annual week-long writing retreat at the **University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg**; a related showcase reading in June sponsored by **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh**; regional workshops; national readings and panels; a first-book award co-sponsored sequentially by the **University of Pittsburgh Press**, Graywolf Press and The University of Georgia Press; and a second-book award co-sponsored by Northwestern University Press. To learn more, visit www.cavecanempoets.org.

The Pittsburgh Foundation works to improve the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region by evaluating and addressing community issues, promoting responsible philanthropy, and connecting donors to the critical needs of the community. Established in 1945, the Foundation is one of the nation's oldest, and is the 15th largest, of more than 700 community foundations across the United States. Since it was formed, it has awarded more than \$600 million in grants to charitable organizations in Pittsburgh, and throughout the U.S. To learn more, visit www.pittsburghfoundation.org.

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