

# Dedication

This Black Arts Movement special edition of *Africology: The Journal on Pan African Studies* is dedicated to storyteller and cultural worker Mr. Peter Barrett (April 19, 1964 - March 14, 2017). Mr. Barrett embodied the spirit of the Black Arts Movement and represented countless men and women across the United States that taught Black Culture and are recognized in their communities because not only are they our cultural libraries but also our planetary service workers who are making a difference through the spoken word.

“They say when a Jali goes into the next world; it is like a library being burned”  
---Peter Barrett

The heart of this special edition is dedicated to the memory of educator and community activist Ida Mae Johnson of Merced, California. Ida was born on April 3, 1951 in Nashville, Tennessee and passed on March 29, 2017. Ida was one of the first students in her town to be integrated into a white school. In 2018, many have forgotten America’s heartbreaking legacy of terror towards African Americans. This special edition is a reminder that history must never be forgotten. Our ancestors are our guides, as we, similar to the enslaved that looked towards the North star are guided by our ancestors towards freedom and emancipation from a past that we heal by our words and advocacy on the behalf of those still struggling for a better world.

# Our Collective Voices

*“Two factors led to the widespread appreciate of poetry, curriculum changes, the rise of feminist and multi-cultural writing and Hip Hop as an international force: Malcolm X, and the Black Arts Movement.”*

**Ishmael Reed**

*“Knowing that the Black Arts Movement was a logical moment in the ongoing evolving of African-generated arts is a matter of common sense rather than one of academic acrobatics.”*

**Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**

*“We are in the midst of what can be seen as a second wave of appreciation and exploration of the cultural genius of the Black Arts Movement. Amiri Baraka, Larry Neal, Haki Madhubuti, Sonia Sanchez, Askia Toure, Kalamu ya Salaam and countless other voices moved us toward new understandings of Black identity in the late 60s and early 70s. Now we find ourselves in a moment in which their art and their thought were never more relevant.”*

**Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**

Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

*“The civic, cultural, and literary voices of BAM raised all our spirits, all our hopes, all our humanity, and built up our pride.”*

Red Beans & Ricely Yours,

**Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy**, Author, Folklorist, Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor & Coordinator, English Program, School of Humanities, College of Arts & Science, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana

*“I can’t be free unless Black Women, LGBT People and All People of Color are Free.”*

**Jerry W. Varnado, Esq.**

San Francisco State University 41st year Ethnic Studies and Africana Studies Celebration; participant in The 2015 award winning documentary “Agents of Change.”

*“We were sharers/receivers/witnesses re: BAM’s Tidal Waves of Pride, Black Book Publication and Readership, Africanization of The World (i.e. Black Studies), Change Ntu Revolutionary Far Evers.”*

**Eugene B. Redmond, Jr.**

Poet Laureate of East St. Louis