

# I CHOOSE JOY!: CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS OF BLACK JOY AND RESILIENCE

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center  
Grand Hall

April 16th, 2022  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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**9:00 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Networking and Breakfast**

**9:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

**Welcome**

Dr. Jakobi Williams,  
Chair Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies

**10:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Ritual Cools the Head: An Interactive Exchange**

Nia I'man Smith, Doctoral Student, Department of Folklore and  
Ethnomusicology

**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Embodying Agency**

Panelists: Brandon Stokes Doctoral Candidate, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies, Jasmine Frison Doctoral Student, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies, Corryn Anderson Doctoral Student, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

Session Chair: Madison Clark, Doctoral Student, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Keynote**

Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde,  
Assistant Professor, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies

**1:00 PM - 1:45 PM**

**Lunch**

**1:45 PM - 2:45 PM**

**Artist Roundtable**

Panelists: Baba Stafford C. Berry Jr., Professor of Practice, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies, Robert Burden, Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Theater, Drama, and Contemporary Dance, Tislam Swift, Doctoral Student, Jacobs School of Music

Session Chair: Taylor Ajewole Duckett

**2:45 PM - 4:00 PM**

**See Me: The Invisibility of Black Women in Intersectional Spaces**

Panelists: Taylor Ajewole Duckett, Doctoral Candidate, Department of African American & African American Studies, Samantha Horton, Doctoral Candidate, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies, Nya Anthony, MA/MPA Student, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies & O'Neill SPEA, Alexis Hunt, MA/MLS Students  
Departments of African American & African Diaspora Studies & Information & Library Sciences

Session Chair: Oluwanifemi Ologunorisa, Doctoral Student, African American & African Diaspora Studies

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Poets Roundtable**

Panelists: Bernardo Wade, MA/MFA Student, Departments of African American & African Diaspora Studies and English, El Williams, MA/MFA Departments of African American & African Diaspora Studies and English

Session Chair: Ashley Hayes, Doctoral Student, Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies

**5:00 PM**

**Closing Remarks**

Taylor Ajewole Duckett, President AAADS Graduate Society