

KEVIN POWELL

Writer, Public Speaker, Humanitarian, Scholar

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EDUCATION

Lane College, Jackson, TN, 2011

Doctorate of Humane Letters

Pace University, New York, NY, 2007-2008

Concentration: Liberal Studies

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 1984-1988

Concentration: Political Science and English

(Student in RU's Educational Opportunity Fund Program
for low-income and disadvantaged young people)

APPOINTMENTS/EMPLOYMENT

BK Nation, 2012-president

President/Co-Founder

President and Co-founder (see <http://bknation.org/presidents-note/>)

Responsible for creating the vision for this new American multicultural and multi-generational organization in terms of political objectives and community projects, organizing strategies, membership and chapter guidelines, infrastructure development, and fundraising. Main spokesperson for the organization with regular interaction with the media, and corporation and foundation partners.

Utne Reader, Special Guest Writer, 2016

Wrote a series of cover stories and blogs on race in America, on sexism and gender violence, and reported from both the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

Rutgers University, Visiting Lecturer, November 2016

Short residency focused on gender violence, rape culture, redefining manhood. Worked closely with students, especially male-population, as well as faculty and staff.

Kentucky State University, Visiting Lecturer, September 2016

Spoke at and moderated both all-male and all-female town hall meetings for students, faculty, and staff. There were also class visits in literature and communications.

Laney College, Visiting Lecturer, California, 2015/ 2016 Academic Year

Spent academic year doing lectures, leading classroom sessions across disciplines such as literature, politics, leadership, history, arts and culture. Also did professional development around equity and opportunity with faculty and staff, as well as new ways to teach 21st century students of all ages and backgrounds.

Stanford University Visiting Lecturer, 2014/2015 Academic Year

Lecturer to fraternities, sororities, faculty, staff and resident halls on campus. Lectures, workshops, teach-ins, and public forums on the topic of "Redefining Manhood: Changing Ourselves, Changing the World." Explored via interactive conversations and various source material on the topics of violence against women, sexual assault, domestic violence, gender violence, rape culture, women's history, and ways we can end violence against women and girls.

International Ambassador for Dylan Thomas Centennial in America, 2014

Spokesperson and led producer for major Dylan Thomas events and activities in New York City and the Bay Area of California. Co-creator of educational and social media platforms for Americans on the life and work of Dylan Thomas and his influential impact on literature and pop culture. Serving as a convener of various cultural and social institutions also seeking to honor the Dylan Thomas centennial. Negotiated a yearlong partnership between the BBC and the WNYC Radio.

Dillard University Visiting Lecturer, October 2014

Spoke at and moderated both all-male and all-female town hall meetings for students, faculty, and staff. The men's session was called "From Tupac Shakur to Barack Obama to LeBron James: The Past, Present, and Future of Black Males" and the women's session was called "If Women and Girls Ruled The World." There were also class visits in literature and communications.

Central State Visiting Lecturer, 2013-2014

Facilitator of monthly seminars during the academic year across disciplines including literature, politics, leadership and civic engagement, music, hip-hop, and pop culture. And gender issues as they regard definitions of manhood and womanhood in the 21st century.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, 2013–2014

Scholar-in-Residence.

Producing and moderating 4 conversations on hip-hop culture and history.

Presenting one major lecture on history of hip-hop and its relevance in America today. Working closely with Executive Director Dr. Khalil Muhammad in identifying donors and funding sources in support of the Schomburg's archival collection.

Japan/U.S. State Department, February 2013

Guest Lecturer.

Toured major Japanese cities/communities for 2 weeks representing the American government in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Lectured to communities of all ages, including high school and college students, senior citizens, scholars, and artists, on the meaning of democracy and the impact of America's Civil Rights Movement on the U.S. and the world.

Virginia State University, 2012-2013

Visiting Scholar.

Completed a series of lectures and seminars throughout the academic year, including: American and African American history, manhood, gender issues, leadership and civic engagement, self-esteem and relationships, the role of sports in America, hip-hop music and popular culture and its impact on young America, and poetry and literature. Advised faculty in various departments on best practices for reaching students of the 21st century. Mentored and tutored a number of VSU students in public speaking, writing, and other communication skills.

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, Feb & Oct 2012; March 2013

Program Consultant and Contributor to Men's Initiatives.

Co-created and participated in a series of lectures and public conversations on redefining manhood. Regularly advised Stanford University's office of Sexual Assault & Relationship Abuse Education & Response.

American University of Nigeria, 2012

Visiting Lecturer.

One-week residency with a focus on leadership and leadership development, student empowerment, and the connections between America and Africa.

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, Summer 2011

Professor in the Student Transition Empowerment Program.

Taught writing, public speaking, and understanding cultural diversity to incoming first-year students in intensive high school-to-college transition program.

Democratic candidate for the United States Congress, Brooklyn, New York, 2008 & 2010

Ran for office twice in New York City's largest borough. Extensive voter outreach, education, and registration. Regular interaction with community and local leadership around major issues and policies such as jobs, education, health, and violence prevention.

Langston Hughes Centennial Celebration: "Let America Be America Again, An International Symposium on the Art, Life & Legacy of Langston Hughes,", 2001-2002
University of Kansas/Lawrence, Kansas,

Participated as speaker, performing poet, and conference consultant in honoring the life of one of America's greatest writers.

Hip-Hop Speaks, New York, NY, 2000-2003

Founder.

Co-produced quarterly public conversations on major American issues of the day, while using hip-hop culture as a tool for social change. The series served as a bridge between the community and artists.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH, 1999-2000

Guest Curator.

Produced "Hip-hop Nation: Roots, Rhymes, and Rage," the first-ever exhibit in America on the history of hip-hop music and culture. Responsibilities included selecting and securing exhibit items; acting as a liaison between institutions and exhibit donors; soliciting corporate and community donations and support; creating and approving all marketing/branding material; producing the educational component and opening-night live performances; and serving as the chief spokesperson for the exhibit. Also curated the exhibit when it traveled to the Brooklyn Museum in New York City and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA.

College and Corporate Speaker, America/Globally, 1993-present

Speeches on American and Black American history, hip-hop and popular culture, manhood/gender, Dr. King, diversity and multiculturalism, etc.

Participation in panels and symposiums on range of topics, including politics, the arts, entertainment, the life of Dr. King, civil rights, American politics and civic engagement, sexism from a male perspective, leadership, social activism, the state of hip-hop, redefining American manhood, and being Black and male in America. Corporate topics include

Diversity 101: Creating A Healthy and Successful Workplace;

How to Build Corporate Responsibility and Trust in the 21st Century;

The Leadership We Are Waiting For Is Us: How to Become An Effective Leader in Corporate America.

Has spoken at prestigious institutions such as Harvard University Law School, Princeton University, the National Urban League annual conference, and Capital One.

HBO's "Vibe Five," New York, NY, 1993-1996

Host/Producer.

Created, hosted, and produced "Vibe Five," monthly 5-minute segments for HBO. Celebrity interviewees included Tommy Hilfiger, Tyra Banks, Whitney Houston, and Academy Award-nominee Laurence Fishburne.

MTV's "Straight From The Hood" (documentary film), 1993

Los Angeles & New York

Host and Co-writer.

Helped to create and shape network special about post-riot Los Angeles, while based there for several months. Conducted all principle interviews, co-wrote narrative and voice-overs. Screened and pre-edited all video footage. On-camera presence to tell the many stories of diverse young people interviewed.

National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, GA, 1992-1998

Literary Curator.

Created and produced programming for this major gathering of Black artistic voices. Specifically worked with Black writers of all generations on the development of public readings, panels, performances, and conversations. Co-created literary space for younger Black writers.

Quincy Jones' *Vibe* Magazine, New York, NY, 1992-1996

Senior Writer/Founding Staff Member

Wrote feature articles and cover stories on biggest hip-hop stars of the day, including Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre. and Snoop Dogg. Wrote short essays and CD reviews. Created and edited "Get Up On It," political section of magazine. Interviewed public figures such as General Colin Powell. Also produced *Vibe's* first commercials for radio and video. Was essentially the leading voice and face for the company, representing the brand in the media, at corporate meetings, etc.

MTV *The Real World*, New York, NY, 1992

Cast member on the very first season of America's pioneering reality TV show.

New York University, 1990-1993

English Instructor/Adjunct Professor.

Worked in Higher Education Opportunity Program's Saturday workshops for high school students. Taught an English course, tutored, and led SAT preparation course. Taught English course to NYU first-year students.

Focused on improving writing and critical thinking skills, and issues relevant to multicultural America.

The Leaguers Inc, Newark, NJ, 1988-1990

Social Worker.

Worked with early childhood program. Helped adult clients receive services and resources, including public assistance and food stamps, and drug rehabilitation.

Freelance Journalist, New Jersey/New York/National, 1986-present

Wrote articles, essays, reviews, blogs, etc., for a range of newspapers, magazines, and websites, including *Rolling Stone*, *Essence*, *Newsweek*, *The Amsterdam News*, *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *huffingtonpost.com*.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2017. *The is what it sounds like when doves cry: Blogs & Essays*

Amazon digital book

2015. *The Education of Kevin Powell; A Boy's Journey into Manhood*

Atria/Simon & Schuster

2012. *Barack Obama, Ronald Reagan, and The Ghost of Dr. King: Blogs and Essays*

lulu.com

2009. *Open Letters To America* (essays by Kevin Powell)

Soft Skull Press

2008. *The Black Male Handbook: A Blueprint for Life* (Edited by Kevin Powell/foreword by Hill Harper)

Atria/Simon & Schuster

2008. *No Sleep Till Brooklyn* (poetry by Kevin Powell)

Soft Skull Press

2006. *Someday We'll All Be Free* (essays by Kevin Powell)

Soft Skull Press

2003. *Who's Gonna Take The Weight? Manhood, Race, and Power in America* (essays by Kevin Powell)

Three Rivers Press/Random House

2002. *Who Shot Ya? Three Decades of Hip-hop Photography* (Photographs by Ernie Panicioli/Edited by Kevin Powell)

HarperCollins

2000. *Step Into A World: A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature* (Edited by Kevin Powell)

John Wiley & Sons

1997. *Keepin' It Real: Post-MTV Reflections On Race, Sex, and Politics* (essays by Kevin Powell)

Ballentine/Random House

1995. *recognize*, (poetry by Kevin Powell)

Harlem River Press

1993. *In The Tradition: An Anthology of Young Black Writers* (Edited with Ras Baraka)
Harlem River Press

Selected Articles/Essays/Blogs

“Cam Newton and the Killing of a Mockingbird”

ESPN's *The Undefeated* article
December, 2016

“America, who are we, and what are we going to tell the children?”

Medium blog
November 2016

“Read The Liner Notes for the A Tribe Called Quest Greatest Hits Album That Never Happened”

Complex article
November, 2016

“A Letter to Tupac Shakur, 20 years later”

The Huffington Post blog
September 13, 2016

“Hamilton, O.J. Simpson, Orlando, Gun Violence, and What the 4th of July, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and the Dallas and Baton Rouge Police Shootings Mean to Me”

Utne Reader blog
July, 2016

“Letter to a Young Man”

Utne Reader blog
June, 2016

Me and Muhammad Ali

ESPN's *The Undefeated* blog
June, 2016

“Will Racism Ever End? Will I Ever Stop Being A Nigger?”

Utne Reader blog
April, 2016

“The Day Our Prince Died”

The Huffington Post blog
April 25, 2016

“Why Baltimore is Burning”

The Huffington Post blog
April 28, 2015

"Maya Angelou: A Phenomenal Woman"

The Huffington Post blog

May 28, 2014

"Shooter's rage at women too familiar in America"

CNN.com blog

May 27, 2014

"Kevin Powell on Dylan Thomas"

BBC blog

May 9, 2014

"Celebrating Dylan Thomas's 100th Birthday: A Special WNYC-BBC Radio Wales Production"

WNYC/BBC blog

May 2, 2014

"#DonaldSterling, Civil Rights, and American Racism"

Huffington Post blog

April 29, 2014

"De La Soul's 3 Feet High and Rising: A Music Masterpiece 25 Years Later"

BKNation.Org blog

February 14, 2014

"Martin Luther King's Dream is Alive"

CNN.com blog

January 21, 2014

"Nelson Mandela Impact on the World Through Sports"

ESPN.com blog

December 2013

"Why and How I Became A Vegan"

The Huffington Post blog

June 17, 2013

"It's Jackie Robinson Day, but black boys no longer dream of playing baseball"

CNN.com blog

April 15, 2013

"Kerry Washington: Woman on Top"

Ebony Magazine cover story

March 2013

"Manhood, football, and suicide"

CNN.com blog

December 3, 2012

"Being A Father"

The Huffington Post blog

June 15, 2012

"My heroine of Women's History Month"

The Guardian blog

March 3, 2012

"Black leadership is dead. Long live Black leadership."

The Washington Post blog

February 21, 2012

"The Peter Paul Center Route out of poverty"

The Guardian blog

February 8, 2012

"The World According to Sam Jackson"

Ebony Magazine cover story

February 2012

"Occupy Wall Street: The Revolution Will Be Multiplied"

Daily Kos blog

October 2011

"An Open Letter to Black Male Athletes"

Ebony Magazine essay

October 2011

"An Open Letter to Chris Brown"

The Huffington Post blog

March 24, 2011

"Heaven Hell Dave Chappelle"

Esquire Magazine cover story

May 2006

"My Culture At The Crossroads"

Newsweek Magazine essay

October 9, 2000

"Hip-Hop Is the Most Important Youth Culture on the Planet"

Time Magazine

September 22, 2000

"Confessions of A Recovering Misogynist"

Ms. Magazine essay
April-May 2000

"Lauryn Hill: New School"

Russell Simmons' *One World* Magazine cover story
Fall 1998

"Tupac Shakur: The Strange & Terrible Saga"

Rolling Stone Magazine cover story
October 31, 1996

"Live From Death Row"

Vibe Magazine cover story
February 1996

"Ready to Live: Tupac Shakur Jailhouse Exclusive"

Vibe Magazine cover story
April 1995

"The Sexist in Me"

Essence Magazine essay
September 1992

Selected Literary and Creative Publications

Liner Notes for Maurice Brown, "Maurice vs Mobetta" (CD)

October 2013

"A Poem for Anita Hill" (poem)

I Still Believe Anita Hill, edited by Amy Richards and Cynthia Greenberg
The Feminist Press at CUNY
2012

"Son2Mother" (poem)

The Huffington Post
2008

Liner Notes for Camille Yarbrough, "The Iron Pot Cooker" (CD)

2005

"September 11th" (poem)

Published virally
2001

"Reality Check" (poem)

Vibe Magazine

1994

“for aunt cathy” (poem)

In The Tradition: An Anthology of Young Black Writers

1993

SELECTED SPEECHES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS

Uncharted: The Berkeley Festival of Ideas,

Public conversation with Eve Ensler, Berkeley, California

Topic: "Violence or love? Rape culture, race, and building social movements."

October 15, 2016

bell hooks and Kevin Powell

Public conversation at The New School University, New York City

Topic: "Black Masculinity: Threat or Threatened"

October 6, 2015

State Farm Dr. King Celebration

Keynote Speaker, Normal, Illinois

Topic: "The Legacy of Dr. King for Today's Younger Generation"

January 18, 2014

Dylan Thomas Centennial

Keynote Speaker, Wales, United Kingdom

Topic: "Hip-hop, Spoken Word, and America's Oral Tradition"

December 11, 2013

Manchester NAACP Fifth Annual Freedom Fund Dinner

Keynote Speaker, Manchester, New Hampshire

Topic: "Civil Rights: Then and Now"

October 5, 2013

I HAVE A DREAM: 50 Years Later

Keynote Speaker, New York City/Judson Memorial Church

Topic: "Equality, justice, and freedom since the MARCH ON WASHINGTON"

August 28, 2013

50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

Moderator, Virtual Education Panel, Schools Without Walls

Washington, D.C.

Featuring Civil Rights pioneers like Dr. King top aide Andrew Young, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and high school students

August 27, 2013

American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

Host & Producer, "A Young People's Poetry Reading"

April 2013

AT&T's "28 Days" Black History Month Tour

Keynote Speaker, Washington, D.C.

February 2013

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Keynote Speaker, Los Angeles, CA

Topic: "From Rosa Parks to Barack Obama: Civil Rights in America"

January 16, 2012

Department of Justice

Keynote Speaker, Washington, D.C.

Topic: "Honoring the Legacy of Dr. King: Justice, Love, Hope, and Democracy"

January 2011

Microsoft Corporation

Keynote Speaker, Redmond Washington

Annual Tribute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. King

2010

Black and Male in America 3-day National Conference

Keynote Speaker, Brooklyn, NY

2007

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Hip-Hop Evolution

Netflix Original Series

Season 1

December 2016

NPR's "Code Switch"

"Tupac Shakur's Legacy, 20 Years On"

Guest.

September 2016

CNN

"Why Obama Hasn't Gone to Ferguson"

Guest.

Discussion on the Michael Brown death in Ferguson and the President's response.

August 19, 2014

Fox News – "The O'Reilly Factor"

Guest.

Discussion on hip-hop/rap music as harmful entertainment.
February 24, 2014

Fuse TV

Guest.
Discussion on the history of music in Detroit.
February 24, 2014

BBC Radio

Guest.
Discussion on Beyoncé, Jay Z, and misogyny in song lyrics.
January 2014

ESPN

“Content Of Character Roundtable”
Guest.
Discussion on the media, code words, and expectations of athletes.
January 12, 2013

Oprah Show, nationally syndicated

Discussion on domestic violence against women and girls.
Guest.
March 2009

NBC

“Meeting David Wilson” with host and NBC News anchor Brian Williams
Guest.
March 2008

“Totally Biased”; FX Networks

Hosted by W. Kamau Bell/executive produced by Chris Rock
Conversation on politics and people in America.
Guest.
October 2012

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

The Kevin Powell Collection at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

The archive is comprised of letters, documents, manuscripts, images, magazines, books, posters, sound and video recordings, and other ephemera documenting the life and work of Kevin Powell as a public speaker, curator, activist, scholar, hip hop historian, and writer. Kevin’s personal archives also includes original audio interviews with the late global hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur, and various notes, letters, and transcripts connected to Kevin’s work with Shakur.

2013

Recipient of The Parish Foundation Award for Leadership and Efforts to End Domestic Violence, Washington, D.C.

2013

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, D.C.

Writing Fellow.

2007

Phelps Stokes Fund, Washington, D.C.

Senior Fellow.

2007

Black Caucus of the *American Library Association* Literary Award, National

Step Into A World: A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature

2001

SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE/PHILANTHROPY

Kevin Powell's Annual Holiday Party And Clothing Drive

For the 13 years and counting, Kevin activates concerned citizens and clothing companies to donate truckloads of free goods for New York City's homeless youth via Safe Horizon's Streetworks Project. The event now stands as the most popular and successful benefit in New York City during the holiday season. 2001-present

Japan and Haiti Earthquake Relief

Fundraised, gathered supplies, clothes, and resources that supported victims of both international tragedies. Produced large benefit events that helped to galvanize support for these two countries. Worked with global organizations to coordinate American relief efforts. 2010-2011

Black and Male in America...A Three-Day National Conference

Served as the Conference Director and driving force behind BAMIA, which took place in Brooklyn, New York, and attracted over 3,000 attendees from across America. The large gathering was an extension of and a follow-up to the highly acclaimed "State of Black Men Town Hall Meetings and Workshops," a ten American city national tour spearheaded by Kevin in 2004. This conference brought together activists, community workers, educators, scholars, policymakers, artists, athletes, writers, mental health and social workers, spiritual leaders, coaches, fathers, mothers, and all who are concerned about the fate of the Black male, to discuss issues *and* remedies for the improvement of Black males' lives. The follow-up work to the BAMIA conference included monthly empowerment sessions for Brooklyn Black males, an interactive Web site that doubled as a clearinghouse of information, and the book *The Black Male Handbook: A Blueprint for Life* (published by Simon & Schuster in 2008). 2007

Katrina on the Ground

Co-created the initiative that sent 700-plus college students to the Gulf Coast in March 2006 to provide relief and assistance to this devastated region. Helped to coordinate several truckloads of resources, including clothing, food, and emergency aid, as well fundraising for local organizations in need of support.
2006

Domestic Violence

Has written numerous articles, essays and blogs on the issue of ending violence against women and girls in America and internationally. Has also lectured extensively in America, at the United Nations, and globally on the topic. As an activist and organizer deep involvement in efforts to redefine manhood away from violence, aggression, and hatred. Routinely counsel men who have committed acts of gender violence as well as women who are survivors of gender violence.

1992-present

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)

Brooklyn Historical Society

The Brooklyn Museum

ColorofChange.org

Democratic Party

Eastern Athletic Club

First Corinthian Baptist Church

Judson Memorial Church

MoveOn.org

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The Rutgers Club

Transportation Alternatives