

# Hannah L. Drake

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***“I am a Black woman with a pen, notepad, computer and an opinion and in this world that is a dangerous thing!”  
-Hannah Drake***

## **EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Arts in Communications  
University of Colorado, 1998

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **IDEAS xLab January 2016 – Current**

- Assisted in designing Project H.E.A.L. (Health, Equity, Art Learning) a program designed to shift culture, advocate for policy and find new ways for communities to heal using arts and culture.
- Organized 7 artists in the Smoketown community offering guidance as they developed and implemented arts and culture project to impact the well-being of the residents.
- Designed and implemented One Poem At A Time -Changing billboards in an underserved community to highlight community assets and advocate for policy to limit predatory advertising in underserved communities.
- Working in Natchez, Mississippi with The National Coalition of 100 Black Women to write a program that will entail singing, poetry and dance to speak to the impact of slavery, the rise of The Civil Rights Movement and the current climate of race in America.
- Help develop programming in other Project H.E.A.L communities as the Cultural Producer
- Developed Stories From The Hem Of My Mother's Apron – an intergenerational potluck designed to gather recipes and stories that have not been documented to gather African American history that is often never shared.
- Developed Tricked Out Trashcan Campaign to reduce litter in communities
- Helped develop curriculum and implementation of The Justice League which is designed to teach youth the principles of social, environmental and economic justice, and respect for everyone. The Justice League will study and learn about critical local and global social justice issues, like poverty, hunger, racial segregation, urban violence, environmental destruction, and other forms of inequality and injustice.

### **BATES MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH 1999-2015**

- **Executive Assistant Skills** – Organizing, Planning, Event Planning, Problem Solving, Management, Editing, Social Media, Computer Skills

## **WRITING EXPERIENCE**

### **Poetry Collections**

- Hannah's Plea – Poetry For The Soul
- In Spite of My Chains
- Life Lived In Color
- For Such A Time As This
- Anticipation
- So Many Things I Want To Tell You

### **Novels**

- Views From The Back Pew
- Fragile Destiny

### **Commentaries**

Dear America, I'm Still Rooting For You: Commentaries on Race, Politics and Feminism

### **Blog**

- [www.writesomeshit.com](http://www.writesomeshit.com)
- Started in January 2017
- Unique Views – Dear Colin Kaepernick, All You Had To Do Was Play The Game, Boy Over 70,000+ Views
- Unique Views – Black Women Do Not Exist to Save You, 100,000+ Views
- Unique Views – Do Not Move Off The Sidewalk – 100,000+ Views

## **STORIES**

- [Ivanka Trump's Oprah Winfrey Tweet Is a Nauseating Display of White Feminism](#)
- [One Poem At A Time](#)
- [At the site of a former slave market, a new project honors the past and inspires hope for the future](#)
- [7 Questions With ... poet, speaker and author Hannah L. Drake](#)

## **Audio/Visual**

- Five Things: Writer Hannah Drake On Family, Taking Chances And Picking Cotton
- [Inside Her Story –Do Not Move Off The Sidewalk Challenge](#)
- [Stories From The Hem of My Mother's Apron](#)
- [Louisville Story Teller Project – Hannah Drake talks about making tough choices](#)
- [Formation](#)
- [10 & 2](#)
- [Power](#)
- [Aint I A Mother](#)

- The Power of Listening

## **ARTISTS FELLOWSHIP**

- Hadley Creatives 2017
- Kentucky Foundation for Women Summer Residency with Poet Laureate, George Ella Lyons

## **DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Article Featured in Cosmopolitan
- 1 year contract to write for Cosmopolitan online
- Featured on the Tom Joyner Morning Show to discuss creation of #DoNotMoveOffTheSideWalk Movement
- Louisville Visual Arts Board Member
- Race Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council for Jefferson County Public Schools
- Curating an evening of dance, poetry and music for Festival of Faiths 2018
- Member of Focus Louisville 2018
- Partnered with the Louisville Ballet Choreographer's Showcase combining poetry and ballet focusing on social justice
- Keynote Speaker for Women Who Write 2018
- Performed original work with Orchestra Enigmatic
- Performed at the Legendary Showtime at the Apollo, New York
- Performed at the Nuyorican Poets Café, New York
- Opened for Angela Davis
- Opened for Nikky Finney
- Opened for Iyanla Vanzant
- Opened for Judge Gregory Mathis
- Poem Formation goes viral being shared over 20,000 on social media
- Poem Spaces was selected by the National Academy of Medicine to be featured in a national in person and permanent online art exhibit that speaks to visualizing health equity.
- Performed at the Festival of Faiths 2015, 2016, 2017
- Curated evenings for the Festival of Faiths April 2017 and 2018 bringing together over 20 artists for a night of poetry, dance, rap, singing and classical music
- Founding member of Roots & Wings –a unique theatre project integrating art, poetry, dance, music and performance as catalysts for restoration of self and community
- Roots & Wings are the recipient of an ArtPlace America Grant for \$280,000 to develop arts and culture programming in the Zones of Hope to highlight cultural assets, heritage and engage young adults to advocate for equitable development in their communities
- Roots & Wings write and perform hip hop opera -The West End Poetry Opera and The Blood Always Returns at The Kentucky Center for the Arts
- Roots & Wings travel to Dakar, Senegal to study African culture, perform and write poetry and music

- Speaker at the Idea Festival at Western Kentucky University
- Panelist with CNN Anchor John King at the Idea Festival in Louisville, Kentucky
- Speaker at Public X Design for the Gehl Institute
- Workshop Instructor – Writer’s Block Conference
- Performed at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize Conference in Princeton, New Jersey
- ACCelerate Creativity and Innovation Festival at Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History Speaker
- Serving on the Funds for the Arts Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Board member of Louisville Visual Arts
- Featured in the Courier Journal, Insider Louisville, WFPL and various other media outlets

### **AWARDS**

- Kentucky Alliance of Against Racist and Political Repression – Excellence in Poetry and Storytelling for Social Change
- The American Advertising Awards - Culturally Legit Youth Violence Prevention Commercial Featuring Formation by Hannah Drake
- 2018 Poem Spaces Selected by the National Academy of Medicine as one of 30 pieces of art that speak to visualizing health equity
- 2018 selected as Top Eight featured Kentucky Women honorees that are inspired by faith to create positive and Healthy action in communities.
- 2019 – Selected as a Muhammad Ali Daughter of Greatness