

**Publications:**

*Come Sunday: A Young Reader's History of Congo Square*. Lafayette: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, 2017.

*Congo Square: racines africaines de la Nouvelle-Orléans*. Paris: la tour verte, 2012.

*Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans*. Lafayette: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, 2011.

*Hush Harbor – Praying in Secret*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2008

*The Battle of New Orleans: The Drummers Story*. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 2005

*A Bus of Our Own*. Park Ridge: Albert Whitman & Company, 2001

**Book Awards/Recognitions:**

*Come Sunday: A Young Reader's History of Congo Square*

Bronze Medal Winner, Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2018

Finalist, Next Generation Indie Book Award, 2018

Nominee, Humanities Book of the Year, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 2017

*Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans*

2012 Humanities Book of the Year, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities

*Hush Harbor: Praying in Secret*

2009 Best Picture Book - Language Arts, The Society of School Librarians International

*The Battle of New Orleans: The Drummer's Story*

Accelerated Reader

*A Bus of Our Own*

2004-2005 Many Voices, One Nation Selection – American Library Association

2004 Mississippi Library Association Juvenile Book Award

2003 Living the Dream Book Award, New York

2003-2004 Young Hoosier Book Award Nominee – Indiana Media Educators

2002 Oppenheim Portfolio Platinum Book Award

2002 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People

2002 Best Children's Books, Bank Street College of Education, New York

**Essays/Articles:**

“Congo Square and the Roots of Second Line Parading.” In *Dancing in the Streets: Social and Pleasure Clubs of New Orleans*. New Orleans: The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2021.

“Congo Square and African-American Music Culture.” In *100 Years of Now, Haus de Kulturen der Welt Online Journal*, Berlin, Germany, 2018.

“The Cultural Connections of New Orleans Second Line, Cuban Conga, and Haitian Rara.” In *Freedom's Dance: Social, Aid and Pleasure Clubs in New Orleans*. Louisiana State University Press, 2018.

“A WINDOW TO AFRICA: Enslaved Africans Perpetuated Cultural and Commercial Practices at Congo Square.” In *New Orleans & The World: 1718-2018 Tricentennial Anthology*. New Orleans: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 2017.

“NOMMO in Exile.” In *Didn't Wash Us Away: Transformative Stories of Post Katrina Cultural Resilience*. New Orleans: Johnsons and Associates, 2016.

“The Forward.” In *Freedom in Congo Square*. New York: Little Bee Books, 2016.

“Congo Square.” *Oxford African American Studies Center*. Ed. New York: Oxford U.P., 2015.

“African Spirituality and Religion in New Orleans’ Congo Square.” In *Ashe' to Amen Exhibition Catalogue*. New Orleans: Ashe Cultural Arts Center, 2015.

“Congo Square.” In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America*. Ed. Sheren Sanders, Ph.d. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 2014.

“The Popular Dances of Congo Square.” In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America*. Ed. Sheren Sanders, Ph.d. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 2014.

“Kongo Music and Dance at New Orleans’s Congo Square.” In *Kongo Across the Waters*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013.

“Congo Square.” In *KnowLA Encyclopedia of Louisiana*. Ed. David Johnson. New Orleans: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 16 Sept. 2013.

“Freddie Evans’s Black Expressions in the Big Easy.” In *The Booklover’s Guide to New Orleans*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013.

“Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans.” *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, Fall, 2011.

“New Orleans’ Congo Square: A Cultural Landmark.” In *Ancestors of Congo Square: African Art in the New Orleans Museum of Art*. New Orleans: Scala Publishers, 2011.

“A Bus of Our Own.” In *The Storytelling Classroom*. Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

*A Commentary on A Bus of Our Own*, “Africa Rising,” *Louisiana Weekly*, June, 2004.

*Africa and “Separate but Equal” Laws in the Deep South*, Part I and II, “Africa Rising,” *Louisiana Weekly*, September 2001.

“Jordan B. Noble, The Drummer of Chalmette,” *The New Orleans Tribune*, Dec/Jan, 2001.

“Jordan B. Noble: The Drummer of Chalmette,” *Preservation in Print*, February 2001.

#### **International Research/Travels/Presentations:**

- Keynote Lecture, 100 Years of Beat Festival, Haus de Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany, 2018
- MEDICC (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba) Santiago and Havana de Cuba, 2017
- Independent Research/Travel, Jacmel and Port au Prince, Haiti, 2015
- Congo Square Presentations and Independent Research, Dakar and St. Louis, Senegal, 2014
- Congo Square Presentations, Bordeaux Congo Square Festival, Bordeaux, France, 2013
- Congo Square Presentations, Festival Aulnay All Blues, Aulnay and Paris, France, 2012
- Independent Research/Travel, Ghana, West Africa, 2006
- Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program, 2004
- Fulbright, Teachers Abroad, U. S. Department of Education, South Africa, 2000
- European Art Study/Travel, England, France, Italy, 1999

- Fulbright, Teachers Abroad, U. S. Department of Education, Zimbabwe, 1995
- Exchange Study/Travel, University of Ghana, Accra West Africa, 1976

### **Community Activism:**

- Member, New Orleans Legacy Project Historical Marker Committee, New Orleans 2017 – present
- Co-chair, New Orleans Committee to Erect Historic Markers for the Transatlantic Slave Trade to Louisiana and Domestic Slave Trade to New Orleans, National Park Service, 2015 – 2018
- Member, Tricentennial Subcommittee on Domestic Slave Trade Markers, 2016 - 2018
- Editorial Board Member, *New Orleans and the World: The Tricentennial Anthology*, 2016
- Director, “Sundays in Congo Square,” children’s performances at N.O. Jazz Festival, 2013 – 2016
- Founding Partner, New Orleans Teaching Artist Institute, Contemporary Arts Center, 2013, 2014
- Board Member, Congo Square Preservation Society, 2011 – present
- Founding Member, New Orleans Chapter WNBA (Women’s National Book Ass.), 2011 – present
- Curator, Congo Square Exhibition, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, 2012
- Initiator, New Orleans City Council Ordinance, Calendar No. 28, 411, that made “Congo Square” the official name of the historic landmark, 2011
- Co-writer, Text for the historic marker at Congo Square, New Orleans, LA 1997
- Founding Member, “Kids to Africa,” a study/travel program to Africa for New Orleans middle school students, 1995

### **Congo Square/Black History/New Orleans History Events: *Selected Listing***

- Speaker, UNESCO Site of Memory Middle Passage Historical Marker Dedication, Algiers, LA, 2019
- Presenter, National Endowment for the Humanities Workshop for Teachers, Tulane University, 2019
- Speaker, John Scott Book and Gallery, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 2019
- Panelist, Purchased Lives Exhibition Public Program, Xavier University, 2019
- Presenter, Representing Enslavement Conference, University of LA at Lafayette, 2019
- “New Orleans Then and Now Presentations,” National Park Service Visitor’s Center, 2019
- Presenter, Catherine Drexel School, SUNO, Center for African and African American Studies, 2019
- Presenter, “In the Spotlight: Stories of Performance Dance in Early New Orleans,” Historic New Orleans Collection, 2018
- Panelist, Soros Justice Fellows, National Conference, New Orleans, 2018
- Presenter, Save Our Cemeteries Annual Cemetery Seminar, New Orleans, 2018
- Panelist, Tennessee Williams Festival, New Orleans, 2018
- Presentation, New Orleans Tricentennial Symposium, New Orleans, 2018
- Lecture, Tom Dent Lecture Series, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, 2018
- Panelist, Louisiana Historical Society, Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2018
- Lecture, French Film Festival, New Orleans Film Society, New Orleans, 2018
- Panelist, TEDWomen2017, New Orleans, LA
- New Orleans Panelist, 29th Haitian Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, 2017
- Presenter, National Endowment for the Humanities Workshop for Teachers, Tulane University, 2019
- Panelist, Plessy Day, Plessy and Ferguson Foundation, New Orleans Jazz Museum, 2017
- Speaker, Purdue University Black Culture Center, West Lafayette, Indiana, 2017
- Presenter, SAGE Program, Mayor’s Office, DeRidder, LA, 2016
- Presenter, SAGE Program, McNeese University, Lake Charles, LA, 2016
- Panelist, Tremé/7<sup>th</sup> Ward Arts & Culture Festival, New Orleans, 2016
- Panelist and Presenter, New Orleans Community Day, WK Kellogg Foundation, 2016
- Panelist, ROOTs Advanced Screening, The History Channel and A+E Studios, New Orleans, 2016
- Class Lecturer, Tulane University, Department of Music, New Orleans, 2016
- Speaker, Black History Presentation, Southern University at New Orleans, New Orleans, 2016
- Speaker, “The HistoryMakers” Presentation, St. Augustine High School, New Orleans, 2015
- Panelist, Caribbean Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, 2015
- Panelist, 2018 Tri-Centennial Commission, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City of New Orleans, 2015

- Panelist, *Kongo Across the Waters* Exhibition, New Orleans Museum of Art, 2015
- Speaker, MAAFA, Congo Square/Armstrong Park, New Orleans, 2013, 2015, 2016
- Speaker, Premier of *Congo Square* (Orchestral Composition), Uni. of LA, Lafayette, 2015
- Panelist, *Flash of the Spirit* Conference (P.3 Biennial), Ogden Museum, N.O., 2014
- Speaker, International Jazz Day event, St. Louis, Senegal, April 30, 2014
- Speaker, Beta Delta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Jackson, MS, 2014
- Lecture, John Coltrane Festival, Maison de la Culture Doutra Seck, Dakar, Senegal, 2014
- Panelist, West African Research Center (WARC), Dakar, Senegal, 2014
- Speaker, Louisiana District Office of U.S. Small Business Administration, 2014
- Featured Speaker, Bordeaux Congo Square Festival, Bordeaux, France, September, 2013
- Panelist, Conference Internationale, Bordeaux, France, September, 2013
- Collaborator, “Congo Square: Dances of the Diaspora,” with Chuck Davis, NOLA, 2013
- Featured Speaker, *Congo Square*, Hamilton Hill Arts Center, Schenectady, NY, 2013
- Presenter, Calcasieu Parish Public Library, Lake Charles, LA, 2013
- Presenter and Panelist, La Maison des Cultures du Monde, Paris, France, Nov., 22, 2012
- Presentation, Georges Brassens High School, Paris, France, Nov. 21, 2012
- Speaker, Sarah T. Reed High School, Career Day, New Orleans, 2012
- Speaker, “The HistoryMakers” Presentation, Helen Cox High School, September 28, 2012
- Producer, Panel Discussions for Historic Tremé 200<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration, New Orleans, 2012, 2013
- Presenter, The Creole Festival, Louisiana State Museum – Mint, New Orleans, 2012
- Presenter, Tulane University for The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, 2012
- Speaker, 1st Annual International Jazz Day (UNESCO), Congo Square, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Speaker, Congo Square Symposium, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, 2012
- Panelist, Hallelujah Bye and Bye: Funeral Processions in Ghana and New Orleans, Tulane University, New Orleans, 2012
- Speaker, *Congo Square*, Le Musée de f.p.c. Museum, New Orleans, LA, 2012
- Lecture, Arna Bontemps African American Museum, Alexandria, LA, 2012
- Presenter, *Congo Square*, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, 2012
- Lecture, *Congo Square*, Louisiana State Museum – Cabildo, New Orleans, 2011
- Presentation, *Congo Square*, Ashe Cultural Arts Center, New Orleans, 2011
- Book Talk, *Congo Square*, Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, 2011
- Panelist, Tennessee Williams Festival, New Orleans, 2011
- Panelist, Juneteenth Celebration, New Orleans African American Museum, 2011
- Presenter, Congo Square, New Orleans City Council Meeting, April 28, 2011
- Lecture, “New Orleans’ Congo Square: A Cultural Landmark,” NOMA, 2011
- Panelist, “Haiti and the Music of Congo Square,” New Orleans Jazz Festival, 2011
- Panelist, Congo Square Symposium, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, 2009
- Featured Speaker, “Congo Square, the African Roots of New Orleans,” Xavier Uni., 2008
- Speaker, Tom Dent Literary Festival, New Orleans Public Library, 2004, 2008, 2011
- Panelist, Tom Dent Congo Square Lecture Series, NOJ&H Foundation, 2007
- Panelist, National Council for Black Studies 29th Annual Conference, 2005
- Presenter, 1st Congo Square Symposium, Southern University at New Orleans, 2004
- Presenter, Southern Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, 2003
- Annual Joseph Logsdon Memorial Commemoration, St. Augustine Church, 2001
- Producer, “I Hear the Drums,” a multi-disciplinary performance for children about Congo Square, Jackson, MS and New Orleans, 1995

#### **Media:**

##### **Television Appearances:**

- Interview, WWL-TV Eyewitness Morning News, “Congo Square, February 5, 2021
- Interview, WDSU T.V, “The HistoryMakers,” September 20, 2015
- Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Awards, New Orleans Access T.V., 2012
- Featured Author, “Congo Square: A Cultural Treasure,” a documentary film,

New Orleans Access T.V., 2011

- Panellist, "Book TV," C-Span T.V. at The Tennessee Williams Festival, NOLA, 2011
- Guest Author, "Sunday Edition with Dennis Woltering," WWL-TV Ch. 4, NOLA, 2011
- Guest Author, "Good Morning New Orleans," WGNO Channel 26 (ABC), 2011

**Podcast:**

- Team Member, "Little Voices, Big Ideas," produced by Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and WWNO 89.9, 2020

**Radio Interviews:**

- Interview, WBOK, 1230AM, Oliver Thomas Show, May 14, 2018
- Interview, Teranga FM 103.2 Radio, St. Louis, Senegal, April 30, 2014
- Interview, France Bleu Radio, Bordeaux, France, September 12, 2013
- Interview, Aquitaine T.V., Bordeaux, France, September 13, 2013
- "Congo Square," Stéphane Colin. *ABS Magazine*. Châteaugay, France, 2013
- Interview, NOVA Le Grand Mix Radio, Paris, France, November 23, 2012
- Interview, Radio France, Paris, France, November 23, 2012
- New Orleans, Wake Up! [www.neworleansblogtalkradio.com](http://www.neworleansblogtalkradio.com), 2012, 2013
- Guest Author, WBOK, 1230AM, John Slade and Paul Beaulieu Show, 5/2011
- Guest Author, "All Things New Orleans," WWNO 89.9FM, New Orleans, 2011
- Guest Author, WBOK, 1230AM, New Orleans, 2011
- Guest Author, "The Reading Life," WWNO, 89.9FM, New Orleans, 2011
- Guest Author, "Sunday Journal," Clear Channel, 1280AM, New Orleans; 2011
- Guest Author, "Writer's Forum," WRBH-FM, 88.3FM, New Orleans, 2001
- Guest Author, "Lloyd Dennis Show," WODT-AM, 1280AM, New Orleans, 2001

**Documentary/Video Appearances:**

- Interview, "The Neutral Ground," New Orleans, 2021
- Featured Historian, *Kongo Across the Waters* Exhibition Video, Uni. of Florida, Gainesville, 2013
- Presenter, 1<sup>st</sup> International Jazz Day, UNESCO, (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) Website and Video, Congo Square, 2012
- Interview, "The HistoryMakers," Chicago, IL, 2011

**Printed Articles:**

- Article from Interview, "Congo Square: Le jazz connecte la Nouvelle Orléans à l' Afrique," Scheina Adaya. *Walfadiri* Newspaper, Darkar, Senegal, April, 29, 2014
- Mississippi Book Award, The Natchez Democrat, Natchez, MS, October 22, 2004
- Book News and Awards, *Jefferson Parish Public Schools Newsletter*, 2001, 2004, 2006
- Author Visit, *The Helena Echo*, Greensburg, LA, July, 2003
- Author News, *Algiers Picayune*, New Orleans, LA, November 8, 2001
- Article from Interview, *The Mississippi Link*, Jackson, MS, October 25-31, 2001
- Article from Interview, *Madison County Journal*, Canton, MS, September 27, 2001

**Children's Author Engagements: Selected Listing**

- Black History Month Presentation, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, 2019
- Presenter, Regional Conference, Society of Children's Book Writers, & Illustrators, 2019
- Presenter, International School of Louisiana, at Ashé Cultural Arts Center, 2018
- Presenter, Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts, Marrero, LA, 2018
- Author Visit, Concordia Lutheran, Marrero, LA, 2016
- Presenter, Black History Program, Belle Chasse Academy, Belle Chasse, LA, 2016
- Speaker, New Orleans History Presentation, Christian Unity Baptist Church, New Orleans, 2016
- Author Visit, Young Audiences Charter School, Gretna, LA, 2014
- Speaker, Humanities Program, Metairie Park Country Day School, Metairie, LA, 2013
- Speaker, Regular Baptist Church, Gretna, LA, 2013
- Speaker, Q.U.E.E.N.S, Inc. Anniversary, St. James A.M.E. Church, NOLA, 2012
- Author Visit, St. John Parish Public Schools, La Place & Reserve, LA, 2011
- Presenter, Mississippi Reading Association, Gulfport, MS, 2010

- Author Visit, Metairie Park Country Day School, Metairie, LA, 2010, 2015
- Author Visit, Arlington Independent School District, Arlington TX, 2010
- Panellist, Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, 2009
- Author Visit, Coleen Salley Foundation, Lincoln Parish Schools, Ruston, LA, 2009
- Featured Author, American Library Association, New Orleans, LA 2006
- Guest Author, Dallas Children's Literary Festival, Dallas, TX, 2001, 02, 06, 07, 09
- Guest Speaker, 1st Young Author's Celebration, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS, 2006
- Featured Author, Young Author's Celebration, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS, 2007-10
- Presenter, F.B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, University of Southern MS, 2005, 2009
- Author Residency, First Regional Library System of Mississippi, 2005
- Author, 1st New Orleans Literary Word Festival, 2004
- Presenter/Author, Louisiana Reading Association, New Orleans, 1990, 1993, 2001-03
- Featured Author, State Farm Bayou Classic, Neighborhood of Knowledge, 2003
- Featured Author, Mississippi Library Association, Bay St. Louis, MS, 2003
- Author, Multi-Cultural Bk Festival, Kennedy Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, 2003
- Book Presentation and Signing, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, 2002
- Presenter, Africana Studies Department, New Orleans Public Schools, 2002
- Featured Author, Essence Music Festival, New Orleans, LA, 2002
- Featured Author, State Conference, MS Department of Education, Gulfport, MS, 2002
- Author Tour, Madison County Public Schools, Madison County, MS, 2002
- Author Visit, Dallas African American Museum, Dallas, TX, 2002
- Author Visit, Sacred Heart Academy, New Orleans, 2001, 2006

**Awards and Recognitions:** *Selected Listing*

- Grand Griot, 19th Annual Maafa Commemoration, Congo Square, NOLA, 2019
- "Five Faithful and Fearless Women" Honoree, Christian Unity Baptist Church, NOLA, 2019
- "Humanities Hero," Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, May 2017
- Julia Purnell Humanitarian Award, South Central Region, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 2107
- "First and Always" Recognition, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, New Orleans Graduate Chapters, 2015
- Cultural Preservationist Award, Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame, New Orleans, 2013
- Torchbearer Award, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, New Orleans, 2012
- Listed in "The HistoryMakers" – African Americans Who Have Influenced History, 2011
- Community Arts Award – Arts Education, Arts Council of New Orleans, 2011
- The Brown Bookshelf, <http://thebrownbookshelf.com/> February, 19, 2009
- Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts, 2002
- Outstanding Achievement Award – Literature, The Links, Inc., N. O. Chapter, 2002
- The Artie (Literature), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, N. O. Alumnae Chapter, 2002
- Kids-to-Africa, Inc., Founding Member Recognition, New Orleans, 2001
- 1998 Mazie Malveaux VSA Award for outstanding service to Louisiana students with disabilities
- Independent Research Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1997