

e r a s i n g t h e



MARGINS

L e g a c y U n b o u n d



At Legacy Unbound our mission is to tell, share and preserve the stories pushed into the margins.

LEGACY UNBOUND STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NUOLA AKINDE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Nuola (she/they) is the eldest daughter of Bahamian and Yoruba immigrants and was raised in a community of storytellers and culture-keepers. Throughout her career, Nuola has explored decolonization and play as tools of liberation for marginalized communities.

Nuola is excited to bring this curiosity to her work at Legacy, and to learn from the people who help bring stories into the world.



CALEB HAAG
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Caleb (he/him) is of Navajo and Dutch-German heritage. He has spent his life working in various areas trying to find his niche. He's been a dishwasher, busboy, liquor store clerk, dental lab technician, addiction counselor, but finally found his place when he became a bookseller. Leaning into his degree in Mathematics, Caleb enjoys reading any science-y and/or math-y text but will gloat and rave about any title that makes him cry.



**KIRBIE BENNETT,
SECRETARY**

Kirbie Bennett has been a bookseller in the Southwest for several years, while also doing freelance writing and audio journalism. He is a member of the Navajo Nation, where he grew up in Shiprock, New Mexico. Durango, Colorado is another place he calls home.

Hannah Gomez is a senior editor at Kevin Anderson & Associates, a premier ghostwriting and editorial service firm. She is the author of three hi/lo novels published by Capstone Publishing and has contributed to multiple anthologies. She holds MA and MS degrees from Simmons University and a PhD from the University of Arizona. Outside of bookish pursuits, she loves house plants, The Sims trivia, and Pilates.



**HANNAH GÓMEZ,
TREASURER**



**M.L. KRISHNAN, BOARD
MEMBER**

M. L. Krishnan originally hails from the coastal shores of Tamil Nadu, India. She is a 2019 graduate of the Clarion West Writers' Workshop, a 2022 recipient of the Millay Arts Fellowship, a 2022 recipient of the Carnegie Corporation Fellowship, and a 2022-2023 MacDowell Fellow. Her stories and essays have appeared, or are forthcoming in Strange Horizons, Black Warrior Review, Zócalo Public Square, The Offing and elsewhere. Her work has been anthologized in The Year's Best Dark Fantasy & Horror, Wigleaf Top 50, Best Microfiction, Best Small Fictions and more. You can find her at: mlkrishnan.com.



**JESSICA PRYDE,
CHAIR**

Jessica Pryde is a reader, writer, and editor living in Southern Arizona, where she works for the public library. She is a Contributing Editor for Book Riot, where she also co-hosts the When In Romance podcast. Her first book, *Black Love Matters: Real Talk on Romance, Being Seen, and Happily Ever Afters* released in February 2022.

Haleh Roshan is an Iranian-American playwright & novelist with hereditary neuropathy (CMT).

Her plays [Free Free Free Free](#) and [A Play Titled After the Collective Noun for Female-Identifying 20-Somethings Living in NYC in the 2010s](#) are published by Dramatists Play Service. [Free Free Free Free](#) was a 2018 O'Neill NPC finalist and premiered in NYC at the 2018 Exponential Festival. [...Collective Noun...](#) received its off-Broadway premiere in 2019.

Her play [Our Mothers, the Ghost Story](#) was a 2019 Bushwick Starr Reading Series Finalist and a 2020-2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship Finalist. For the 2021-2022 season, Haleh was a Noor Theater & Pop Culture Collab commissioned artist, as part of their Artists Advancing Social Change cohort. Pilots include *Bellwether* (2016 AFF Second-Round Semi-Finalist) and *The Legitimate* (2019 Screen Craft Quarter Finalist).

She resides in Durango, Colorado, where she's working on a series of romance novels and completing her Colorado Gardener certification through CSU.



**HALEH ROSHAN,
BOARD MEMBER**

AFRIWARE BOOKS

AfriWare Books is a Black owned bookstore that has served the community since 1993. We provide a platform to showcase authors, artists and advocates who infuse us with a sense of cultural pride. By sharing pertinent information about the history, accomplishments and suggested solutions to improve the community's well-being, AfriWare has distinguished itself as a beacon for cultural literacy. AfriWare makes the best of our rich African heritage available as expressed thru specialty products, books, and events.



**NZINGHA NOMMO,
MENTOR**

Nzingha Nommo is owner and founder of AfriWare Books. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Illinois (Chicago campus) in Electrical Engineering, and Master's Degree from Georgia Institute of Technology's Electrical Engineering Program. She was employed as an MTS/System Engineer with AT&T for over ten years.

Well into her technical career, she decided to pursue other interests peripherally to her background in the arts as a classical pianist. She was also a Professor at DePaul University for ten years teaching a "Mathematical and Technological Literacy" class.

AfriWare was born out of her love of African history/culture and her passion for networking and representing cultural artists.

I was born & raised in Connecticut. At 5 years of age, I and my two younger brothers were placed in foster care. I grew up in the one home vs. how the rest of my siblings were raised in multiple foster homes.

As a child, my absolute favorite pastime was reading. My dad, whom we saw regularly, enrolled me in several book clubs. My foster uncle made sure I had the recent editions of comic books; Superman; Batman, and every other publication available, a result of my penchant for reading. By the time I was 12 years old I had read every book in the house: the Classics; the Bible; the encyclopedias; children's books. I finally resorted to the Home Medical Journal, and realized I should quit that book, as I imagined every sickness contained therein.

I have two grandsons; 15 and 17 years old, whom I spend much time carting to school, sports, movies. They are my heart. My favorite book, Exodus (the the Bible). It has always been, and probably will be, my favorite, no matter what I read and learn.



**SUSAN DEW,
INTERN**



**CHRISTINA WATERS,
INTERN**

Christina has 25 years of local municipality experience and her dedication to serving her community dates to when she was a teenager. While working at the Park District of Oak Park, she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Robert Morris University, and worked her way up to Facility Scheduling and Parks Coordinator, working with individuals and local organizations, including the Cook County Clerk's Office during elections. She also oversaw the team of facility attendants who worked throughout the community at the seven community centers, three outdoor sports courts, and the seasonal Rehm Park Trains. In June 2019, she graduated from the Community Works Leadership Lab through the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.

Christina leads with a people-focused model, centering community collaboration to provide high-quality service and resources to everyone.

ARCHIVIST BOOKS

Archivist Books is a Black and queer-owned independent bookstore based in Rochester, NY.



**TAYLOR THOMAS,
MENTOR**

Hi, I'm Taylor! I'm the owner of Archivist Books, a queer bookstore based in Rochester, NY. My love of literature began very early and I'd often be spotted walking while reading or being told to put the book down at the dinner table. Now, I've curated a space for and with queer folks in mind. Every book on the shelf is queer and I pride myself on sourcing small press lit and indie queer writers to have in store. Archivist is a love letter to queerness.

When I'm not reading, I'm napping, hosting sapphic dinner parties, hanging out at home with my girlfriend + our cat, or writing fanfic.

Hi! My name is Arianna Taylor (she/they) and I grew up in the Bronx but have been in school upstate for the last 5 years. I graduated from the University of Rochester in 2023 with a degree in English: Language, Media & Communications. I'm currently at Syracuse University pursuing a PhD in English with a focus on African American literature. I love everything 'queer' and 'book' related and I'm super excited to be working with Archivist Books this summer! (And just in case you're curious, my favorite book right now is *You Made a Fool of Death With Your Beauty* by Akwaeke Emezi



**ARIANNA TAYLOR,
INTERN**

FULTON STREET BOOKS & COFFEE

Fulton Street Books & Coffee is a space to call home. It is a space to build community and to change our city through civic discourse. It is a space on a mission to increase literacy, with people at the center of all the work that we do. It is a space for coffee, books, and a good time. It is a space for you; you who have been longing for a space created with you in mind. At Fulton Street, we center the stories, narratives and lived experiences of people of color and marginalized communities. Welcome to Fulton Street. Welcome home.

Onikah Asamoah-Caesar is the founder and owner of Fulton Street Books & Coffee in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Fulton Street Books & Coffee was created to center the stories, narratives, and lived experiences of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and marginalized communities.



**ONIKAH ASAMOA-CAESAR,
MENTOR**

Onikah moved to Tulsa in 2013 as a Teach for America Corps member. After her service, she worked on various state level criminal justice policy initiatives under the office of Senator Mike Johnston in Denver, Colorado. After moving back to Tulsa, she helped launch the Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, an initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation, focused on creating a cycle of opportunity for Tulsa's most vulnerable families.

When she is not reading, Onikah enjoys good food, great hikes, spending time with friends and family, and traveling with her little one. Onikah holds a bachelor's degree in History from California State University at Fullerton and a master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University.

My name is Chanyce. I was born and raised in North Tulsa, Oklahoma, home of the original Black Wall Street. I graduated with honors from Langston University in psychology. I went on to work with programs partnered with Tulsa Public Schools to work with students who struggle with trauma and/or literacy skills. I am currently working towards becoming a doula.



**CHANYCE MAYES,
INTERN**

I fell in love with reading at an early age because I wanted to know my black history. I'm also a daydreamer so I have a love for fantasy and mystery. I plan to tie my love for reading into my community by educating my people on the importance of reading/researching. This is so they can know about who they are, where they can go, childbirth, mental and holistic health.

I love a lot of books but my current favorites are Skin of the Sea by Natasha Bowen and the Alchemist by Paulo Coelho.

LOYALTY BOOKSTORES

We like books. We like you. And we're ready to bring the best diverse books and events to our community. Loyalty was founded by Hannah Oliver Depp, a Black and Queer Bookseller who has spent her career working to diversify the book industry in order for it to better serve the powerful communities of color and queerness. In February of 2023, Christine Bollow came on as co-owner and business partner, bringing her vast events experience and perspective as a Queer, disabled, and biracial Filipina bookseller into the fabric of Loyalty.

We aim to be the Mid-Atlantic's neighborhood spot for wonderful books and unique stationery, gifts, and programming.



**HANNAH OLIVER DEPP,
MENTOR**

Hannah (she/they) is the founder and co-owner of Loyalty Bookstores, has a Masters in English from American University, and has worked on many American Booksellers Association committees including helping to found their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She is currently on the board of [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) and is serving as the president of our regional trade association, the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association. More importantly, she is a giant nerd who loves King Arthur and James Baldwin equally and owns a fluffy white "dog" who is beautifully useless and gives us constant side-eye. In 2021 she was honored to receive the Women's National Book Association Woman of the Year Award and served as a nonfiction judge for the National Book Awards. In 2018 she judged the Kirkus Prize for Fiction. She can be found across on social media @oliverdepp and more accurately found somehow working across both locations of Loyalty Bookstores simultaneously while advising another bookseller on the phone and fixing a broken shelf and repairing the toilet or whatever else needs to get done. Yes, she is a Virgo.

Christine (she/her) is the Co-Owner and Director of Programs for Loyalty and a graduate of Barnard College. She is a 2022 Publishers Weekly Star Watch Honoree and currently serves on the DEI Committee for the American Booksellers Association. She recently chaired the Summer/Fall 2023 Indies Introduce panel and served on the ABA's Bookseller Advisory Council. Before finding her calling in bookselling, Christine was a quality control editor for audiobooks, a Realtor, Pilates teacher, and a professional dancer and actor. Besides reading, Christine loves museums, jigsaw puzzles, baby animal videos, collecting different editions of Pride & Prejudice, astrology memes (she's a Libra!), and checking things off of her to-do list. Christine is passionate about championing marginalized authors, especially Filipinx authors, at Loyalty and on her Bookstagram account [@readingismagical](https://www.instagram.com/readingismagical).



**CHRISTINE BOLLOW,
MENTOR**



**CHARDAI POWELL,
INTERN**

Chardai Powell (she/her) is a social media coordinator and book influencer. Prior to joining Loyalty Bookstores, she was living in Chicago studying Journalism at Columbia College. She is passionate about sharing black stories written by black authors on black characters to the world. Her bookstagram/Booktok handle is [@pageswithchar](https://www.instagram.com/pageswithchar)

MUSE, INC.

Muse Inc., an award-winning publishing company known for its commitment to promoting diverse voices in adult fiction and nonfiction. Muse Inc. encompasses various imprints, including the esteemed Young Authors Publishing, which serves as the flagship imprint under the Muse brand.

Additionally, Muse Inc. proudly distributes works from two black-owned publishers, Through Us Books and POPOUT zine, furthering its commitment to supporting underrepresented voices in the industry. With a steadfast dedication to impacting the lives of others by providing a platform for storytelling, Leah continues to drive Muse Inc. towards its mission of inclusivity and empowerment in publishing.



**LEAH HERNANDEZ,
MENTOR**

Leah Hernandez is the Founder and CEO of Muse Inc. Leah's journey began with a degree in Business Administration with a Marketing concentration from Clark Atlanta University, providing her with the foundation for her entrepreneurial pursuits. Her leadership and contributions to the industry were recognized in 2021 when she was named one of Publisher's Weekly "Star Watch Nominees."

Beyond her role at Muse Inc., Leah actively engages in initiatives aimed at fostering diversity and inclusion within the publishing world. She sits on the board of Pubwest, an association of small to mid-sized publishers, as well as Portland State University's Masters Publishing Program to create more opportunities for people of color in the field. Under Leah's guidance, Muse Inc. has published over 40 books across all its imprints, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and expanding the literary landscape.

My name is Jordan (she/they), born and raised in New Jersey. I earned my BA in Psychology with a concentration in Forensic Psychology and a minor in English from the University of New Haven. I earned my Master's in Book Publishing from Portland State University, where I gained a range of publishing experience through the student-run, trade press, Ooligan Press. I'm a romance enthusiast who enjoys seeing BIPOC and historically underrepresented communities represented within the pages of these stories.



**JORDAN BERNARD,
INTERN**

Favorite Book(s): A Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller, A Love Letter to Whiskey: 5th Anniversary Edition by Kandi Steiner, and Before I Let Go by Kennedy Ryan.



**MARTHA LARAMORE-JOSEY,
INTERN**

Martha Laramore-Josey (she/her) is a rising senior at Barnard College studying Psychology. She has loved reading and all things literature her whole life, and is so excited to be a part of the Erasing the Margins program! Her favorite books include Honey Girl by Morgan Rogers, The Book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki, and the entire Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan. You can check out more of her past and current reads on her bookstagram: @booksmarty.

REPARATIONS CLUB

Reparations Club is a concept bookshop and creative space Cuarted by Blackness® in Los Angeles, CA. As one of the first Black-woman owned bookshops in Los Angeles, Rep Club has partnered with Well Read Black Girl, Noname's Book Club, Nike x Virgil Abloh and has been featured in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Many more.

The shop is a labor of love, dedicated to founder Jazzie McGilbert's mother, Joyce aka Neicie, who passed away just 9 months before the store opening. Neicie gave up her own creative impulses to provide for her family and this space is an homage to their shared creative and community vision.



**JAZZIE MCGILBERT,
MENTOR**

Jazzi McGilbert is a creative director and founder of Reparations Club, a concept bookshop & literary space in her hometown, South Central Los Angeles, CA. Jazzie cut her teeth in fashion with roles at Teen Vogue and NYLON, among others before retiring in pursuit of her curiosity and community. Since opening in 2019, Rep Club has partnered with Well Read Black Girl, Noname's Book Club, Nike, Virgil Abloh, and Beyoncé, and has been featured in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Washington Post.

Gabrielle Felder (she/they) is a data analyst, writer, and educator. Originally from Orange County, California, Gabrielle completed her undergraduate education at University of California , Santa Barbara. She graduated in 2018 with honors, receiving two degrees: Ecology and Evolution, B.S. and Biological Anthropology, B.A. In June 2020, Gabrielle graduated from University of Washington School of Public Health with a Masters in Environmental and Occupational Health. After graduating, Gabrielle spent three years working as a non-profit manager and director leading DE&I consulting via online and in-person workshops and trainings. Currently, Gabrielle is pursuing a Masters of Science in Business Analytics with an emphasis in Marketing Analytics at USC Marshall School of Business. When she's not working on one of her many projects, Gabrielle enjoys eating sushi with her partner, watching reality TV, and playing with her puppy.



**GABRIELLE FELDER,
INTERN**

Favorite books

- Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin
- All This Could Be Different by Sarah Thankam Mathews
- Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments by Saidiya Hartman

SAMBASIVAN & PARIKH

Sambasivan & Parikh is a women-led publishing company on a mission to champion stories that center the voices of underrepresented communities. Our books and learning tools create spaces for education by offering culturally rooted perspectives, placing tools for social change in the hands of educators, families, and community advocates.

Ambika discovered her love for crafting books as an illustrator and launched Yali Books with her mother, Kala Sambasivan in 2014. Ambika is passionate about shaping stories that reflect and validate the experience of children of color, particularly those of South Asian descent, through relatable and inspiring stories.



AMBIKA SAMBASIVAN , MENTOR



SUHANI PARIKH, MENTOR

Suhani is a second-generation, Indian-American mom of three, and entrepreneur based in Upstate New York. Her experience growing up with alopecia areata led her to write her debut book "Shreya's Very Own Style" and launched her publishing company, Modern Marigold Books in 2019.

Janelle is an environmentalist, writer, passionate traveler and fierce friend of insects. She completed her bachelor's degree in Molecular Environmental Biology in 2019 and has since worked at the intersection of science and sustainability. Like many Californians, she spends much of her free time outdoors exploring hikes and beaches. She also enjoys writing favorable Yelp reviews of local restaurants and jamming at live music events!

Her current favorite books include:

- Braiding Sweetgrass (poetic, ecological nonfiction)
- The Four Agreements (personal growth and spirituality)
- Houseplant Hookups (witty, useful plant humor)



Janelle Osteen, Intern

SOCIALIGHT SOCIETY

Socialight Society is a local independent bookshop, celebrating Black women and Black literature. We curate classic, contemporary, and children's titles predominately authored by Women of Color, who often lack representation in traditional bookstores.



**NYSHELL LAWRENCE,
MENTOR**

Nyshell Lawrence is a celebrated poet and creative entrepreneur living in Michigan with her husband and children. With a focus on merging faith + feminism, her life and work is a celebration of Black womanhood. She is the creator of Socialight Society, an independent bookshop that specifically caters to Black women who often lack representation in traditional bookstores. The impact of this initiative has gained attention in notable publications such as The New York Times and The Root, even earning a mention from Oprah's Book Club. As a Lansing native, Nyshell is invested in serving the local community, and passionate about creating space for Black authors, artists, and creatives.

I was born in Dallas, TX, but my dad felt a calling to come back to his hometown, so he and my mother moved back to Lansing when I was two. I grew up in the inner city, graduating from Sexton High School (Go Big Reds!) with honors, and I just finished up my freshman year of college at Liberty University in Virginia. I've always been a huge reader and writer. I'm currently attaining my major in Writing with a minor in History and Creative Writing. My desire is to be an author and my interests lie in YA Romance, Fantasy, and some Middle-grade Fantasy. My favorite book is a hard one. I have so many favorites, but one I rave about all the time is *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry*, by Joya Goffney. It's a wonderful love story that's so wholesome and left me kicking my feet and giggling. I can't wait to begin working at Sociallight Society and with Edelweiss, and again thank you for the opportunity.



**SIERRA BOUYER,
INTERN**

SPIRIT BOUND PRESS

Spirit Bound Press is a revolutionary imprint birthed from the resounding need for ancestral tellings of spirituality, magic, and wellness. We exist to publish storytellers who honor their roots, cultures, practices, and experiences and believe their works are a conduit for truth and resistance.

We advocate for the diversification of literature and publishing while striving to create an equitable hub representative of the values and diversity of our team, authors and the places they represent. We are our communities' stories, wisdom, medicine, and magic.

At Spirit Bound Press, we recognize our responsibility to shift harmful narratives and dynamics within the publishing community. We give the power back to the storytellers because our stories are our resistance. We actively chose to honor antiracist, decolonial, and inclusive principles. Our devotion to amplifying marginalized voices and combating the harmful narratives in traditional publishing guides us!



**JULIET DIAZ,
MENTOR**

Juliet Diaz (She/They) is an Indigenous Taino Cubana award-winning bestselling author and representative of The Indigenous Peoples Movement. She comes from a long line of brujx, medicine people, and seers.

With a deep-seated passion for spiritual and literary activism, Juliette was motivated to create a space for ancestral tellings of spirituality, magic, and wellness. And so, Spirit Bound Press was birthed. Our mission is to give the power back to the storytellers because our stories are our resistance. Juliette's works include *Witchery: Embrace the Witch Within*, *Plant Witchery*, *The Altar Within*, *Seasons of The Witch Oracle Deck* series and *Earthcraft Oracle deck*.

Hello! My name is Phoebe Lok. I currently live in Syracuse, NY, though I am from Brooklyn, NY. I recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a Bachelor's in Linguistics and a Bachelor's in East Asian Studies. My favorite book is Pale Fire by Vladimir Nabokov. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and writing poetry, singing, and crocheting!



**PHOEBE LOK,
INTERN**

TESSERA EDITORIAL

Tessera Editorial is an all BIPOC, all remote organization for marginalized people and people of color who meet author/publisher needs as developmental editors, copy editors, proofreaders, sensitivity readers, and writers. By creating a space where marginalized people can learn and work with the tools of publishing that they may otherwise not have access to, we hope to improve the vastness of the book and publishing landscape.



**GRACE WYNTER,
MENTOR**

Grace Wynter is a writer and professional editor whose clients include an array of traditional and indie publishers and authors. She has an MBA in Marketing from Georgia State University and a Professional Certificate in Editing from the University of Chicago. She is the co-managing editor of Tessera Editorial, a consortium of BIPOC editing professionals working to make publishing more accessible to all.

Yasmin is an author, editor, and former English teacher based in the South. She holds a degree in English, a minor in Education, and a Masters in Literacy and Technology. She is a member of Sisters in Crime and Crime Writers of Color. Yas is also the managing editor for Tessera for on-going client accounts as well as performing other duties for client and editor relations.



**YASMIN MCCLINTON,
MENTOR**



**CARRÉ SADLER,
INTERN**

Carré Sadler is a writer hailing from North Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in English & Creative Writing. Her work has previously been published in FIYAH Literary Magazine. Carré is a Periplus Finalist and the 2024 August Wilson Fellow for the The Southern Esesu Endeavor Digital Retreat. When she's not curating playlists she can be found recommending *Honey Girl* by Morgan Rogers and *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn.

UNICORN AUTHOR'S CLUB

The Unicorn Authors Club is a magical online sanctuary where authors of color (and allies who really mean it!) finish out gorgeous, urgently needed books. Founded by author Guiding Coach Minal Hajratwala and a small team amidst the multiple pandemics of 2020, we offer rigorous professional coaching, community support, and co-writing sessions to help writers complete book proposals and manuscripts. We work to liberate our writing process and our stories from white supremacy paradigms and develop strategies for writing through trauma, grief, and internalized oppressions. We have served more than 100 writers to date. Our writers have secured literary agent representation, won prestigious writing prizes, and signed book deals based on work they did in the Club. In 2022 we launched the Changemaker Authors Cohort in partnership with Narrative Initiative, partially resourced by the Ford Foundation, to support full-time movement activists and social justice practitioners to complete books that create durable narrative change.

Minal Hajratwala (they/she) is the founder and Guiding Coach of unicorn author's Club. She has been coaching authors since the 2009 publication of their first book, *Leaving India: My Family's Journey From Five Villages to Five Continents*, which was called "incomparable" by Alice Walker and "searingly honest" by the Washington Post. It won a Pen USA Award, an Asian American Writers Workshop Award, a Lambda Literary Award, and a California Book Award.

Minal spent seven years researching and writing the book that became *Leaving India*, traveling the world to interview more than 75 members of her extended family. The writing was often difficult, and in hindsight, those seven years were an intensive study of craft, writer's block, internalized oppression, and how to develop one's own supportive writing community. Since publishing *Leaving India* to critical acclaim, Minal has turned their knowledge and editorial expertise toward supporting other writers as a coach and teacher.



**MINAL HAJRATWALA,
MENTOR**



**RAYCHELLE HEATH,
MENTOR**

Raychelle Heath is a poet, artist, teacher, yoga/meditation instructor, podcaster, and traveler. While she primarily writes poetry, she considers herself a storyteller. She uses her work to tell the multifaceted stories of black women and to explore her experiences with the culturally rich communities that she has encountered in her travels. Her work has been published by Travel Noire, Fourth Wave, Yellow Arrow Journal, The Brazen Collective, and Community Building Art Works. She is currently the Director of Curriculum and Coaching for the Unicorn Authors Club. She also regularly facilitates meditation and writing workshops in a variety of spaces.

Ahdis Beruk is a writer and performer from Mississippi who is now based in New York. She has a BFA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Acting and a minor in Playwriting from Howard University. This summer, she will start her graduate studies at New England College in the Master's Program for Writing for Stage and Screen. Ahdis aims to erase the obstacles she has faced in her home community by creating a platform to promote Black Literature and Arts in the South. She is enthusiastic about working with the Unicorn Authors Club this summer, as she is passionate about empowering herself and others to use writing for personal and communal change, transformation, and joy.



**AHDIS BERUK,
INTERN**