



## Vision

Cave Canem envisions a world in which Black poets are empowered to:

- **write authentically** in a diversity of forms to tell their unique truths;
- **flourish in fellowship** with other Black poets, creating bonds that transcend form, geography, class, age, and other differences;
- have **their works shared** with and recognized by audiences;
- have access to **justly paid work**.



## Mission

Cave Canem is a nonprofit organization, committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of Black poets. Founded by artists for artists, Cave Canem fosters community across the diaspora to enrich the field by facilitating a nurturing space in which to learn, experiment, create, and present. Cave Canem develops audiences for Black voices that have worked and are working in the craft of poetry.



## Objectives

- **Objective 1:**  
To create, maintain, and model a healthy operational culture
- **Objective 2:**  
To hold space for the full range of Black experiences, identities, and expressions
- **Objective 3:**  
To document, amplify, and celebrate Black poets' contributions to and impact on literature
- **Objective 4:**  
To facilitate a positive change in the economics of what it means to be a Black poet by helping writers to find paths to paid work and meaningful careers

## Strategies

- ↑ Be thoughtful and conscientious about translating dreams to plans as well as building resources, operations, and culture to bring plans to sustainable fruition.
- ↑ Be intentional about making creative spaces that counter “the societal impulse to tokenize and homogenize the full range of Black experience, identities, and creative outputs” and to make space for Black poets to be who they are and do what they do.
- ↑ Capture and tell the stories of Black poets and poetry for the record, claiming a stake as a contributor to and a repository of Black literary culture.
- ↑ Be intentional about developing networks to create professional opportunities inside and outside CC; set fees for compensating artists for their time and labor to be competitive (or better) in the market and sustainable.