

Charlotte Center for Literary Arts, Inc.

1817 Central Avenue, Room 302
Charlotte, NC 28205
704-315-2131
charlottelit.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 7, 2019

Paul Reali
Charlotte Center for Literary Arts, Inc.
704-315-2131
paul@charlottelit.org

“BEAUTIFUL TRUTH” BRIDGES CULTURAL DIVIDES THROUGH SHARING STORIES *National Book Award Winner Terrance Hayes Headlines 3-month Initiative*

Charlotte, NC: Charlotte’s literary arts center, Charlotte Lit, is helping community members write and share stories about their personal experiences of this community, with the help of National Book Award winner and McArthur Foundation fellow Terrance Hayes. The “Beautiful Truth” initiative, which runs until March 15, includes three parts: free writing workshops at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branches in January; a three-event visit by Terrance Hayes February 1 and 2; and a public reading of personal Charlotte stories by area residents on March 15.

The Beautiful Truth initiative was created in response to the deep divides exposed during the Keith Lamont Scott protests, debates over affordable housing and high-poverty schools, and the report that placed Charlotte dead last for upward mobility of the 50 largest US cities. Every Charlotte experience is a different story. Charlotte Lit’s founders, authors Kathie Collins and Paul Reali, asked: what would happen if we started sharing these stories with one another?

Here’s is the lineup of Beautiful Truth events:

Phase 1: Writing and Sharing Your Personal Stories” – Free Public Workshops at Charlotte Mecklenburg library branches:

- Saturday, Jan. 12, 2-4 pm — Matthews and Plaza Midwood
- Sunday, Jan. 13, 2-4 pm — Main
- Saturday, Jan. 19, 2-4 pm — Davidson
- Sunday, Jan. 20, 2-4 pm — Independence
- Saturday, Jan. 26, 2-4 pm — Morrison and Mint Hill
- Sunday, Jan. 27, 2-4 pm — Main

Registration is here: <https://cmlibrary.org/blog/beautiful-truth-writing-sharing-our-stories>.

Phase 2: Terrance Hayes Visits Charlotte

- February 1: Reading and Talk – by Terrance Hayes on using personal narratives to share our stories. Midwood International and Cultural Center Auditorium, 7 pm. Tickets are \$10, with free tickets available for students and anyone with financial need, available at <https://www.charlottelit.org/beautifultruth>.
- February 2: Community Conversation – led by Terrance Hayes about sharing stories for social change. Light Factory gallery, 2 pm. Free, but seats are limited; requests can be sent to kathie@charlottelit.org.

Phase 3: Public Reading and Celebration

March 15, 7 pm: Participants from the workshops in Phase 1 will share their stories with a larger audience at a public reading event, at the Midwood International and Cultural Center Auditorium. Free, open to the public. Registration: <https://www.charlottelit.org/beautifultruth>.

Funding and Community Partners. The Beautiful Truth initiative is funded by the North Carolina Arts Council, with additional support from The Plain Language Group, Brooke and Justin Lehmann, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, and The Light Factory.

About Charlotte Lit: Charlotte Center for Literary Arts, Inc. (“Charlotte Lit”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2015, and located in the Midwood International and Cultural Center. Charlotte Lit’s mission is to engage and educate readers and writers, building community through the literary arts. Charlotte Lit was founded on the principle that literary arts are an essential component of a healthy arts culture. Charlotte Lit equips community members to more deeply engage with literature in all its forms—from oral storytelling to short stories, from poetry to plays, from memoir to novels—through classes, labs, creative explorations, and the 4X4CLT Poetry+Art Poster Project.

Organization website: www.charlottelit.org

Event page: <https://www.charlottelit.org/beautifultruth/>

Social media: @charlottelit on Instagram, and @ciltlit on Facebook and Twitter