

Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

History | Literature | Craft

the collective

The Brackish Pond Literary Collective was founded by Bermudian writers, collaborators and friends, Yesha Townsend and Kristin White. It is a space to celebrate and expand upon Bermuda's literary tradition. The collective is named for Bermudian hero, author and abolitionist, Mary Prince, whose memoir begins, 'I was born at Brackish Pond'.

the facilitators



Yesha (pronounced eye-sha) Townsend is a Bermudian writer. She received her B.M. in music composition and an M.A. in creative writing at Goldsmiths, University of London. In Fall 2020, she began lecturing in the English Department at Bermuda College, teaching Freshman Composition and Studies in Bermudian and Caribbean Literature.

Her work has been published in The Bermudian Magazine, BerMemes, the Bermuda Anthology of Memoir & Creative Non-Fiction and Pou: Cave Hill Journal of Creative Writing. She has performed as a rapper, poet & prose writer; notably at TEDxBermuda 2015, the Women of the World Poetry Slam in Brooklyn, NY 2016 and LeroyFest 2015 & 2016. She's in a band called DONNA.

Her writing explores queerness through the lens of the black Caribbean experience. She writes of home, of hurricanes, of Bermudian history, mythology and folklore, and curates a space for others to do the same with her latest venture, a seasonal literary magazine called Still Vexed (stillvexed.com).



Kristin White has been a freelance writer and entrepreneur in Bermuda for almost 20 years. Her retail store Long Story Short. (longstoryshort.life) features gifts and books by Black and female authors and artisans. From here, she offers history tours that have been featured in Essence, Afar Magazine, Travel + Leisure, USA Today, and Coastal Living.

She is a founding member of Social Justice Bermuda, a newly formed collective inspired by the global Black Lives Matter movement and campaigning for radical reform. And, as a popular blogger (kristindotcom.com) and influencer, her posts on women's rights, racial inequality, Bermudian identity and community development are widely shared.

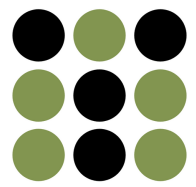
She won the Bermudian Magazine's Best of Bermuda Award for Best Blogger in 2018 and 2020. Her writing has been published in Destination Bermuda, Experience Bermuda, Bermuda Dot Com, Bermynet, The Royal Gazette, Elle Canada and the Toronto Star.

the programmes

Brackish Pond hosts workshops and lectures that are History, Literature and Craft focused. With the charge to foster aptitude and artistry, these sessions provide instruction, information and support in an effort to deepen understanding of our island's history and culture and to support the continuance of the Bermudian literary tradition. This prospectus also includes options for supplemental tours, events and creative projects that were designed to allow us to achieve goal.

Workshops

History | Literature | Culture



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

about

We explore the intersection of history, culture, race and gender with a Bermudian and Caribbean lens. This is an overview of our workshops, which are 1hr+ interactive presentations with both facilitators. These can be held in person or virtually. We encourage you to contact us if you require a bespoke course or lecture.

From Brackish Pond: Bermuda's Black History in Art + Literature

A workshop series about Bermuda's artistic tradition, with an exploration of work that focuses on race, history and culture. We will engage with literary and academic work by noted Black Bermudian writers and historians and discuss ways to deepen the dialogue about Bermudian cultural expression and history. Each session is 1-1.5 hrs and can be hosted as a standalone workshop or combined with others. Here are some sample topics:

The Gombey

Gombey has been a Bermudian art form and tradition for centuries. And while they are now an iconic and celebrated part of Bermudian culture, this was not always the case. In this session, we will explore the history of Gombey, and trace their journey from illegal activity to commercialised entertainment.

Mary Prince

"I was born at Brackish Pond." Thus begins the literary work by Bermudian author, Mary Prince. The History of Mary Prince is the first narrative to be published by a Black woman in Britain and holds incredible historic significance. This session will explore the importance of this work, and discuss how to ensure it is held in the highest regard.

Bermuda and the Caribbean

It's impossible to have a conversation about Bermuda culture without discussing our place in the Caribbean diaspora. This session will discuss the history of Caribbean people in Bermuda, the similarities and differences between our various nations, and how all of this impacts our cultural identity.

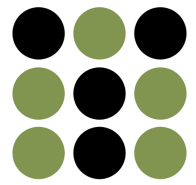
Civil Rights and Black Power in Bermuda

This workshop explores the civil rights movement in Bermuda, looking at the history of The Progressive Group and the Black Beret Cadre, and how they laid the foundation for today's social justice movements.

"to be free is very sweet." Mary Prince

Workshops

History | Literature | Culture



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

Tourism, Culture and How We See Ourselves

Bermuda has hosted visitors for centuries and this continues to shape who and what defines 'Bermuda culture'. By examining the writings of well-known visitors from the past, the parallel experiences of Bermudians, and the evolution of Bermuda's arts and culture, we will explore the way that this industry has impacted our identity. Throughout this 90 minute session, participants will be asked to reflect on the challenge of offering travellers authentic Bermudian experiences in a way that does not monopolise the conversation about culture.

Out of Print

For centuries, historians and authors have written about Bermuda history and culture. And while academic texts are still widely available, Bermudian literature (fiction and creative non-fiction) often goes out of print soon after publication. The work of some of our most celebrated authors is no longer available. How can we reverse this trend? To provide a foundation and historic context, this 2 hr session will first review work by Bermudian authors who wrote about the Black experience in Bermuda. We will also explore academic work by noted Black Bermudian historians and examine the history of Bermuda's literary tradition to dig deeper into some of the challenges.

Queerness through a Bermudian Lens

Identifying as some respect of queer as a person of the Caribbean diaspora is counter-culture existence. To identify as a member of the LGBTQ community in Bermuda is to subsist as a fringing of society which means specifically to have grown and matriculated in a community that straddles between outward homophobic malevolence and insidious deeply rooted and culturally-tied homophobia. This session is a focus on identity; by looking closely at the trajectory of homophobic ideology throughout the Caribbean diaspora, we understand the queer Bermudian experience as it grapples with cultural signifiers that appear in music, literature, politics, education, religion, and home spaces.

"to be free is very sweet." Mary Prince



about

Using prompts, reading materials and writing exercises, these workshops focus on the craft element of writing for those that want to develop their writing skills, with a goal of publishing, blogging, or incorporating more storytelling into your business or social media posts. These can be held in person or virtually.

Exploring Literature as a Means for Creative, Cultural and Critical Expression.

During this 3 hr workshop, we will highlight Bermudian literature and academic texts to explore history and culture in local and global context. This is an interactive session with writing prompts and guidance to encourage participants to further develop their creative writing skills.

Elements of Writing

Writing is a craft, a converging of language, phrasing, syntax, thought, and creativity. Highlighting structure and the implementation of craft elements, these courses focus on how to organize writing. Craft-driven writing allows you to not only produce writing that is exemplary and professional but provides an understanding of the importance of craft. Each session is 1 hr.

Plot

This workshop explores the aspect of the story. Investigating plot structures, devices, and styles in order to effectively carry storylines as designated by action, purpose and development.

Setting

This workshop looks at the space in which a story exists. It explores the types and elements of setting, including, environment, time, and imagination. We look at the various applications of setting in a story and how they work to support context, narrative, character and plot.

Character

This workshop looks at the segmentation and creation of character. Using analysis and observation as tools for characterization and character building, we probe the idea of personhood and self as a means to create and support story as it is driven by the character.

Form

Identifying and investigating the many styles that writing is presented in. Form is explored as a container for theme and writer intentions. Looking historically at familiar forms such as the short story, novel, poems - and diving deeper into the more experimental or challenging forms that compel great writing.

Literary Devices

Closely exploring the tools with which are enacted to exercise deftness and skill with language. Working to understand the usage of metaphor, foreshadowing, symbolism, allegory, and more in order construct works delved meaning and craftsmanship.

Lectures

History | Literature | Culture



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

about

We offer shorter lectures by one presenter that are 30-45 minutes long (including periods for Q&A). These sessions are ideal for staff lunch n' learns and community talks and have only one presenter. Some of our longer workshops can also be adapted into this format. These can be held in person or virtually.

Bermuda History

- Enslavement + Emancipation
- The History of Mary Prince
- Bermuda's Civil Rights Movement

Bermuda & Caribbean Literature

- Comprehensive History & Literary Trajectory
- Cultural Themes in our Literature
- Out of Print Texts & Literary Sustainability
- Post Colonial Identity in Caribbean Literature

Activism

- Misogynoir, 'Identity Politics' and the Combahee River Collective
- Art and Literature as Activism

Branding

- The Power of Storytelling
- Building a Social Justice Business Brand

Observances and Observations

- Heritage Month
- Bermuda National Heroes
- The History of Cup Match
- PRIDE

"rats bane and manchineel root"

Workshop + Lecture Fees



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

Workshops

These sessions are more interactive and include videos, slide presentations, worksheets, breakout sessions and/or downloadable materials. Two facilitators.

- 60 mins: \$2500
- 2 hrs: \$4500
- 3.5 hrs: \$8000

There may be additional fees for bespoke courses and resources.

Lectures

Talks followed by a Q&A. Some materials may be distributed. One facilitator.

- 30 mins (incl 5 min Q&A): \$1000
- 45 mins (incl 10 min Q&A): \$1500

Experiences

History | Literature | Culture



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

about

These experiences provide the opportunity to learn about Bermuda history, culture and literature outside the “classroom”. Prices below are starting points and the cost of any additional creative or logistical elements (eg food, transportation etc) may not be reflected.

History Tours with Long Story Short.

Brackish Pond’s co-founder Kristin White offers history tours through her company Long Story Short. These are suitable for up to 20 people. If your group is larger than 20, consider hosting the tours over a number of days/time slots or review ‘Rotating Activities’ below

St. George’s

- Visit Bermuda’s UNESCO World Heritage Site and learn about the history of this 400 year old town. There are a number of themes (General History, African Diaspora Heritage Trail, Art + Architecture, Family-Friendly) and tours can be done as walking or bicycle tours. For additional themes visit www.longstoryshort.life/tours.
 - Walking Tours (min 4 ppl; max 20 ppl)
 - \$50/90 minutes; \$65/2 hours
 - Groups of 5+ receive a 10% discount
 - Traditional Bicycle Tour (min 3 ppl; max 8 ppl)
 - \$75/2 hours
 - Groups of 5+ receive a 10% discount
 - Electric Bicycle Tours (min 3 ppl, max 10 ppl)
 - \$115/2.5 hours
 - in partnership with Pedego Bermuda, fee includes bicycle for an additional 90 minutes.

City of Hamilton

- In Bermuda’s capital, we will focus on sites along the African Diaspora Heritage Trail to hear stories of resistance. This is a walking tour.
 - Walking Tours
 - min 4 ppl; max 20 ppl
 - \$65/2 hours
 - Groups of 5+ receive a 10% discount

Island Bus Tours

- Visit multiple stops around the island during a 2 hour tour to explore one of the below themes:
 - “To be free” The History of Mary Prince
 - “Unmarked” Sites of Memory, Sites of Loss
 - Up to 20 ppl
 - \$75
 - Can also incorporate theatrical / immersive elements

Experiences

History | Literature | Culture



Expanded Activities

To expand on the tour experience, these activities are curated to include both workshop and tour content, plus partnerships with other cultural groups and creatives.

Rotating Activities

Split your large group into smaller teams of up to 20 ppl and have them rotate through a number of St. George's based activities.

- \$115 each for a 3 hour experience (2 groups rotating between 2 75-minute activities)
- \$175 each for a 4 hour experience (3 groups rotating between 3 75 minute activities).

Theatrical / Immersive Walking Tour

These tours incorporate readings, skits, games and other interactive activities to enhance the tour experience. These bespoke experiences are created in dialogue with the group once they determine a budget.

- From \$250+ per person

Large Event

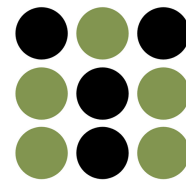
Town Fair

Let's take over the town! Every group member (with a bracelet identifying them!) can move as they wish around the town with a map and schedule to experience a number of activities highlighting the tour theme, including readings, live painting, music, skits, arts and crafts, circus arts. History story story-tellers would be stationed at sites, including some of the historic buildings, to ensure the afternoon is full of historic info. Round out the event by adding food stations, face-painting, giveaways, games and prizes!

- From \$15,000

Sponsorable Projects

History | Literature | Culture



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

about

Make an long-term impact on Bermuda's cultural landscape and create a legacy for your organisation by sponsoring an important creative project.

Queerness Through a Bermudian Lens: Episodic Documentary

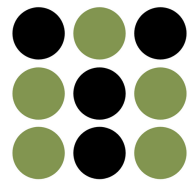
A documentary series exploring Bermuda's queer history timeline as it is informed by and influenced within the queer Caribbean experience. Each episode will look closely at a Bermudian queer event or person such as Ms. Sybil Barrington, or the first Bermuda Pride Parade, and interview key queer pioneers to disseminate the topic of queer identity and sustainability on island.

EPISODE EXAMPLE: Oopie Ming

This episode will cover the murder of Oopie Ming who was 22 in 1994 when he was stabbed to death by Winston Burgess after an argument ensued including homophobic slurs at a nightclub in St. George's. Exploring the origins of hate crimes drawing on cultural influences such as the then-recent hit of Buju Banton's "Boom Bye Bye," which was fueled with homophobic violence and imagery.

- \$20,000 per episode

Other Services



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

editing

Our editing services consist of the close editing and copy editing of professional literary work, Anything ranging from genre-based collections (poetry chapbooks, short stories, personal essays), to longform journalism, plays and experimental writing projects.

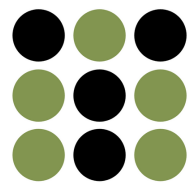
1-to-1

1-1 coaching is for the writer with a project or an idea of a project already in the works. The writer is then supported by Instructional mentorship and project development that can apply to anything from collating writing for a large-scale literary work. manuscript development and critique, or help with creating a book proposal. The 1-1 coaching is individual-based so mentorship will shift in quality due to each personal and professional objective. .

teacher training & resources

We offer specialised training in Bermuda history and literature to provide educators with support in designing and delivering curriculum. We also create bespoke booklets, worksheets and video resources.

Testimonials



Brackish Pond
LITERARY COLLECTIVE

"Hats off to Kristin and Yesha for this stellar Writer's Workshop!!! The frequency and the wide variety of daily prompts, forced outside of my comfort zone as a writer. Over this challenging, 4 week period, my writing has improved significantly. As facilitators, Kristin and Yesha are extremely knowledgeable, talented, and authentic.

The most valuable part for me were the individual feedback sessions. Their honest critiques, sound guidance, and genuine encouragement fueled my desire to improve my craft. Moreover, their passion with regard to writing about Bermuda—her culture and her people—inspired me to write more about the island home that I know.

I can't speak highly enough about this Writer's Workshop! I have grown tremendously from this experience...If you want to take your creative writing to the next level, sign up today! "

- KEILYN,
FICTION + CREATIVE
NONFICTION INTENSIVE

"This workshop/course is timely for me... I now have the words and literary devices to express how I feel. To be able wrap one concept with another. To be able give a clear and visceral expression is allowing me license say "fuck" when I mean it and say it like I mean it.

This course has also reignited my love of words, poems and stories. I am able to embellish my stories with color, texture, metaphors and personifications, deliberately.

Thank you."

- SHARON,
FICTION + CREATIVE
NONFICTION INTENSIVE

"Kristin and Yesha curated a bespoke educational series for RenRe highlighting key moments in Bermuda's history through the arts. It was a unique opportunity for our staff to learn more about our Island's culture in celebration of Black History Month. Their lectures were creative, insightful and well-received, and we look forward to working with them again in the future. We recommend Kristin and Yesha for any organization looking for a fresh perspective on Bermuda's history and culture."

- RENRE

"I joined the session this morning and I'd just like to thank Yesha and Kristin for such an informative and moving workshop; I learnt so much and I found it illuminating to hear about such a dark side of Bermuda's history. I think these sessions are great as we can never forget the past!"

- ROSY,
PARTICIPANT IN RENRE
HISTORY WORKSHOP SERIES

"The gifts that these two powerhouses possess is priceless. With so many taking pride in their nationality, this is the time to explore all that Bermuda has to offer, and this class is one of those adventures!

The course was packed with sample pieces from other Bermudian authors, some of which I knew, and others I would meet for the first time via their pieces. My previous exposure to writing was irrelevant, as I felt like I was being introduced to prose for the first time.

Like Eve, my eyes were opened. I was left full of inspiration to: encourage my students to write their own Bermudian narratives, look at my own childhood experiences differently, and capture them in print as a type of heirloom to pass onto my children."

- RUTH
BPSS TEACHER,
BERMUDA UNION OF
TEACHERS TRAINING