

# International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles

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*Contact IBWALA*  
323.964.3721  
[info@ibwala.org](mailto:info@ibwala.org)

## International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles

International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles is a 501 (c) 3 grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, motivating, educating and inspiring artists, writers and performers.

The likes of Terry McMillan, Eric Jerome Dickey, Octavia Butler and many more have been influenced by and have influenced others within the organization.

Founded in Los Angeles in 1974 by Mrs. Edna Crutchfield and other black writers, IBWALA is a network of authors, publishers, visual artists, educators and community members dedicated to making sure our writers and artists are published, read, seen, and heard. We provide workshops and conferences designed to improve skills, knowledge, and career opportunities for artists of all media.

Our organization has also published books including poetry anthologies, "76th & San Pedro" (1976), River Crossings (1988) and "Griots Beneath the Baobab" (2002).

IBWALA is devoted to fulfilling the need for information, resources and services locally and abroad to those who value the unique contributions of writers and artists among the diaspora. Our vision is to expose and recognize writers and artists of color to ensure we are sought as a viable pool of talent -- nationally and internationally.

IBWALA has a consistent source of information and resources as well as providing cultural outlets, scholarships, publishing opportunities and more.

IBWALA celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year.

P.O. Box 43576 Los Angeles, CA 90043  
[www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org)

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**Contact: Zerline Jennings**  
Phone 617.596.6958  
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Los Angeles, CA 90043  
[www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org)  
info@ibwala.org

# Press Release

## **Grassroots nonprofit celebrates 30 years in Greater Los Angeles community**

International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles hosts anniversary event August 12-14, 2004

**Los Angeles, CA, June 26, 2004 : New York Times Bestseller Eric Jerome Dickey, Broadcast personality Tavis Smiley and L.A. Weekly writer Erin Aubry** will gather August 12 – 14 to discuss the future of black organizations for readers, writers, artists, educators and activists during the International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and Workshops.

Held at the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) located at 3980 Menlo Avenue (near Vermont and Martin Luther King Blvd.), the gathering will feature book signings, discussions, workshops, vendors and a closing semi-formal awards dinner and dance banquet honoring Danny Bakewell for his recent acquisition of the *Los Angeles Sentinel* hosted by 94.7 FM The Wave's Pat Prescott.

The conference and workshops will include a panel of non-fiction writers, screenwriters, and will feature a free youth poetry workshop led by "Poetri" from HBO's Def Poetry Jam and Broadway tour and book signing by actress and author T'keyah Crystal Keymah ("In Living Color" and "Cosby").

General admission is free and open to the public which includes the book and health and wellness pavilion, but pre-registration is required. Paid admission to the event includes the Friday night poetry slam, also hosted and featuring "Poetri," Saturday morning continental breakfast, workshops and discussions, and the awards dinner and dance. Admission can be purchased a la carte, or all at once.

IBWALA has been in the community for three decades sponsoring free writers and artists workshops, awarding UCLA Extension scholarships to bone up on skills and has helped birth novelists like Eric Jerome Dickey, screenwriters including Donald Bakeer ("South Central") and has received strong support and mentorship from master's including sci-fi writer and "Genius Award" winner, Octavia Butler ("Parable of the Sower").

For more information or to register, go to [www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org), or email [conference@ibwala.org](mailto:conference@ibwala.org). You can also call (323) 964.3721.

###

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# Press Release

## ***New York Times* bestseller to sign books and lead writers workshop**

Eric Jerome Dickey, who releases his 11th novel "Drive Me Crazy" this month, will share the secret to his success

**Los Angeles, CA, June 26, 2004: Eric Jerome Dickey, former Crenshaw resident, comedian, substitute teacher and now veteran novelist will share the ups and downs of becoming a successful writer during the International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and Workshops August 12-14, 2004.**

Dickey, who releases "Drive Me Crazy" July 20 will sign copies of his novel and participate on a panel featuring publisher/writer Hazel Harrison on the tricks and tools of maintaining a successful writing career under harsh deadlines and publisher's guidelines.

In the late 80s, Dickey was awarded a scholarship by IBWALA to attend UCLA Extension writing courses and soon after wrote his first screenplay "Cappuccino," followed by his first novel, "Sister, Sister." Dickey, also a member of IBWALA, has lent his expertise on several other books including, "Griots Beneath the Baobab: Tales from L.A." which was published by IBWALA in 2002.

IBWALA has been in the community for three decades sponsoring free writers and artists workshops, awarding UCLA Extension scholarships to bone up on skills and has helped birth novelists like Eric Jerome Dickey, screenwriters including Donald Bakeer ("South Central") and has received strong support and mentorship from master's including sci-fi writer and "Genius Award" winner, Octavia Butler ("Parable of the Sower").

In addition to Dickey's workshop, the three-day conference and workshops will also feature:

The conference and workshops will feature:

- *Non-fiction, screenwriting and publishing workshops*
- *Poetry slam hosted by and featuring "Poetri" from HBO's Def Poetry Jam*
- *Free youth poetry workshop led by "Poetri"*

*more*

- *Health and Wellness pavilion featuring massages, treatments for writers and artists*
- *Book signings featuring T'keyah Crystal Keymah ("In Living Color," "Cosby," and "That's so Raven")*
- *Semi-formal awards dinner dance emceed by 94.7 the Wave's Pat Prescott and the Crenshaw High School Jazz Band led by Al Tarver*
- *Regional vendors featuring African-themed art, clothing and books*

The conference will take place at the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center at 3980 Menlo Avenue in Los Angeles near Vermont and Martin Luther King. Pre-registration is required for fee and no-fee events. Log onto [www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org) to register or for more information. Or call 323.964.3721.

##

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randy Ross, President IBWALA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:randy44ross@aol.com">randy44ross@aol.com</a></li> <li>○ 213-446-2616</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda A. Hughes, Conference co-planner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:lahughes@ibwala.org">lahughes@ibwala.org</a></li> <li>○ 323-314-1772 or 661-285-0042</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Jerome Dickey, author, IBWALA member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upon request or Publicist Betsy Dejesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 212-366-2000</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T'keyah Crystal Keymah, actress, author <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Publicist Claudio Dellano <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="mailto:Claudiadellano@yahoo.com">Claudiadellano@yahoo.com</a></li> <li>▪ 818-908-5309</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erin Aubry Kaplan, L.A. <i>Weekly</i> writer and IBWALA board member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:EKaplan@laweekly.com">EKaplan@laweekly.com</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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# Press Release

## **Los Angeles Olympic Swimming Stadium to be the site of anniversary event for writers/artists during its own anniversary year**

The new Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center welcomes black writers and artists group in August

**Los Angeles, CA, June 26, 2004: Twenty years ago, Los Angeles hosted the XXIII Olympiad in South Los Angeles. It was at the Los Angeles Coliseum and Swimming Stadium where the world saw international athletes convene for a chance to be taken seriously at their craft.**

That very swim stadium now comprises newly remodeled Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) where a different group will convene to discuss *their* craft – the arts. Sharing its anniversary year, the EPICC will host the International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and Workshops August 12-14, featuring a poetry slam, writing and arts workshops for adults and youth, book signings and an awards dinner dance hosted by 94.7 the Wave's Pat Prescott.

General admission is free and open to the public which includes the book and health and wellness pavilion, but pre-registration is required. Paid admission to the event includes the Friday night poetry slam, also hosted and featuring "Poetri," Saturday morning continental breakfast, workshops and discussions, and the awards dinner and dance. Admission can be purchased a la carte, or all at once.

IBWALA has been in the community for three decades sponsoring free writers and artists workshops, awarding UCLA Extension scholarships to bone up on skills and has helped birth novelists like Eric Jerome Dickey, screenwriters including Donald Bakeer ("South Central") and has received strong support and mentorship from master's including sci-fi writer and "Genius Award" winner, Octavia Butler ("Parable of the Sower").

The conference and workshops will feature:

- *Non-fiction, screenwriting and publishing workshops*
- *Poetry slam hosted by and featuring "Poetri" from HBO's Def Poetry Jam*
- *Free youth poetry workshop led by "Poetri"*

- more -

- *Health and Wellness pavilion featuring massages, treatments for writers and artists*
- *Book signings featuring New York Times Bestseller Eric Jerome Dickey and T'keyah Crystal Keymah ("In Living Color," "Cosby," and "That's so Raven")*
- *Semi-formal awards dinner dance emceed by 94.7 the Wave's Pat Prescott and the Crenshaw High School Jazz Band led by Al Tarver*
- *Regional vendors featuring African-themed art, clothing and books*

The EPICC is located at 3980 Menlo Avenue between Vermont and Martin Luther King. Pre-registration is required for fee and no-fee events. Log onto [www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org) to register or for more information. Or call 323.964.3721.

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\*Some participants and organizers are available for interviews.

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## CONFERENCE 2004

"Where we were, where we are,  
and where we are headed:  
Is there still a need for Black-oriented organizations  
in the 21st century?"

Thursday through Saturday August 12-14, 2004 at the  
Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center  
(EPICC) in Los Angeles, CA.

Featuring a panel with *New York Times* Bestselling author and  
IBWALA member,  
Eric Jerome Dickey



Awards dinner and dancing  
banquet emceed by  
Pat Prescott, morning deejay for  
Southern California's Smooth  
Jazz, 94.7 the Wave



An opening night poetry slam  
hosted by  
"Poetri" from the Tony Award-  
winning  
Def Poetry Jam



Special *Tavis Smiley Talks from  
NPR* (National Public Radio)  
taping hosted by  
Tavis Smiley featuring a panel of  
nationally known authors



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Thursday PM Event

Thurs, Aug. 12, 7pm — 8pm (Doors open at 6pm) **Tavis Smiley** interviews renowned authors. Topic: Are Black oriented organizations still necessary in the 21st century? Community Hall

### Friday PM Event

Fri., Aug. 13, 6pm-8pm—(Doors open at 5:30) **Spoken Word Slam** (Finals) with guest host-performer **Poetri**. Amphitheater

### Saturday AM Sessions

Sat, Aug. 14—(Doors open at 9am) Coffee, Fruit & Danish (Please see workshop / seminar schedule at right)

Saturday, Aug. 14, 9:30 am — A **Publisher's Roundtable** features the once mysterious but still tricky world of getting published and *sold*—featuring **Dr. Rosie Milligan**, **Maxine Thompson** of Black Butterfly Press, **Denise Pines** of the Smiley Group, and a mainstream publisher such as Simon & Schuster.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 11 am — **Journalism, Nonfiction & Crossover Markets** will be presented by *LA Times* writer **Gayle Pollard-Terry**, *LA Weekly's* **Erin Aubry Kaplan**, and Washington, DC author **Brandi Forte**.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 12:30pm-1:30pm — **Lunch & Informal Networking** Special interest groups will form and meet on one of the patios.

### Saturday PM Sessions

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1:15 pm — **Other Voices in Fiction: Mastering Story** with screenwriter **Craig Ross** and **others** is the place to be if you long to tell your story on the big or small screen.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1:15 pm — **Success Stories**. "How badly do you want a career as a writer?" What are the sacrifices? And the rewards? Hear Pulitzer Prize winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** (invited), author/poet **Hazel Clayton Harrison** and *NY Times* bestseller **Eric Jerome Dickey** share insights into their crafts.

### Saturday Night Event

Saturday, Aug. 14, 7:30 pm — Semi-formal Awards Dinner Dance with hostess **Pat Prescott** from 94.7 The Wave and surprise celebrity keynote on "Where we are headed."

Don't see a workshop you'd be interested in? Write to us and let us know what you'd like to see at Conference '04.

There's still time to find another presenter or subject, we just need your feedback and suggestions.

Write us at: [suggestions@ibwala.org](mailto:suggestions@ibwala.org).



## Event Location and History



*L.A. Swimming Stadium before and after August '02 renovations*

The EPICC Center will be the site location for the International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles 30th Anniversary Conference & Workshops. Completed a year ago, this new pillar in the community has changed South Los Angeles, also known as District Eight (Councilmember Bernard C. Parks). Community members of all ages flock to this multi-million dollar renovated recreation center for computer courses, art classes, meetings, physical fitness, exhibitions and festivals.

Located at 3980 South Menlo Avenue in Los Angeles' Figueroa St. Corridor, the center is located in the complex adjacent to the University of Southern California, the California Science Center, the Natural History Museum, the California African American Museum, the beautiful Rose Garden and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Sports Arena which are EPICC's property.

The \$30 million renovation included revamping the 1932 Olympic Swim Stadium, and remodeling the Spanish Colonial Revival Exposition Club House into a senior center. The now 80,000 square foot recreation center is the largest recreational facility in the City of Los Angeles.

Not only is this year IBWALA's anniversary, but this summer also marks the 20th anniversary of the Los Angeles Olympic Games at this very location. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

IBWALA will make use of the center's Senior Complex, including the patio and the adjacent garden and amphitheatre. We will also host a portion of the conference and workshops in the Olympic Swim Stadium building including the Community Hall and several multi-purpose rooms.



*Exposition Club House Before*



*Exposition Club House/Ahmanson Senior Center After*

# IBWALA's 30th



• Workshops, Seminars & a Panel moderated by Tavis Smiley



• Spoken hosted Jam's Word Slam by Def Poetry own "POETRI"

• Youth Workshops

• Lunch Hour Discussion Groups

• Health & Wellbeing Pavilion featuring massage, art therapy and more!

• Book Pavilion & Reading Rooms featuring NY Times Bestseller Eric Jerome Dickey and others



• Semi-formal Awards Dinner Dance with hostess Pat Prescott from 94.7 The Wave



August 12 - 14, 2004

Free General Admission  
Registration Required

International Black Writers  
& Artists Los Angeles  
Post Office Box 43576  
Los Angeles, CA 90043

## The 30th Anniversary Conference

The 30th Anniversary  
Conference

# International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles Presents

Where we were,  
where we are, &  
where we're  
headed:

Are Black oriented  
organizations still  
necessary in the 21st  
century?

### At the EPIC Center

3980 S. Menlo Ave near Vermont &  
MLK Jr Blvd in Los Angeles

Sponsored in part by

Milligan Books & The Smiley Group

# IBWALA's 30th Anniversary Conference

Readers, writers, artists, educators, students and activists will find entertainment, inspiration, information and resources at this special event—the general public is invited to help us celebrate 30 years in the LA arts community!

Thursday, be part of a “live studio audience” as TV and radio personality **Tavis Smiley** interviews authors and artists of renown for broadcast on National Public Radio.

Friday evening compete for **Prizes** (finals), or bring your lawn chair and just enjoy the **Spoken Word Slam** in the outdoor amphitheater, emceed by HBO Def Poetry Jam’s **Poetri**. Bring the young ones to his **Readin,’ Writin’ & Rap Workshop** on Saturday, too! **Pre-conference Spoken-Word Talent Search Playoffs at the Slam** (to sign-up email [info@ibwala.org](mailto:info@ibwala.org))

Saturday is highlighted by **Workshops**, a **Wellness Pavilion**, **Reading Rooms** where authors will sign their books throughout the day, a **Book Pavilion** offering trade publications & more.

Saturday night, dress up, step-out and groove to the stylings of a jazz orchestra during the **Semi-formal Awards Dinner Dance**, hosted by **94.7 the Wave’s Pat Prescott**.

*It’s a Celebration!*

Program subject to change without notice. Check our website for updates & additions at [www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org)

## GENERAL SCHEDULE

Thurs, Aug. 12, 7pm—8pm (Doors open at 6pm) **Tavis Smiley interviews** renowned authors. Topic: Are Black oriented organizations still necessary in the 21st century? Community Hall

Fri., Aug. 13, 6pm-8pm—(Doors open at 5:30) **Spoken Word Slam** (Finals) with guest host-performer **Poetri**. Amphitheater

Sat, Aug. 14—(Doors open at 9am) Coffee, Fruit & Danish (Please see detailed workshop / seminar schedule at right)

### AM Sessions

**A Publisher’s Roundtable** features the once mysterious but still tricky world of getting published and sold—featuring **Dr. Rosie Milligan** (Milligan Books/Black Writers on Tour), **Maxine Thompson** (Black Butterfly Press), **Denise Pines** (The Smiley Group), and a mainstream publisher such as Simon & Schuster.

**Journalism, Nonfiction & Crossover Markets** LA Times writer **Gayle Pollard-Terry**, LA Weekly’s **Erin Aubry Kaplan**, and Washington, DC author **Brandi Forte** discuss the excitement and versatility of writing for newsrooms, magazines, books and entrepreneurship.

### PM Sessions

12:30pm-1:30pm—**Lunch & Informal Networking**  
Special interest groups form and meet on the patios.

**Other Voices in Fiction: Mastering Story** with director/screenwriter **Craig Ross** (Cappuccino): For those who long to tell their stories on the big or small screen.

**Success Stories** What is success? How do you know when you’ve achieved it? Hear author/ poet/educator **Hazel Clayton Harrison** and NY Times bestseller **Eric Jerome Dickey** share insights into the sacrifices and the rewards of a writer’s career.

PRE-REGISTRATION Fee & No-fee reg req	Time	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>General Admission Only</b> —Reading Room, Wellness & Book Pavilions, Vendors & Exhibitors	9:30am-4:30	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friday Slam</b>	6:00—8:00	\$ 5
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Memory to Memoir *</b>	9:30-12:30	\$95 / \$75 Member
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Publishers’ Roundtable</b>	9:30-11:00	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Crossover Markets / Nonfiction</b>	11:00-12:30	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Box Lunch &amp; Bev</b>	12:30—1:30	\$ 7
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Writing the Other/Bridging Cultures *</b>	1:00—4:00	\$95 / \$75 Member
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other Voices/Screenwriting</b>	1:30—3:00	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Success Stories / Fiction</b>	3:00—4:00	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Awards Dinner Dance</b>	7:00—9:00	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Youth Workshop / Readin,’ Writin’ &amp; Rap</b>	12:00-2:00	FREE

\* Class size for these sessions will be small to allow individual attention to each participant’s writing; please register early.

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

- Check  
 Cash (do not mail cash)  
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Are you a(n)

Reader \_\_\_\_\_  
 Writer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Artist \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Other \_\_\_\_\_

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 Senior Citizen \_\_\_\_\_  
 (10% off Total w/ ID)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Post Deadline is July 31, 2004

## The 30th Anniversary Conference

**International Black Writers  
& Artists Los Angeles**  
 Post Office Box 43576  
 Los Angeles, CA 90043

Questions? Go online to  
[www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org) or  
 E-mail: [conference@ibwala.org](mailto:conference@ibwala.org)  
 If all else fails, call 323.964.3721

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GALORE!**

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Web site: [www.ibwala.org](http://www.ibwala.org)

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International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles

To:

International Black Writers & Artists  
Los Angeles

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[WWW.IBWALA.ORG](http://WWW.IBWALA.ORG)

# International Black Writers & Artists Los Angeles

**INTERNATIONAL BLACK WRITERS & ARTISTS LOS ANGELES IS A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO, SINCE 1974, HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO MAKING SURE OUR WRITERS AND ARTISTS ARE READ, SEEN, HEARD AND PUBLISHED.**

## WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEER ENTHUSIASTS, EDUCATORS, ASPIRING AND ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORS AND ARTISTS, AND PEOPLE WHO VALUE, APPRECIATE OR ARE INSPIRED BY THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND HISTORY ATTRIBUTED TO THE BLACK DIASPORA OR "THE BLACK EXPERIENCE."

## WHAT WE DO

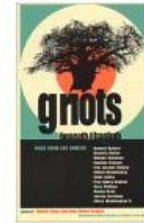
IBWALA PRODUCES FREE OR AFFORDABLE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIUMS AND CONFERENCES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAREER PATHS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EXPOSED TO SUCH RESOURCES.

WE PROVIDE ACCESS TO VISUAL, LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS, BROADENING OUR AUDIENCES AND BROADENING PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK EXPERIENCE.

WE PROVIDE MENTORING, SPEAKERS, EVENTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO MOTIVATE YOUTH AND ADULTS TO PURSUE LEARNING, LITERACY AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.



ANTHOLOGIES WE'VE PUBLISHED INCLUDE *A BLACK VIEW OF THE BICENTENNIAL* (1976); *76TH & SAN PEDRO* (1984); *RIVER CROSSINGS: VOICES OF THE DIASPORA* (1994); AND *GRIOTS BENEATH THE BAOBAB: TALES FROM LOS ANGELES* (2002).



OTHER ACTIVITIES OF IBWALA HAVE INCLUDED SPONSORING WRITING AND ART COMPETITIONS, CURATING AND EXHIBITING ART SHOWS, PRODUCING AND STAGING SPOKEN WORD FESTIVALS, ORGANIZING THEATER PARTIES, AND CREATING OTHER VENUES FOR INTEGRATED OR COOPERATIVE PRODUCTIONS AND PERFORMANCES (INVOLVING WRITERS, VISUAL ARTISTS, SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, DANCERS, CRAFT PERSONS, ETC.)