



***Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.***  
***Zeta Beta Zeta Chapter***  
***Flint Zeta Foundation***  
***P.O. Box 1187 - Main Station Flint, MI 48501***

**For Immediate Release:**

**Flint Virtual Poetry Gallery to Launch with Harlem Renaissance Voices**

**Organization: Zeta Beta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.**

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**Zeta Foundation and Zeta Beta Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated along with Semaj Brown, Flint's first Poet Laureate** launch the unveiling of Flint Reads Poetry. This **Virtual Poetry Gallery** will feature poetry voices of Flint poetry readings from the Harlem Renaissance era showcased via **Zoom on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 7:30 pm.** registration is available via Event Brite. This event [Flint Reads Poetry/Poetry Voices of Flint HARLEM RENAISSANCE](#) **FREE** and open to the public. Limited spots available.

**Flint's First Poet Laureate Semaj Brown is the recipient of the Academy of American Poet Laureates Fellowship 2021.** This award will assist with Brown's civic programming, Poetry as a Second Language which is an initiative of her Poetry Pod Project (P3) designed with the literacy needs of her Flint community in mind.

**The Flint Reads Poetry/ Poetry Voices Virtual Poetry Gallery** allows for a myriad of different types of poetry to occupy the poetry space. According to Semaj Brown,

“We will listen for the voice of poetry in verse and conversation, or in song. When we listen for poetry, we will discover poetry is hiding in unexpected places. The Poetry Gallery engages poetry as sound art by introducing skills of active listening.”

This virtual Zoom happening will be implemented with assistance from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Zeta Beta Zeta. Members will present recorded poems from the Harlem Renaissance.

Poetry readers have created videos that will be showcased that night and throughout the year contributing to and expanding the poetry listening list, a catalog of videos poems to be utilized by schools, students, after school programming, churches, institutions, and the community at large.

Poet Laureate Semaj Brown will curate the evening, cohosting with Karen Utsey, President of the local chapter of the Zeta organization, contextualizing the inaugural grouping. **FREE, Thursday October 28th at 7:30 pm. The community may register through Event Brite [Flint Reads Poetry/Poetry Voices of Flint HARLEM RENAISSANCE](#)**

### **About The Harlem Renaissance**

In the 1920's, creative and intellectual life flourished within African American communities in the North and Midwest regions of the United States, but nowhere more so than in Harlem. The New York City neighborhood, encompassing only three square miles, teemed with black artists, intellectuals, writers, and musicians. Black-owned businesses, from newspapers, publishing houses, and music companies to nightclubs, cabarets, and theaters, helped fuel the neighborhood's thriving scene. Some of the era's most important literary and artistic figures migrated to or passed through "the Negro capital of the world," helping to define a period in which African American artists reclaimed their identity and racial pride in defiance of widespread prejudice and discrimination.

The origins of the Harlem Renaissance lie in the Great Migration of the early 20th century, when hundreds of thousands of black people migrated from the South into dense urban areas that offered relatively more economic opportunities and cultural capital.

-Poetry Foundation

### **About Zeta Foundation, Zeta Beta Zeta and Zeta Phi Bet Sorority, Inc.**

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded January 16, 1920, Zeta began as an idea conceived by five coeds at Howard University in Washington D.C. The purpose of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is **to foster the ideas of service, charity, scholarship, civil and cultural endeavors, sisterhood and finer womanhood**

### **About Flint's First Poet Laureate, Semaj Brown**

[Semaj Brown](#) is Flint's first Poet Laureate, and the recipient of the 2021 Poet Laureate

Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets. She is the author of the poetry, prose memoir, *Bleeding Fire! Tap the Eternal Spring of Regenerative Light* (Broadside Lotus Press/Health Collectors LLC, 2019).

In addition to being a poet, Brown is a playwright, Thought Leader, university lecturer, and K–12 curriculum builder/facilitator whose work is an amalgam of the arts and sciences. Brown has developed the interdisciplinary, integrated on-line platform, The Poetry Pod Project (P3), which will utilize Brown's pedagogy, coined TiSiWiDi (Think it, Say it, Write/Work it, Do it), to integrate music, visual art, performance, and games and science to enhance literacy and the appreciation of poetry. P3 launches the inter-genre seminar, Poetry Letters: Poetry as a 2nd Language, Fall of 2021 along with community partners The Zeta Foundation, Zeta Beta Zeta of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The Virtual Poetry Gallery is part of this innovative programming. Additional P3 programming: Poetry Paints, Poetry Pen Pals, and Poetry in the Garden.

Sincerely,



Renea Rubin

President

Flint Zeta Foundation