

**For Immediate Release:  
FLINT, MI---**

*"...Brown's keynote address was a vision. It was one of what education could be-and should be-in a just world that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive. She fused science, art, storytelling, and language into a tapestry for everyone in that room to discover. I think this is what led to her standing ovation: the perfectly articulated, intentional way that Semaj connected with every educator in the space in such a small-time frame..."*

*– Carrie Mattern, President-Elect of MCTE, Michigan Council of Teachers of English,  
Flint Courier News*

Fall of 2022, Semaj Brown, Poet Laureate of Flint, Michigan/Academy of American Poets Laureate fellow of 2021 delivered her Keynote lunch speech, "**PSL, Poetry as a Second Language: The Semajian Method**" to MCTE for their Centennial Conference in Lansing, Michigan. That afternoon also launched Brown's multi-media youth platform, "**Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice, BDCV, an outgrowth of PSL: The Semajian Method.** BDCV is an intergenerational, futuristic platform, fostering emotional intelligence, utilizing "Applied Poetry "as an integrative technology. The platform **amplifies literacy capacity**, improves **skill-based learning**, and heightens **critical thinking** and **cognitive expansion** across disparate disciplines of science and art.

According to research, **the pandemic deepened inequities in literacy rates**. Students at lower-achieving schools fell further behind, potentially widening the pre-existing achievement gap between rich and poor. The COVID pandemic with its isolation and virtual teaching, exacerbated the problem of children not reading on grade level. The problem of young people reading well below their grade level increases exponentially when they attend high-poverty schools.

**Semaj Brown States:**

".....Words are the building blocks of language, just as cells are the building blocks of the living. Each word is a world, teeming with synonyms, antonyms, histories, and mysteries, a universe of narratives to be explored. The Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice platform establishes a new way of thinking in education..."

News about Semaj Brown's new platform quickly spread across the state of Michigan, with multiple teachers asking to initiate Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice. Within a week, Brown was peppered with additional requests from Colorado, California, and Togo West Africa. It is official, the multimedia platform based upon a poem is now international.

On March 18, 2023, at The Flint Public Library, students from Togo West Africa video presentations will be featured along with youth presentations from Peckham Career Academy (High schoolers), and Holmes STEM Middle School Academy (6th graders), during a community wide Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice workshop.

With the immediate success of Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice, Brown is seeking corporate support, and funding for this innovative platform. To learn more about this new innovative tool, Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice click link below:

[https://issuu.com/1pflint/docs/colored\\_final\\_booklet\\_blackdandelion\\_mcte\\_color](https://issuu.com/1pflint/docs/colored_final_booklet_blackdandelion_mcte_color)

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**About Semaj Brown:** She is Flint, Michigan's inaugural Poet Laureate and the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship Award, 2021. She is also an award-winning educator and author of the book, "Bleeding Fire! Tap the Eternal Spring of Regenerative Light." An excerpted recording is highlighted in the national AT&T Dream in Black Afro Futures Afrofuturistic TV commercial. "Black Dandelion" functions as a universal language resonating with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds first exemplified by the Academy of American Poets, Dear Poet Project: <https://poets.org/dear-semaj-brown-2022>.

March 18, 2023, Flint Public Library invites Semaj Brown to present a community workshop, Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice in celebration of Women's History Month, age 13 and up, women centered, perfect for the entire family, an intergenerational afternoon.

April - July 2023, Semaj Brown brings PSL, Poetry as a Second Language: The Semajian Method to The Flint Institute of Arts as a Visiting Artist Educator, teaching Courses in Ekphrastic Writing, writing inspired by art.

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