



March 21, 2025

Dear Esteemed CLA Colleagues,

We are excited to welcome you to our 83<sup>rd</sup> CLA Convention, “Redefining Expansion and Exploration: Black Diasporic Literatures, Cultures, and Pedagogies,” April 23-26, 2025 in **Vancouver, Washington!** This historic convention has brought you, our beloved members, “out west” to our first Convention in the Pacific Northwest region. Beginning with a ticketed reception on our 87th Founder’s Day, we know you will enjoy engaging member panels and presentations, curated professional development and wellness activities, and our first CLA Convention Film Series. We also welcome our Banquet’s Keynote Speaker, distinguished poet and author of 4 books, Camille T. Dungy.

Along with our Host Committee based at Washington State University (Vancouver and Pullman Campuses), as well as Seattle University and other local institutions, the CLA Program Committee and Membership Engagement team have worked diligently since we met in Memphis in 2024 to curate an experience that all will enjoy. Again, you responded to this year’s theme with thoughtful scholarship, diasporic engagement and creative work, along with plans to screen and discuss films and to gather in wellness and reflection spaces.

On Wednesday, April 23 we celebrate our 87th Founder’s Day with “An Evening Among the Stars” Reception. Also note the World Languages Presents lecture by Dr. Clement Akassi and the screening of several films throughout the Convention in our first CLA Film Series, with accompanying dialogues to follow selected screenings. Following our Thursday Welcome Reception by our Host Institutions, we will remember beloved members and authors at our “Remembering Our Mothers’ Gardens” Tea on Friday and as always, our Friday night Keynote Banquet and “Bad and Boujee”-themed Presidential Afterparty will keep you on your feet (and with your shoes *or* boots “on the ground”)! We close with a Wellness Moment on Saturday morning, more panels and a Film Series Finale on Saturday afternoon. We are sincerely looking forward to welcoming you to Vancouver to share in the love of CLA!

Sincerely,

Janaka B. Lewis, Ph.D.

Vice President, College Language Association

2025 Convention Program Chair

[vicepresident@clascholars.org](mailto:vicepresident@clascholars.org)