

# Those who were there, know:

"...life-affirming."  
—Darice Clark, Berkeley, CA

"...was the only place in my life's experience where I have been able to be embraced and loved because I am a black lesbian activist/writer, rather than in spite of it."  
—e.nina.jay, poet Chicago, IL

"...absolutely necessary to Black Arts, black scholarship and to America."  
—Dr. Vincent Woodard, assistant professor, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

"...pen to paper for African-American writers uncertain of the larger gay and lesbian writing community's commitment to them."  
—Shawn Stewart Ruff, editor, *Go the Way Your Blood Beats*, New York, NY

"...a family reunion. It isn't just an affirmation of our existence and life work but a confirmation."  
—James Earl Hardy, author, *B-Boy Blues* series, New York, NY

"...gave me the confidence as a writer to believe that I could truly achieve any goal."  
—Brent Dorian Carpenter, author, Detroit, MI

"...a defining moment in my writing career."  
—T'ai Freedom Ford, performance poet, fiction writer, New York, NY

"...of all the literary conferences I've attended, Fire & Ink is at the top of the list in impact on my life as a writer... It should never be missed."  
—Dr. A. Wendell Blair, author, *The End of Innocence: A Journey Into the Life* New York, NY

"...an amazing and historic conference. Please, let's keep it alive for future generations."  
—Mattie Udora Richardson, Ph.D. candidate, University of California-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

"...beholding a tribe of writers, poets, activists and artists was a high like none I had ever experienced."  
—Sanford E. Gaylord, co-founding member of A Real Read, Chicago's African American LGBT Performance Ensemble, Chicago, IL

"...an amazing experience that inspired me to complete my first novel."  
—Jennifer Argle, author, Oakland, CA

"...made it clear to me that now is the time to build our own institutions and get our work—poems, stories, plays and novels—into the hands of those who will appreciate it."  
—Bruce Morrow, associate director, Teachers & Writers Collaborative, New York, NY

"...an exhilarating moment in our history as Americans, people of color and gays and lesbians."  
—Sterling Houston, artistic director, Jump-Start Performance Company, San Antonio, TX

"...one of the few critical spaces where writers, critics, and publishers interested in literature by LGBT persons of African descent can come together to have dialogue about the state of literary culture, important issues in the African American community addressed in that literature, and to chart new political and aesthetic directions."  
—Dr. D. A. McBride, chair of African American Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

"...the contacts I made there with writers have proved to be invaluable"  
—Matais Pouncil, bookseller, Matais Books Cards & Art, Long Beach, CA

"...renewed my spirit."  
—Djola Branner, theater artist, co-founder of Pomo Afro Homos Minneapolis, MN

"...a never-before-seen gathering of talent, voice, and vision."  
—Gwendolyn Bikis, author, *Your Loving Arms* and *Cleo's Gone*, Oakland, CA



A WRITERS FESTIVAL FOR GLBT PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

*A major event like Fire & Ink can only take place if there are human and financial resources adequate to the task. Your donation to this important cultural event is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

- YES!** I want to make sure the next Fire & Ink Writer's event takes place!  
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