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Local author Kathy Wilson named as Library Foundation's new Writer-in-Residence



Kathy Wilson is no stranger to the public library. She first felt the desire to write at age 5, wandering the stacks of her neighborhood library. “I knew the alphabet, and I would stand up in those stacks and try and figure out where Wilson would go,” she says. “I knew where the Ws were, and I would imagine where my book would be. The Library is the great equalizer of this community. I am so honored to represent this institution.”

Wilson’s dream is now a reality. A published author, poet, teacher and columnist, Wilson was named as the first Writer-in-Residence for the Library Foundation of Cincinnati and Hamilton County during an event on Wednesday, Sept. 24. Wilson will serve in this position through November and will earn a \$10,000 stipend. She will conduct a writer’s workshop, speak at four community events and participate in Library promotions during her residency. The Writer-in-Residence program is possible through the

generous support of Naomi Tucker Gerwin.

Wilson describes herself as “a multi-hyphenated black nerd.” Born in Hamilton, Ohio, Wilson is the author of the book *Your Negro Tour Guide*, adapted from her *CityBeat* column of the same name and published in 2004. The book became a one-woman multimedia monologue for the stage and has been performed in New York City, on college campuses in Georgia, Kentucky, Connecticut and New York, and at Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park and Ensemble Theatre. She also authored a collection of poetry titled *True Grits: A Short Stack on Food and Family in Over-the-Rhine*, published in 2006.

Wilson is a contributing senior editor at *Cincinnati Magazine* and a University of Cincinnati adjunct instructor of Women’s Studies and Journalism. She served as a professional writing mentor in the Cincinnati Gifted Academy of Cincinnati Public Schools and was a contributor of commentaries for “All Things Considered” on National Public Radio. Her work was previously recognized by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists, The Cleveland Press Club and the Associated Press Society of Ohio. She was twice named as a Fellow at the Knight Center for Professional Journalists at the University of Maryland and was a finalist for a National Magazine Award for her profile of radio talk show host Bill Cunningham. She is working on her next book, *Do You Know Who I Think I am? Curiosities of a Colored Woman’s America*. She resides in Walnut Hills and has resumed writing her *CityBeat* column, now called “(Not) Your Negro Tour Guide.”

About Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the oldest, largest, and busiest libraries in the United States, serving a population of over 800,000 with a collection of more than 9 million items. In support of its mission of connecting people with the world of ideas and information, the Library also offers a wide variety of services and more than 20,000 free programs each year. For more information, visit www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

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