

## Young Author Night Submission Information

### About Patricia McKissack

Author Patricia McKissack was born in Smyrna, TN in 1944. McKissack, both solo and with her late husband Fredrick McKissack, wrote more than 100 children books that drew on the rich tradition of storytelling in her Tennessee family. She is among the most prolific children's authors on African-American history, folklore and stories. She often wrote about growing up in the racially segregated south. Her books have been translated into dozens of languages. She was awarded the prestigious Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement, given by the American Library Association. She was also the recipient of nine Coretta Scott King Awards, the 1993 Boston Globe –Horn Book Award, the 2001 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and a Newbery Honor. She was a presenter at the 2011 National Book Festival sponsored by the Library of Congress.

McKissack was inspired to be a writer by her mother who often read poetry to her, and by her father and grandparents who told her many stories. The characters in these stories were always smart and brave, characteristics often present in McKissack's later works. Her books were adored by people all over the world, and did much to champion diversity in children's literature. McKissack once stated that her goal as a writer was to improve the self-image of African-American children, as well as encourage children of all races and cultures to have an open attitude toward people who are different from them. The world of children's literature mourned McKissack's passing in 2017, when she died in St. Louis at the age of 72.

### The Rules

Write a short piece (100-150 words) or a short poem that may be read in 3 minutes or less. **Although not required, we encourage you to submit writing related to or inspired by one of the following:**

- One of the pieces of art from featured artists Megan Hall, Suzanne LeBeau, and Anne Polk; or
- Any book written by Patricia McKissack, or any themes present in any of her work;
- The theme of connection – whatever that means to you.

Submissions may be fiction, nonfiction, essay OR poetry.

Open to students K-12.

Up to 10 entries will be selected. Selected authors will be invited to read at Carpe Café at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021.

Entries must be typed.

One submission per author.

Submissions are open until further notice. Notification of selections should be finalized by May 28, 2021.