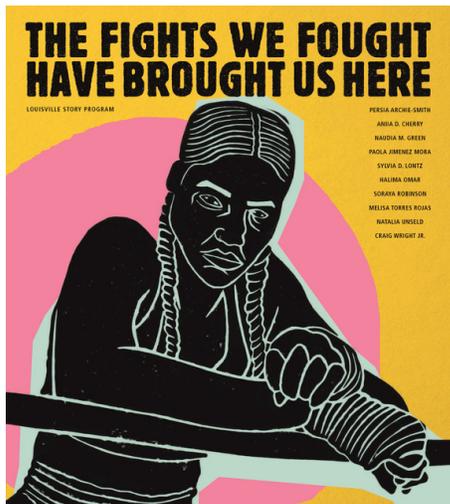


# LOUISVILLE STORY PROGRAM

# 2020 in Review

For the first time, Louisville Story Program completed two Kickstarter campaigns and published two books in one calendar year.



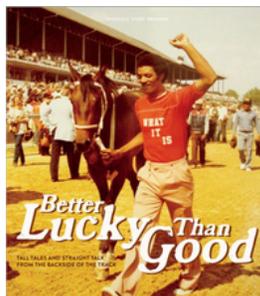
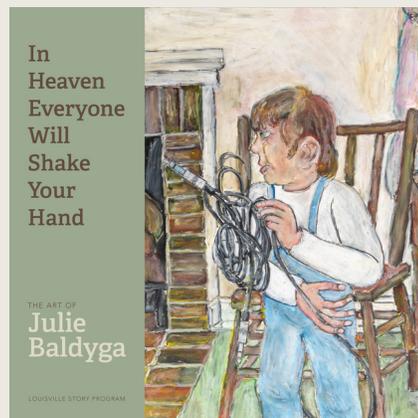
Ten young writers from historic Central High School document some of the challenges that have shaped them into the people they are today. Their stories are poignant--Muhammad Ali isn't the only fighter to come out of Central--and their voices are vital yet often unheard. This project aims to amplify their voices and stories and to show them that the community wants to listen to what they have to say. They worked tirelessly for a year, writing countless drafts despite a global pandemic, and the result is truly remarkable. We are blown away by their courage, insights, and humor.



*In Heaven Everyone Will Shake Your Hand* celebrates the work of Louisville artist Julie Baldyga. Doctors advised Julie Baldyga's parents to institutionalize her, saying that she could be a danger to herself and others. Fortunately, her parents refused: Julie grew up to be a luminous human and a brilliant, prolific artist. This collection of oil pastels, ceramics, and "heavenly people" showcases this incredible artist and serves as a poignant reminder of what is possible when we refuse to write people off.



Although our planned launch event had to be cancelled, Julie and her sister Stephanie were still able to visit the exhibit at KMAC Museum of Julie's work - her first ever solo exhibit at a museum. We are grateful to our partnership with KMAC Museum and look forward to continuing to share Julie's work with the world through her book and future exhibits.



## Better Lucky Than Good Wins Prestigious Award

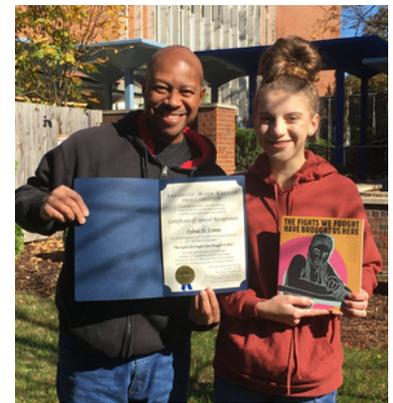
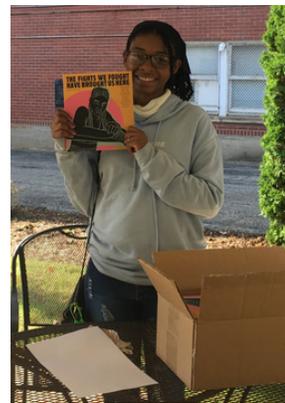
*Better Lucky Than Good: Tall Tales and Straight Talk from the Backside of the Track* was named the winner of the 2019 Dr. Tony Ryan Book Award. The \$10,000 award recognizes the best book-length writing with a horse racing backdrop published in a given year. The award was founded in 2006 by philanthropist and noted global businessman Dr. Tony Ryan. Past honorees have included a recipient of the National Book Award and several Eclipse Award-winning authors.

# THE FIGHTS WE FOUGHT HAVE BROUGHT US HERE



Although we could not have the launch the authors deserved, we were able to record a launch event at the Muhammad Ali Center and air it on Facebook for hundreds of supporters to watch together. It was a great moment for the authors to see the comments from the community.

The authors appeared on WAVE Country with Dawne Gee and Great Day Live with Angie Fenton.



The authors and their families see the book for the first time and sign copies for supporters.



Despite a global pandemic and finishing their school year remotely, the authors finished their chapters and recorded two videos.

## Progress on Black photographers project

We are hard at work on our ongoing efforts to understand and preserve the legacies of Louisville's African American photographers. Their work is significant both for what they documented—the fabric of daily life in the African American community in the West End—and for the excellence with which they documented it. Yet much of the work is currently sitting in basements and garages, in danger of being lost forever—if it hasn't already been lost forever to fire, floods, or the trash bin. Bud Dorsey's *Available Light* was the first publication to result from this project. Recently, we have been working with the family of photographer Nat Brown to sift through over 100,000 of his photographs, organize them, and scan some of them. From the 1930s to the 1990s, Mr. Brown operated Nat Brown Studio on 807 Walnut St. and later on the corner of 22nd and Chestnut. We've also been working with his family and some of his former students to understand the man, his work, and his significance in Louisville's history.



(Above) Nat Brown's protege Jeff Hancox and daughter Natalie Barkley Brown Jones reviewing some of Mr. Brown's photographs in the Louisville Story Program office. (Below, Left) Nat Brown with his camera, 1939. (Below, Right) A small sampling of the hundreds of thousands of Nat Brown photographs in the LSP office.



**Louisville Story Program received a grant from The Literary Arts Emergency Fund this past month. Our grant was awarded by the National Book Foundation, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The program awarded \$3.5 million to over 200 literary arts organizations impacted by COVID-19.**

## Authors in the community

On February 1st, Aletha Fields, Sage Townsend, and Merlin Cano read at the Festival of Faith's 2020 preview event, "What's Your Story? Find Your Sacred." The segment "Deep Listening" was moderated by LSP Deputy Director Joe Manning.

And, in January, Nasra Hussein, participated in the Fund for the Arts Campaign Kick off Event. Louisville Story Program is proud to be the first literary arts organization to be supported by the Fund's Sustaining Impact Grant.

