



The Margaret Walker Center invites proposals for papers, presentations, and panels for the 11th Annual *Creative Arts Festival*, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 12 and 13, 2017. Proposals must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 8**. While the theme of the conference is “*Callaloo and Cave Canem: Publishing the African Diaspora*,” the organizers welcome proposals from high school, undergraduate, and graduate students on *any topic*.

Proposal submissions should be 250-500 words and should fit in one of four categories:

1. **Poetry/Spoken Word** (10-15-minute presentations in original storytelling or poetry, including brief comments about inspiration &/or form of the work)
2. **Visual Arts** (up to 3 pieces of artwork in any media with 10-minute presentations)
3. **Written** (10-page essays with 20-minute presentations)
4. **Performing Arts** (10-minute dance, musical, and theatrical presentations)

In the case of panel proposals, please submit the names of the participants and the moderator and a brief synopsis of the panel’s topic and of the individual paper proposals.

To submit a proposal, please send a document in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF to mwa@jsums.edu.

For more information, contact the Margaret Walker Center (mwa@jsums.edu or [601-979-3935](tel:601-979-3935)) or the Conference Coordinators, Dr. helen crump (helen.j.crump@jsums.edu) and Dr. Robert Luckett (robert.luckett@jsums.edu).

Note that submissions in the written and poetry categories will be considered for publication, and the best essay by a JSU student on the “**black experience in the American South**” will receive the **\$1,000 Margaret Walker Alexander Annual Award**.

Submissions for the Margaret Walker Alexander Annual Award can be in many forms, including literary analyses, creative writing, research papers, biographical studies, autobiography, and historical studies. JSU students who would like to be considered for this Award must present their papers at the Creative Arts Festival on Wednesday, April 12, or Thursday, April 13, and submit their 10-page essays by **Friday, March 31, 2017**.

This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part, from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

