

Statement of Interest for ASWAD Board

I am classically trained in African Diaspora Studies; I received my undergraduate degree in African and African American Studies from Arizona State University in 2009, my Master's degree in African American Studies in 2011, and my PhD in African Diaspora Studies in 2016. As such, I am deeply committed to contributing to the field through research, teaching, and service. With respect to the latter, I have served on the program committee for both the National Council of Black Studies and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; on the 50th Anniversary Task Force for the National Conference of Black Political Scientists; and am currently on the mentorship and article committees for ASWAD. I am also the Submissions Coordinator on the planning committee for the African American Intellectual History Society's 2020 conference. Additionally, I am the co-organizer for a workshop, funded by the Alliance to Advance Liberal Art Colleges, titled "Researching, Teaching, and Embodying the Black Diaspora." The workshop will be held at Carleton College, and will interrogate a number of themes related to teaching and studying the African Diaspora at elite, white colleges. Based on the grant proposal and workshop outline prepared by Dr. Crystal Moten, Dr. Chipó Dendere, and me, we were awarded \$20,000—the maximum amount—to fund the workshop. I believe that all of these different aspects of service have allowed me to utilize and hone a multitude of skills that qualify me to serve on the ASWAD board.

I am particularly interested in joining ASWAD's board because it is one of the most progressive and inclusive professional organizations with respect to providing faculty and prospective faculty an opportunity to serve. Likewise, ASWAD takes seriously the need to engage with Africa and the Diaspora beyond the United States—something that doesn't seem to be a strong focus in other organizations. Moreover, ASWAD is comprised of some of the most productive and relevant scholars in the field, and the conferences are always deeply engaging, interesting, and well-organized. As a Black Studies scholar, part of my historical task is to leave the field in a better state than when I entered it; serving on ASWAD's board will help me to do so through working with committed scholars, helping to plan and administer exemplary and wide-ranging conferences, staying abreast of new scholarship in the field, and helping to recruit and retain younger scholars in the organization and, by extension, the field.

Thank you for your consideration.