



2026 RECIPIENT OF ASHLEY BRYAN AWARD

Keenan Jones

Presented by the Texas Library Association Black Caucus Round Table



The Texas Library Association Black Caucus Round Table (BCRT) is excited to announce the 2026 winner of the Ashley Bryan Award, Keenan Jones. Jones is an author and educator based in Plymouth, Minnesota. Keenan worked as an elementary school teacher and is the founder of the educational nonprofit Literacy for Freedom. Saturday Morning at the 'Shop is his debut picture book. Learn more at KeenanJWrites.com.

The Ashley Bryan Award honors an established Black author for their body of work and a Black author's debut work in alternating years. The award recognizes an author's contribution to highlighting and promoting humanity, diversity, culture, and community in children's literature.

The award will be presented at the Texas Library Association 2026 Annual Conference in Houston in March.

ABOUT THE ASHLEY BRYAN AWARD

The Ashley Bryan Award was established in 2023 by the TLA Black Caucus Round Table to honor established and new Black authors for promoting humanity, diversity, culture and community in children's literature. The award is named for Ashley Bryan, a renown author and illustrator of children's books. His stories and paintings centered on African and African American experiences, to which he devoted his career spanning more than six decades. Bryan's writing and vibrant colored collage paper-cut illustrations have adorned the pages of more than 50 books, ranging from folklore, poetry collections and experiences that celebrate community and individuality.

ABOUT THE BLACK CAUCUS ROUND TABLE

The Black Caucus Round Table seeks to contribute to library service by promoting services to African Americans and opening channels of communication among African American librarians across the entire Texas Library Association membership.

ABOUT THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Texas Library Association's mission is to unite and amplify the voices of the library community. With more than 5,000 librarian members from academic, K-12 schools, public and special libraries, the association provides professional development opportunities, advocates for libraries, and demonstrates their value to our communities. www.txla.org



Ashley Bryan Award Sponsor

