

**PHASE I:**

<p>Title/ Título</p>	<p><i>The Importance of Place: A Conversation</i></p>
<p>Proposal/ Propuesta</p>	<p><i>The Importance of Place: A Conversation</i> invites participants to engage in dialogue about the influence of place—physical, emotional, mental, and spatial— on the creative experience. The panelist will speak on how “place” shapes their vision, development, and approach as writers/creatives. One of the key ideas of the panel is to debunk the narrative of “the natural creative” and focus on the intentionality of the creative process. The importance of setting yourself up physically and emotionally, as well as borrowing from your environment to create a sustainable creative vision/life. The dialogue will explore existing networks of support for writers/creatives living and working within and outside of the diaspora, as well as problem solve around areas where support is minimal or lacking. Panelist will share commentary, facts and/or resources, as well as inform the dialogue.</p>
<p>Proposal Summary/ Resumen de Propuesta</p>	<p><i>The Importance of Place: A Conversation</i> invites participants to engage in dialogue about the impact of place—physical, emotional, mental, and spatial— in order to create networks of support across the diaspora.</p>
<p>Expected Participants</p>	<p><i>Ser Álida— Writer and Educator</i> <b>[Moderator]</b></p> <p><i>Lorraine Avila— Emerging Writer</i> <b>[Panelist]</b></p> <p><i>Gina Goico— Multidisciplinary Artist, Educator, and Activist</i> <b>[Panelist]</b></p> <p><i>Paloma Valenzuela—Dominican-American writer, Director, and Actress</i> <b>[Panelist]</b></p> <p><i>Aura Maria Estrella—Writer and Co-Creator of Morir Soñando</i> <b>[Panelist]</b></p> <p><i>Led Black—Writer, Blogger, Social Media Influencer.</i> <b>[Panelist]</b></p>

<p><b>Session Outcomes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. engage in dialogue about the impact of place—physically, emotionally and mentally—on the creative experience.</li> <li>2. define the influence our environment and experiences have on our creative visions and recognizing opportunities to leverage this influence to maximize our own power and potential.</li> <li>3. recognize the role of emotional awareness in the creative process and grounding on radical wellness as a means of creative sustainability.</li> <li>4. discuss otherness in the creative community and exploring resources and community outreach opportunities in order to create networks of support for creatives across the diaspora.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Proponent's Biography</b></p>	<p><i>Ser Álida is an Afro-Dominican writer and educator living in Jackson, Mississippi. She began writing as a means of self-exploration to help make sense of her identity in relation to the spaces she inhabits. Raw and undeniably vulnerable, her work is heavily informed by queer Afro-Feminist Thought. Through this lens, she invites the audience to engage in hued narratives of self-discovery that aim to decolonize identity and environment.</i></p>
<p><b>Proponent's Contact Information</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>aseralida@gmail.com   @ser.alida   212-444-444</b></p>
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p>	