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BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL AND *MOTHER JONES* TEAM UP TO LAUNCH NEW CONVERSATION SERIES

BLACK LIVES MATTER CO-FOUNDER PATRISSE KHAN-CULLORS AND AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR ASHA BANDELE, MODERATED BY REPORTER JAMILIAH KING

Berkeley, CA, January 31, 2018 – The **Bay Area Book Festival** (BABF) and reader-supported media organization ***Mother Jones*** are teaming up to host a new conversation series designed to inspire, educate and drive thought-provoking discussions featuring some of today’s most relevant writers and thinkers.

The new series, which will be presented throughout the year, will kick off with acclaimed authors **Patrisse Khan-Cullors** and **asha bandele**—in conversation with *Mother Jones* journalist **Jamiliah King**—on Thursday, February 15, at 7:30 pm at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum in San Francisco.

Khan-Cullors and bandele recently co-authored *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*. The Festival and the nonprofit newsroom will also partner at the 2018 Bay Area Book Festival April 28 and 29 2018, where they will continue to co-host discussions with authors as part of the Festival, one of North America’s most dynamic celebrations of writing and the written word.

Tickets for the February 15 conversation are \$25 and space is limited. To purchase tickets and for more information about the event and the Bay Area Book Festival, visit <https://www.baybookfest.org/>.

About the Event

The Black Lives Matter movement caught much of America's attention in 2015, after the death of Michael Brown Jr. at the hands of a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer. But for Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors, the movement's origins go back much further and are more complicated than a single protest.

In their new book, *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*, Khan-Cullors and asha Bandele provide a powerful portrait of a community rooted in love, despite the fact that the movement's leaders have been maligned as terrorists and threats to America. At a time when hate and violence seem all too prevalent, Khan-Cullors and Bandele share an empowering story of survival, strength and resilience. At the February 15 event, the co-authors, in conversation with *Mother Jones* reporter Jamiliah King, will discuss the new memoir and the ongoing freedom struggle in America.

This program is co-hosted by reader-supported investigative news organization *Mother Jones* and the Bay Area Book Festival as part of their 2018 conversation series. Books will be available for sale; book signing follows.

About the Authors

Patrisse Khan-Cullors is an artist, organizer, and freedom fighter from Los Angeles, CA. Co-founder of Black Lives Matter and founder of Dignity and Power Now, she is also a performance artist, Fulbright scholar, popular public speaker, and an NAACP History Maker. She's received many awards for activism and movement building, including being named by the *Los Angeles Times* as a Civil Rights Leader for the 21st Century and the Sydney Peace Prize for her work with Black Lives Matter. Khan-Cullors is currently in the middle of an international tour for her new book, *When They Call You A Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*.

A self-described wife of Harriet Tubman, Patrisse Khan-Cullors has always been traveling on the path to freedom. Growing up with several of her loved ones experiencing incarceration and brutality at the hands of the state and coming out as queer at an early age, she has since worked tirelessly promoting law enforcement accountability across the world while focusing on addressing trauma and building on the resilience and health of the communities most affected.

Award-winning author and journalist asha Bandele first attained recognition when she penned her 1999 debut book, *The Prisoner's Wife*, a powerful, lyrical memoir about a young Black woman's romance and marriage with a man who was serving a twenty-to-life sentence in prison. With the hope that they would live as a couple in

the outside world, she became pregnant with a daughter. A former features editor for *Essence Magazine*, she returns with her latest memoir, *Something Like Beautiful*, the continuation of her love with Rashid and its ultimate loss, with another emotional disappointment and a serious bout of depression. She is also the author of two collections of poems and the novel, *Daughter*.

Jamilah King is the race and justice reporter for Mother Jones. Born and raised in San Francisco, she currently lives and writes in New York City, where her work focuses on race and gender. She was previously a senior writer at Mic, senior editor at Colorlines, and her work has appeared in publications across the globe, including the Washington Post and the California Sunday Magazine. Jamilah is also a senior fellow with the Pop Culture Collaborative, where she works on storytelling projects focused on politics and culture. She is a diehard Bay Area sports fan and a devoted pet mom.

About the 2018 Bay Area Book Festival April 28 and 29 in Berkeley, CA

Nearly 500 authors and exhibitors from the Bay Area, nation and world and from across the spectrum of genres, traditions and inspirations will come together with tens of thousands of book enthusiasts for the fourth annual Bay Area Book Festival April 28 and 29, 2018 in Berkeley, CA. Since it burst onto the scene in 2015, the Festival has been widely known as one of the world's premier literary events, recognized for the quality of its authors, its international scope, and its commitment to social justice.

The 2018 Festival will fill downtown Berkeley with two days of presentations, panels, keynotes, performances, participatory activities and exhibits. The literary program thrills fans across many interests, from science fiction, history, mysteries, memoir, poetry, food writing, children's literature and more, with special tracks this year on women and gender and on Native storytelling—all within overall themes of hope and the power of words. Literary sessions take place in venues throughout the downtown area and on outdoor stages.

The Festival also includes an outdoor fair that is free and open to the public with more than 200 exhibitors, an interactive Family Fun Zone, food trucks and more. Further, it offers an annual literature and film series with the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

The 2018 Bay Area Book Festival is made possible through generous support from the City of Berkeley in addition to scores of business and media sponsors, philanthropists, foundations and individual donors.

About *Mother Jones*

[Mother Jones](#) is an award-winning reader-supported investigative news organization and the winner of the American Society of Magazine Editors' 2017 Magazine of the Year Award. Its nonprofit newsroom does independent and investigative reporting on everything from politics and climate change to education and food. Headquartered in San Francisco, and with bureaus in Washington, DC and New York City, *Mother Jones* delivers hard-hitting reporting that is an essential in the fight against fake news and "alternative facts."

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