



Jessica Hanson

615.568.7953 | jessicahanson0131@gmail.com | www.jessica-hanson.com

245 Indian Lake Boulevard Apartment B105, Hendersonville, TN 37075

EDUCATION, LICENSURE, & ENDORSEMENTS

- Ph.D. Candidate in Public History, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Expected December 2025
- Endorsement Teaching Exceptional Learners, Relay Graduate School of Education, Nashville, Summer 2020
- Endorsement Provisional Interventionist 6-12 Active, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, Approved August 9, 2019
- Professional 6-Year K-6 Active Licensure, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, Expires August 31, 2025
- Licensure in K-6, The New Teacher Project, Nashville, 2014-2016
- Ed.S. in Culture, Cognition, & the Learning Process, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2015
- Ph.D. credits in African American Literature/History, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2012-2013
- M.A. in English, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, 2011
- B.A. in English, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, 2010

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- African American History Adjunct Instructor, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, August 2025-Present, Virtual
- Access Services Library Assistant, John Hope & Aurelia Franklin Library at Fisk University, Nashville, August 2024-Present
- Education Programs Coordinator, Travellers Rest Historic House Museum, Nashville, February-August 2024
- Digital Preservation Contracted Researcher, Middle Passage Ceremonies & Port Markers Project, 2023-Present, Virtual
- Graduate Research Assistant, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, 2023-Present
- Contingency English Instructor, Tennessee State University, Nashville, 2020-2023
- Upper School Reading Interventionist & 7th Grade SpEd Case Manager, KIPP Nashville College Prep, White's Creek, 2019-2020
- 6th Grade Composition & Upper School Reading Interventionist, KIPP Nashville College Prep, White's Creek, 2018-2019
- Social Media Campus Manager, READ180 Interventionist, 5th Grade Social Studies, Girl Scout's Troop Leader, & Yearbook Chair, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, 2017-2018
- 5th English Language Arts, Grade Level Chair, & Girl Scout's Troop Founder, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, 2016-2017
- Lead Kindergarten Teacher, Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School, Nashville, 2014-2016
- Nashville Teaching Fellow, AmeriCorps/ The New Teacher Project, Nashville, 2014-2016
- Graduate Assistant English Adjunct, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2012-2013
- Writing Assistant & Tutor, Margaret Ordoubadian Writing Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, 2012-2013
- Adult ESL Tutor, Read to Succeed, Rutherford County, 2011-2012
- Adjunct Instructor & Writing Center Tutor, English Department, Motlow State Community College, Smyrna/Tallahoma, 2011-2012
- Adjunct Instructor, English Department, Gadsden State Community College, Anniston, 2011-2012
- Receptionist, English Department, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, 2007-2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Zora Neale Hurston, Black Women Preservationists, African Transatlantic/American: Literature & Public History, Civil Rights, Activism, & Protest, Women's: Active Participant, Literature & History, Educational Reform & Politics, Psychology, Special Education, & Mental Health Reform, Civil Liberties of Indigenous People's & Their Self Advocacy: Literature & History, Educationally, Economically, & Socially Disadvantaged Youth: Charter/ After School Tutoring & Programming, Higher Education Reform & Advocacy for the Incarcerated, Immigration Reform & Advocacy, LGBTQIA+ Advocacy, Holocaust:

Literature & History, Animal Rescue & Advocacy: Domesticated & Wildlife, Film & Live Theater: Performance, Literature, & History, International Travel: Active Participant, Cultural Studies, Food, & History.

PUBLIC HISTORY FIELDWORK AND MARKETING EXPERIENCES

- Marketing and social media campaign regarding historic marker unveiling coordination, All Things Africatown, Fall 2024-April 2025
- Marketing and social media coordination for the Zora! Conference and Festival, Association to Preserve The Eatonville Community, Inc., January 2024-Current
- Researching and creating social media content and biographies for People and Places grant/website purposes for the Black Craftsperson Digital Archive ([BCDA](#)), Fall 2024-Current
- Created finding aids for historic seminary graduates dissertations, American Baptist College, Fall-Spring 2024
- Invited Volunteer for [Two-Day Community Archiving Workshop](#), American Baptist College's Susie McClure Library Special Collections & Archives & Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, 3-4, November 2023
- Represented MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation with a table, [Hometown Treasures Expo](#), Fisk University/Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, 28 October 2023
- Smith-Trahern Plantation & enslaved cabin/ Clarksville local, womens', & African American historical interpretation, Fall 2023
- Riverside Plantation enslaved dogtrot, researched & created panel exhibitry, Fall 2023
- Riverside Plantation Heritage Assessment & Interpretation, Spring 2023
- Oral History Interview regarding Riverside Plantation, Yvette Smith, via phone, 7 April 2023
- Cemetery Preservation/Cleaning Workshop, Hard Bargain Association, Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation & the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, 1 April 2023
- Oral History Interviews, Leroy Latson, Jacksonville & American Beach, Florida, March 2023
- Interview Frederick Murphy of History Before Us, virtually, March 2023
- Field Work Surveying, Riverside Plantation, Murfreesboro, February 2023
- Oral History Interviews, Thelma Battle, Franklin, Tennessee, December 2022-February 2023
- Archival Fieldwork, Beechwood Plantation, Franklin, TN & Williamson County Library & Archives, Fall 2022
- Fieldwork Surveying & Co-Compiled Nomination Package for Twin Forks Trail at Old Jefferson Trail of Tears Site Section as a High Potential Site on the National Historic Trails, Smyrna, Tennessee, Fall 2022
- Field Work Surveying, Beechwood Plantation, Franklin, TN's Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, Fall 2022
- Oral History Interviews & Field Work Surveying, Joycelyn Davis, Africatown, Alabama & via phone, July 2022-Ongoing
- Surveyed, measured, & contributed to the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery's preliminary assessment report in the Montgomery Civil Rights Movement: Multiple Property Nomination for First Baptist "Brick-a-Day" Church, May 2022
- Oral History Interviews & Field Work Surveying, Shirley Johnson, Notasulga, Alabama & via phone, May 2022-Ongoing
- Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery's preliminary assessment report & installing UV blocking window film at Shiloh-Rosenwald School, Notasulga, Alabama, May 2022
- Oral History Interviews & Field Work Surveying, John Baker Jr., Springfield, Tennessee & via phone, Fall 2021-Ongoing
- Archival Fieldwork, Black Bottom Cultural & Architectural Significance, Tennessee Library & Archives, Fall 2021
- Archival Fieldwork, Wessyngton's Enslaved's Medical Bills, Tennessee Library & Archives, Summer 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- Chapter Contribution: "Beyond the Blackest Landscapes: Placemaking Through Wessyngton Plantation & Africatown's Descendants," in Tentative Volume Title compiled by Adebayo Oyeade: *Rethinking Enslavement in the African World: Interrogating the Past & Confronting the Present* (Forthcoming Tentatively).
- "Marketing The Movie-Going Experience," *ShowTime Independent Marketing Edge* (Winter 2010/2011): 60-63.
<http://www.jessica-hanson.com/pdf/showtime.pdf>

SCHOLARLY LECTURES, CONFERENCES, & COLLOQUIUMS

- The L.E.A.F. Africatown Clotilda Descendants Association's Landing Event & Ancestor Festival and Conference. July 2025. Festival Presenter.

- Zora! 2025 Festival & Afrofuturism Conference, Eatonville, Florida, January-February 2025. Social Media Coordinator.
- “Confronting The Illusion of Freedom In The North: Experiences of Truth -Telling through the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project,” 8th Slave Dwelling Project Conference, The Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5 October 2024. Lead Co-Presenter, Round Table Discussion.
- “There Is No Way They Are Taking Our Land: N.Y. Nathiri’s Audacity to Fight Power,” 10th Annual Tennessee State University’s Africa Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, 12 April 2024. Paper Session Conference Participant.
- Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Conference, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 20 March 2024, Conference Attendee.
- 43rd Annual Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture, hosted by Tennessee State University’s College of Liberal Arts & Metropolitan Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee, 9 February 2024, Conference Attendee.
- Zora! 2024 Festival & Afrofuturism Conference, Eatonville, Florida, January 2024. Invited Attendee & Social Media Relations.
- “Beyond the Blackest Landscapes: Placemaking Through Wessyngton Plantation & Africatown’s Descendants,” 47th Annual National Council For Black Studies Conference, Gainesville, Florida, 24 March 2023. Paper Session Conference Participant.
- “Mental Health in the Time of Covid-19,” Tennessee State University’s Virtual Honors T.E.D. Talks, virtually, 20 October 2020. Panelist.
- “Loosening the Knot: Common Threads in the Hybrid Classroom,” Niswonger Foundation's Remote Learning Series, virtually, 23 September 2020. Featured roundtable guest speaker.
- “Zora Neale Hurston Reading/Presentation” Tennessee State University’s 33rd Annual “Self Discovery” African American Read-In, Nashville, 11 February 2022. Reader.
- “Natasha Trethewey Poetry Reading/Presentation” Motlow State Community College Diversity Club’s African American Read-In, Smyrna, 24 February 2015. Poetry Colloquium Lecture.
- “Masculinity & Race in Rebecca Harding Davis's Waiting for the Verdict” Middle Tennessee State University Global Discourses in Women’s & Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference: Student Showcase, Murfreesboro, 3 April 2013. Conference.
- “The Gothic, Grotesque, & Carnavalesque in Spirited Away & Other Animation.” University of Georgia Graduate Student Organization, Athens, Georgia, March 2013. Conference.
- “New Variorum Shakespearean King Lear Research & Rebecca Harding Davis Presentation” 2nd Annual Colloquium, Murfreesboro, November 2012. Colloquium.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE SESSION ORGANIZATION

- Organizer: Zora! 2025 Festival & Conference Gathering & Gabbing Book Club Events, Eatonville, Florida (Digitally & in person) 2024-Currently
- Organizer: “Through the Looking Glass,” 42nd Meeting of the Victorians Institute, Murfreesboro, October-November 2013.

ADULT ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP

- Co-Presenter with Chelsie Bennett: “Teach Like a Champion: Real World Practices.” Neely’s Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Fall 2017.

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, & HIGHER EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Instructor Organizer/Coordinator. Descendants Film Screening & Q&A with documentary star Joycelyn Davis, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Fall 2022.
- Yearbook Chair. KIPP Nashville College Prep, Fall 2019-2020.
- Leader’s Council Co-Chair. KIPP Nashville College Prep, Fall 2019-2020.
- Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator/Fundraiser/Transportation. College & Civil Rights Summer Family & Student Road Trip, KNCP: MO, AR, MS, AL, & TN, Summer 2019.
- Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator/Transportation. After School IEP/Retention Personal Volunteer Tutoring, KNCP: Spring 2019.
- Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Cheekwood Dia de Los Muertos Student Trip, KNCP: Nashville, Fall 2018.
- Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Nashville Cultural Festival Student Trips, Neely’s Bend: A LEAD Public School, & KNCP: Middle Tennessee, 2017-2018.

- Coordinator & Teacher Leader. Accelerated Reader After School Club, KIPP Nashville College Prep, White's Creek, Tennessee, Fall 2018.
 - Coordinator. Utilized Resource BookSource-Online Library (taken on as school-wide efficiency/organizational strategy), KIPP Nashville College Prep, White's Creek, Tennessee, Fall 2018.
 - Joint Teacher Organizer/Coordinator/Fundraiser/Transportation. Camping & Kayaking Student Road Trip, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Summer 2018.
 - Lead Girl Scout Organizer/Coordinator. Memphis Girl Scout Trip, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Nashville, Spring 2018.
 - Coordinator & Teacher Leader. Holiday World: Academic/Behavioral Reward Student Summer Trip, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Summer 2017.
 - Coordinator & Teacher Leader. Girl Scout Led After School Tutoring, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Fall-Spring 2017-2018.
 - Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Chickasaw/Cheyenne Storyteller Speaking Engagement, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Spring 2018.
 - Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Child Holocaust Survivor Speaking Engagement, Gordon Jewish Community Center, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Spring 2018.
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- Troop Founder & Leader. Girl Scouts Troop #5416, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, 2016-2018.
 - Committee Member/Coordinator. African American & Hispanic Heritage Cultural Events, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, 2016-2018.
 - Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Adopt a Classroom After Texas' Hurricane Harvey School-Wide Fundraiser, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, & KNCP: Middle Tennessee, Fall 2017.
 - Student Recruitment Team. Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Summer 2017.
 - Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. Then Channel 4 Meteorologist Paul Heggen Speaking Engagement/ Student News TV Spot (Non-Fiction text tie-in), Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, May 10, 2017.
 - Sole Teacher Organizer/Coordinator. The Elephant Sanctuary's EleAmbassador Speaking Engagement (Non-Fiction text tie-in), Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, Spring 2017.
 - Committee Member/Coordinator. i-Can Day Field Events, Neely's Bend: A LEAD Public School, Madison, Tennessee, 2017.
 - Top Fundraiser/On the Ground Volunteer. Flint, Michigan Water Crisis. Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School, Nashville, Tennessee, 2016.
 - Educational/Anti-Racism Protestor & Marcher. Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School, Local Charleston, South Carolina Church Shooting Solidarity in Nashville March, Summer 2015.

CITATIONS

- Wilcox, Derrick. "Progressive Movement in Tennessee, Assessment IV, Essay II." 29 Oct. 2019. History of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, Jessica Hanson interview cited in student paper.
- Wilcox, Derrick. "Post Civil War Tennessee Segregation Tactics, Assessment IV, Essay I." 29 Oct. 2019. History of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, Jessica Hanson interview cited in student paper.

AWARDS, HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

- Middle Tennessee State University's Center For Historic Preservation, Graduate Research Assistantship, 2023-Present
- Women's History Month Spotlighted Women on Campus by the Office of Equity & Inclusion, Tennessee State University, March 2022
- Teacher of the Year (2016-2017) on behalf of Neely's Bend College Prep by the Madison Chamber of Commerce, April 2017
- Teach Like a Championship Fellowship 2016- 2017 nomination by administrators at Neely's Bend College Prep
- Professional Development Fellow Selection Trip to Uncommon Schools' campuses, Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School, Newark, New Jersey, Summer 2014
- Teaching Fellowship/Internship, Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School, Nashville, February 2014-July 2014
- AmeriCorps Year of Service Grant, The Nashville Teaching Fellows, Nashville, 2014-2016
- Ph.D. [Full Tuition & Books] Graduate Assistantship, Middle Tennessee State University, English Department, 2012-2016

- International Honorary Organization for Women Educators Scholarship, Alpha Delta Kappa, 2012
 - Student Employees Scholarship, *ShowTime Independent Marketing Edge*, 2011
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HIGHER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS & CONTINUED EDUCATION

- Invited Volunteer for [Two-Day Community Archiving Workshop](#), American Baptist College's Susie McClure Library Special Collections & Archives & Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, 3-4, November 2023
 - Represented MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation with a table, [Hometown Treasures Expo](#), Fisk University/Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, 28 October 2023
 - “Anatomy of a Relapse” & “Resiliency: The Professional Bounce Back,” Journey Together Conference, 6, September 2023
 - Cemetery Preservation/Cleaning Workshop, Hard Bargain Association, Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation & the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, 1 April 2023
 - Live Brown Bag for Composition Instructors: Engaging Students in English 1020, Tennessee State University, 3 February 2023
 - TSU Faculty Development Program: Classroom Management & Mental Health Protocol & Policy, Tennessee State University, 10 January 2023
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- *Norton's Poets on Poetry speakers series*, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove in conversation, W.W. Norton & Company, virtually, 20 January 2022
 - NAZA: Nashville After Zone Alliance Think Tank & Partner Meeting, Why We Can't Wait, Inc. Nashville, 15 November 2019
 - Lower Division Curriculum Workshop, Middle Tennessee State University, 2012
 - University Writing Center Orientation, Middle Tennessee State University, 2012
 - Mentoring Program Participant, Gadsden State Community College, 2011-2012
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- National Council for Black Studies, Member
 - Why We Can't Wait, Inc., Volunteer
 - Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Past Troop Founder/Leader
 - MTSU English Graduate Student Organization, Past Member
 - MTSU Graduate Student Association, Past Member
 - Association for the Study of African American Life & History, Past Member
 - The Poe Studies Association, Past Member
 - Rebecca Harding Davis Society, Past Member
 - Southeastern Writing Center Association, Past Member
 - International Writing Center Association, Past Member
 - Pinnacle Honor Society, Past Member
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NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Support Coordinator, Veterans' Grants Per Diem Program, Room In The Inn, Nashville, Tennessee, August-December 2023
 - Accounts Payable Assistant, ASE Direct, Inc., Brentwood, Tennessee, May 2013-August 2014
 - Third Shift Secretary & Security, DUI Education Centers, Christiana, Tennessee, June– December 2012
 - Pre-School Teacher, Tot's Landing, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Summer 2012
 - Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager, AmStar Cinemas/The Grand Theater, August 2008-August 2011
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NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *The Smurfs* Advertisement, Noble Street Festival, Anniston, Alabama, April 9, 2011
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Rango* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, Spring 2011
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Green Hornet* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, January 2011

- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Faster Cruise-In*, Oxford, Alabama, November 2010
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Legend of the Guardians* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, Fall 2010
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *How to Train Your Dragon* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, Spring 2010
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Princess & the Frog* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, Winter 2009
- Marketing/Community Coordinator & Manager. *Ice Age* Project Picture, Oxford, Alabama, Spring 2009

PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM HIGHLIGHTS

- Lewis Quarters (Africatown) marker fundraising of over \$2,300 with Tennessee State University students, collaborating with Middle Passage Ceremonies & Port Markers Project & successfully sought remainder of funding through District One Mobile (Alabama) County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood
 - Why We Can't Wait: Tutored K-12 students in an after-school program both in-person & online (during the pandemic)
 - THEI: Taught college English & mindfulness to Turney Center Industrial Complex's male inmates.
 - Read to Succeed: Tutored Rutherford County adult ESL students on skills for literacy.
 - AmeriCorps: Service year as a kindergarten teacher, ensuring equity in North Nashville education.
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- Flint Water Crisis Fundraising: Fundraised & volunteered at several on-the-ground locations in Flint, Michigan.
 - St. Jude's Hero: Fundraised for cancer research in conjunction with St. Jude's Rock 'n' Roll Nashville ½ Marathon & Marathon.
 - Girl Scouts: Founded Neely's Bend Troop #5416, cultivating a generation of servant-leading females.
 - Alabama Wildlife Center: Raised funds/supplies & volunteered to clean their birds of prey enclosures.
 - Relay for Life: Fundraising & relay participant.
 - United Cerebral Palsy: Raised funds for UCP of East Central Alabama.
 - United Way: Raised awareness & funds for United Way of East Central Alabama.
 - (MASH) McClellan & Ayers Student Hospitality: Staff Chaperone & Volunteer for Gadsden State Community College Event.

LANGUAGE

Reading, Writing, & Casual Conversation knowledge of Spanish