

**Brother 2 Brother**  
*Literary Symposium*

**Houston Independent Public Schools  
Presents  
Brother 2 Brother Literary Symposium  
816-914-1560 Ofc.  
raychone1@yahoo.com**



August 2008

Dear Business Owner, Corporation, and Potential Sponsor:

I'm sure you are well aware of the dire need to address the literacy problem in our cities, specifically the lack of literacy among young people. With many public school children scoring below grade level on Standardized English Language Arts tests, it is clear that young people are simply not being endowed with basic fundamental life skills: the ability to read. Adults with poor reading skills are not employable and have difficulty competing for high-paying jobs, particularly in today's harsh economy.

For four years, a coalition of authors have been working to address this problem by promoting literacy and a love for reading, particularly among young African American males and females. This is done primarily through the annual event, The Brother 2 Brother Literary Symposium. Held previously in Atlanta (2002), Kansas City (2003), Brooklyn, New York (2005), Dallas, TX (2006), and Houston, Texas (2008) at Texas Southern University (TSU) October 3-4, the event consists of a weekend of panel discussions, workshops, and most importantly, books, all free to the community. The organization has also been instrumental in the establishment of book clubs for young black men nationwide, with a long term goal to establish 100 community book clubs. The Symposium has helped me develop the Marvelous Martin children's book series that will be released in October, 2008 with Harambi Press (Kensington Publishing), as well as recently establishing a Directory of Writers as a resource for schools and youth organizations interested in encouraging writers to hold book discussions.

With the support of the Houston Mayor's Office, the Houston Independent School District, Greater Houston Libraries, Radio Station 97.9-The Box, Kensington Publishing, We Must X-L Publishing, Black Expressions On-line Book Club, Just Us Books Publishing, Harlequin/Kimani Press, The Breakfast Klub, PageTuner.net, Double Day Books, and Nia Promotions we believe the Symposium is consistent with your company's objectives, including improving secondary education. By fostering a love of reading in the home and using our event as a springboard for

boys' reading groups across the country, we have had a positive, measurable impact that we hope to continue. As such, we are requesting a (\$500.00 - \$5000.00) grant and/or contribution to help ensure the success of this event. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to put this significant event on for the Houston community. The publicity your company receives from a community relations standpoint will be enormous on our website [www.b2bls.com](http://www.b2bls.com) as well as media coverage and our program for the event.

We are a tax-exempt organization with 501(c) 3 status from the IRS. Our NP# is N00564442 and our Federal number is 20-0115744. Please review the enclosed proposal for more information. Your participation in this effort will help to ensure that this event will resonate in the youth development community for years to come. This event is free and open to the public and we are giving away over 2000 free books. To date we have given away over \$160,000 in free books. You will be given the opportunity to display your business information in our program or on our display table for our business supporters.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 816-914-1560 or at [raychonel@yahoo.com](mailto:raychonel@yahoo.com). Our event will be held in Houston, Texas, 2008. We will convene **October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** at the **Location: TSU University, 3100 Cleburne, Houston, TX 77004.**  
[www.tsu.edu](http://www.tsu.edu)

**Donations can be sent to:**

**The Brother 2 Brother Literary Symposium – B2BLS**

**c/o Vincent Alexandria**

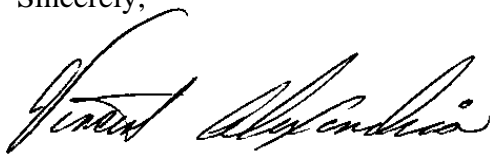
**P.O. BOX 2481**

**Houston, TX 77275**

**You will be sent a tax deductible letter with our 501 C-3 number for your donation.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vincent Alexandria

Brother-2-Brother Literary Symposium - Chairman

Enclosure