



Sankofa Video and Bookstore (SVB), founded in 1998 by filmmaking couple, Haile and Shirikiana Gerima, specializes in books and videos about people of African descent around the world. Named after the internationally acclaimed film of the same name (produced by the founders), Sankofa carries with it an expectation of quality and discovery. Sankofa Café was added to the premises in 2007 adding a combined charm to the video and book business that attracts the hungry and the inquisitive.



Sankofa is honored to be located within the historically rich corridor of Georgia Avenue, only one block from two institutions acclaimed internationally for their excellence in pedagogy, Howard University and Benjamin Banneker High School. By offering patrons access to great literature and great films under the same roof, SVB has strived to enhance the cultural/educational offerings of this corridor.

SVB has earned a reputation over the years as a gathering place for professional and fledgling authors, poets, musicians and other artists to present and discuss their work with engaging audiences. These on and off site events have included renowned authors such as Walter Mosley, Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti, Eloise Greenfield, Tananarive Due, Sista Souljah, Ta-Nahisi Coates, and many others.

Sankofa Video, Books boasts the largest children of color book collection in the DC, MD, VA area. Authors and illustrators bring this literature alive during *Happy Nappy Children's Storytelling Time*, as well as our *Annual Magical Mirrors Children's Book Fair*.

Our inventory offers an eclectic mix of black classic titles and new releases, primarily in the areas of children, history, culture, sociology, politics and spirituality, in addition to an ever-changing selection of side items produced primarily by local artisans.

Did you know?

- *Sankofa* (which is an West African Adinkra term for “going back to our past in order to go forward”) Bookstore, features DVD’s for sale and movie nights exhibiting films and filmmakers from around the world.
- For over 20 years Sankofa has served as an inter-generational gathering place for reading, thinking, discussing and questioning – open seven days a week.
- We have a healthy and delicious cafe on the premises that offers an array of smoothies, sandwiches named after black filmmakers, salads, baked goods, beverages and spirits. There are plenty of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options too!
- In addition to our patio, cafe and bookstore, we have a newly constructed open deck in the rear for outdoor movie nights and rental parties.
- Not only do black bookstores serve as a repository for the literary heritage that today’s artists stand upon, they often act as vital neighborhood institutions.
- We have state of the art microphones and projection equipment to accommodate any event.
- In addition to our close proximity to Howard University and its built-in audience of tastemakers, we are conveniently located between two popular metro stations.
- Our weekly promotional newsletter reaches over 10,000 of our dedicated supporters.

Did you know that behind the scenes at Sankofa a lot more has been going on?



- Mypheduh Films dba Sankofa Video and Books founded by Haile, Shirikiana and Selome Gerima, holds periodic workshops in film directing, script writing and editing.
- This independent film company has:
 - organized African American filmmakers to attend FESPACO film festival in Burkina Faso in 1980's, creating the Paul Robeson Film Award.
 - brought filmmakers from Mozambique to tour U.S. cities
 - held African film festivals in DC
 - produced award winning films such as SANKOFA, TEZA, HARVEST 3000, FOOTPRINTS OF PAN AFRICANISM
 - trained nascent filmmakers as apprentices on international movie sets