



## Panel Speaker

### **Charles C. Smith**

Lecturer: Cultural theory and cultural pluralism in the arts, University of Toronto

***Topic of Presentation:*** "Leveraging Immigrants' Cultural (artistic, athletic, fashion, culinary) Contributions"

Charles C. Smith is a published poet, playwright and essayist. He won second prize for his play *Last Days for the Desperate* from Black Theatre Canada. He has edited three collections of poetry, has one published book (*Partial Lives*) and his poetry has appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including *Poetry Canada Review*, *the Quille and Quire*, *Descant*, *Dandelion*, *the Amethyst Review*, *Bywords*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies* and others. He recently received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council's Writers Reserve Grants Program and is currently working on a multidisciplinary performance piece based on his poetry. This piece is being produced by the 'wind in the leaves collective' and involves such artists as Kevin Ormsby (dance), Amanda Paixao (dance), Jasmyn Fyffe (dance), Harvey Weisfeld (guitar), Robin Styba (photography), and Maya Annik Bedward (video). Charles is also Lecturer, Cultural Pluralism in the Arts at the University of Toronto Scarborough and Project Lead for Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario. Further, he is a Research Associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, board member Fuse Magazine and advisory board member for the Regent Park Arts and Cultural Centre and the Scarborough Arts Kaleidoscope Program.