



Elder Mahmoud El-Kati is a Black griot, educator, activist, lecturer, writer, and commentator on the African American experience in this country.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, he is the son of Rufus Williams and Razzie Garvan Williams. Elder El-Kati is one three siblings and graduated from Booker T. Washington H. S. in Miami, Florida. Elder El-Kati also graduated from Wilberforce University, majoring in contemporary African American history.

His many articles, essays, and reviews have appeared in the New York Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, Insight News, The Spokesman, and The Nigerian Times and cover the "myth of race," Ebonics, gang activity, African Americans and sports and other issues. Elder El-Kati taught courses on the history of Blacks in the United States, American social movements, sports and the African American community, the social history of jazz, and Afro American folklore at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also taught a course on Sports and African Americans at Metro State University and an introduction to the African American experience class at North High School in Minneapolis.

He is the recipient of the National Association of Black Storytellers' Zora Neale Hurston Award, given to people whose scholarly historical writings preserve the culture and tradition of African and African American people in America. He also recently received a Sankofa Award from the Stairstep Foundation for his longtime and unwavering commitment and work with the Twin Cities African American community. Elder El-Kati is a lecturer, writer, and commentator on the

African American experience. He specializes in African American history and advocates institution building within cultural communities. He is an advocate of building one's humanity through the understanding of their culture, history and community. He is a life-long resident of Rondo neighborhood, St. Paul's historic Black community where his heart will always belong. He currently resides in Minneapolis.

Elder El-Kati was a professor of history at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Macalester College has established the Mahmoud Elder El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies in recognition of his scholarly and community work. This endowment is used to bring distinguished scholars to Macalester for an extended engagement that includes public presentations, classroom appearances and conversations with students, faculty and the local community. In 2022, Dr. Mahmoud Elder El-Kati received an honorary doctorate from Macalester College.

Elder El-Kati as a writer has written articles, essays, and reviews that deal with a variety of issues including the myth of "race," Ebonics, gangs and Black youth, education, African Americans, sports, and other issues. They have appeared in several newspapers and publications including the New York Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Insight News, The MN Spokesman-Recorder, and The Nigerian Times. As a published author he has written such books as Politically Considered: 50th Commemoration of the Supreme Court Decision of 1954, Hiptionary: A Survey of Dictionary African American Speech Patterns with Critical Commentary and A Digest of Key Words and Phrases and lately Haiti: The Hidden Truth.

He is a frequent commentator through a variety of mass media outlets locally and nationally. He is a regular columnist for Insight News, a Twin Cities newspaper. He is a consistent commentator for the local radio stations KFAI and KMOJ. He is a former board member of KMOJ radio, a community-run station.

Elder El-Kati teaches courses on the history of Blacks in the United States, American Social Movements, Sports and the African-American Community, the Social History of Jazz and African-American Folklore. He also teaches the African-American Experience class at North High School in Minneapolis. In addition, Elder El-Kati teaches classes across the community and conducts workshops for educators in the Midwest region. He is a cofounder of the annual Pan-African Conference at Minnesota State University, which over the last 30 years has featured discussions on African thought throughout the Diaspora.

Elder El-Kati is a founding member of the following institutions and organizations: The African and African-American Studies Department at the University of Minnesota; the Community Investment Fund and the Pan African Community Endowment (both are grant-making conduits to grassroots community projects); Stairstep Foundation, a philanthropic and economic

development institution for community empowerment; New Century I Cooperative Lending Fund, designed to create financial assets to make loans accessible to members of the community; and CommUniversity, a self-help education program that brings academic lectures to the community.

Elder El-Kati is actively involved in community organizations such as M.A.R.C.H. (Men Are Responsible for Cultivating Hope), a result of the Historic Million Man on Monday, October 16, 1995 in Washington, D.C., and the Minneapolis-based Stairstep Foundation. He is a recipient of the National Association of Black Storytellers' Zora Neale Hurston Award, given to people whose scholarly historical writings preserve the culture and tradition of Africans and African Americans in America. He also received the Sankofa Award from the Stairstep Foundation for his longtime and unwavering commitment to and work with the Twin Cities' African American community. Elder El-Kati is a guiding elder for several African-centered charter schools and independent Black schools such as the African-American Academy for Accelerated Learning and the Imhotep Science Academy.

Elder El-Kati was a U.S. representative to the 1999 PANAFest Conference held in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. PANAFest is an International biannual gathering of scholars, cultural workers, and artists, where he presented a paper at the symposium on Africans in the Diaspora.

Elder El-Kati has always been a strong supporter of the Men of M.A.R.C.H., African American Leadership Council, Saint Paul Branch of the NAACP, Saint Paul Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD) and almost every Black organization in the State of Minnesota.

Elder El-Kati is a graduate of his beloved Wilberforce University in Ohio.