

# DeShara Suggs-Joe

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## Poet & Teaching Artist

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### EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Writing, San Francisco, CA  
California College of the Arts 9/2015 - 5/2017

Bachelor of Arts in Marketing Communication, Chicago, IL  
Columbia College Chicago 9/2007 - 12/2010

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### EXPERIENCE

**Creative Director, Workshops** | Winter Tangerine  
New York, NY | 10/2018 - present

- Facilitated writing workshop for a group of eight students around best writing practices and assigned tailored writing prompts
- Lead team on all creative aspects of workshop programming including construction of syllabi and hiring appropriate workshop facilitators
- In charge of writing and editing copy, publishing best writing for the website, and creating online presence for our alumni Facebook group
- Work independently and with other departments to manage creative works such as banners, copy, etc. for website and social to promote and fill workshops

**Poetry Ambassador** | The Poetry Foundation  
Chicago, IL | 09/2017 - 1/2019

- Served as a liaison at Poetry Foundation events guiding people to readings and becoming one of the top sellers of Poetry Magazine subscriptions
- Assisted in organization of the poetry collection that housed over 30,000 books by alphabetizing books and helping patrons locate books as needed
- Compiled research to provide guidance on future venues for teacher institutions and other poetry foundation events

- Recorded and transcribed several documents to create a better process of details to aid in The Poetry Incubator
- Took the lead on cold calling venues to host The Poetry Incubator and other poetry foundations events

**Contracted Artist** | Youth Speaks  
San Francisco, CA | 9/2016 - 6/2017

- Performed individually and collectively at venues around the Bay Area including middle and high school assemblies, tech companies such as Yahoo and Spotify, and museums such as Mills Art Museum
- Led creative writing workshops to give students space to have discussions and write creatively

**Teaching Assistant | California College of the Arts**  
San Francisco, CA | 1/2016 - 12/2016

- Contributed to classroom planning and discussions to increase productivity and encourage active participation
- Graded writing assignments and gave in class feedback to help students improve writing scores
  - Met with students one-on-one to elevate reading and writing comprehension and skill
- Classes: WRA 2: Seeing Dreams (ESL) (Spring 2016) & WRA 1: The Artist's Life (Fall 2016)

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## PROJECTS

**Co-Founder | Daughter's Tongue**  
Oakland, CA | 04/2016 - 12/2018

- Curated "standing room only" all women or gender non-conforming readings and performances
- Co-wrote and produced two collective chapbooks, one in which sold out of during our first reading
  - Managed vendor relations for shows such as venue space, media(videographer), photographers, etc.
- Led panel discussions on collaboration and diversity in the creative writing academic space
  - Supported co-founders with writing and editing grant proposals

### **Connects Extern | Youth Speaks**

San Francisco, CA | 10/2015 - 05/2017

- Oversaw "Poetry Mapping" initiative to collect data from youth events to gather information to better serve their community with targeted programming
- Edited and produced a digital version of survey to streamline accumulated data during Teen Poetry Slam
- Worked in collaboration with UrbanWord NYC to effectively organize survey and collect data on national level

### **Poetry Staff | Eleven Eleven**

San Francisco, CA | 09/2015 - 04/2016

- Served as Marketing Specialist for the magazine: hosted our event for LitQuake, managed social media and organized events
- Produced several pages for the online issue of Eleven Eleven on the Wordpress platform using HTML coding
- Solicited and read through numerous poetry submissions to determine the best talent and fit for publication

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## **WORKSHOPS**

- Cave Canem Obsessions Workshop | Angel Nafis | Cave Canem, Brooklyn, NY Fall 2019
  - Pink Door Poetry Workshop | Rachel McKibbens | Rochester, NY, August 2018, 2019
  - Winter Tangerine Poetry Workshop | Safia Elhillo | Poet's House, December 2017
  - Poetry Incubator | Eve L. Ewing & Nate Marshall | Northwestern University, July 2017
- First Sound Pedagogical Institute | Youth Speaks | University of San Francisco, August 2016
  - Callaloo Poetry Workshop | Vievee Francis & Greg Pardlo | Brown University, June 2016
- We Wear the Mask Creative Writing Workshop | Samantha Thornhill | Juilliard School, Summer 2014
  - Cave Canem Poetry Workshop | t'ai freedom ford | Cave Canem, Brooklyn, NY Fall 2013

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

- "Ode to Black Light" | Tinderbox Journal, July 2019
- "Black People Save the Day, Again" | Winter Tangerine Anthology, February 2018

- "A FIVE QUESTION SURVEY ON BLACKNESS" (poetry) & "Home" (non-fiction) | The Texas Review, July 2017
- "I am not a Grasshopper, You are not my Master" | Button Poetry, June 2017
- "This is a Poem for People who Think they can Heal Themselves" & "Cosmos Justified" | Art Cult Zine, December 2016
- "Flesh Tone Crayola" | The Oakland Review, May 2016

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## PERFORMANCES

- An Ode To Langston: A Community Open Mic (feature), December 2019 | New York, NY
  - A Midsummer Night's Poetry Salon, July 2019 | New York, NY
- The Black Condition ft. Narcissus Launch Event, May 2019 | New York, NY
- The Cyph: Isa Studios, (feature performance) October 2018 | Chicago, IL
  - Mabuhay: Isa Studios Grand Opening, September 2018 | Chicago, IL
    - Poetry and Pie Night, August 2018 | Rochester, NY
- Winter Tangerine Workshop Performance, December 2017 | New York, NY
  - Until Unity is Woven, June 2017 | San Francisco, CA
- Presidio Dialogues: Performance & Panel Discussion, May 2017 | San Francisco, CA
  - Unified District Poetry Slam: Host, April 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Solespace: Daughter's Tongue Performance, April 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - California Academy of Sciences: Performance, March 2017 | San Francisco, CA
- Spotify: Performance for their Women's Day Celebration, March 2017 | San Francisco, CA
  - Mills College Arts Museum: Performance, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Teen Poetry Slam Last Chance Prelims: MC, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Albany Middle School: School Assembly, March 2017 | Albany, CA
- Roger Guenveur Smith Play "Rodney King": Opening performance, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Yahoo: Performance for Black History Month, February 2017 | Sunnyvale, CA
    - Emmanuel Church of Christ: Performance, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
    - Viscera: Daughter's Tongue Performance, February 2017 | Oakland, CA

- Pinterest: Performance for Black History Month, February 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking: Performance, February 2017 | San Francisco, CA
  - Urban Soirée: Birthday Party Performance, January 2017 | San Francisco, CA
  - Bringing the Noise: MLK Jr. Performance, January 2017 | January 2017
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## **LED WORKSHOPS**

- We Sweat Honeysuckle: Led online workshop for adults, June & September 2019 | New York, NY
  - Orchids Without Attached Wings: Led online workshop for adults, May & October 2019 | New York, NY
  - Sing That Like Dovesong: Led online workshop for adults, May & September 2019 | New York, NY
  - Feathered We Remember: Led workshop for adults, April 2019 | New York, NY
  - Finger & Lash, Sweet Lighting: Led online workshop for adults, February 2019 | New York, NY
  - Winter Tangerine Live Workshop: Led workshop for adults, February 2019 | New York, NY
  - Winter Tangerine Live Workshop: Led workshop for adults, November 2018 | New York, NY
  - Madison Park Academy: Led workshops for 7th graders, June 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Fremont High School: Led workshops for high schoolers, May 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Arise High School: Led workshops for high schoolers, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - Light Community Charter: Led workshop for their slam club, March 2017 | Oakland, CA
  - The Schools of the Sacred Heart: Led workshops for high schoolers, March 2017 | San Francisco, CA
  - The San Francisco School: Led workshop for 8th graders, January 2017 | San Francisco, CA
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## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

- Finalist for the Yemassee Journal | Poetry Contest Virtual, 2017
- Graduate Student Alliance Grant | California College of the Arts, 2017
- Center for Art and Public Life Grant | California College of the Arts, 2017
- All College Honors Scholarship in Poetry | California College of the Arts, 2016
- Digital Scholarship - Digital Storytelling | California College of the Arts, 2016