

# Mayda Del Valle

Writer/Educator/  
Facilitator

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## Mayda A. Del Valle

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### Education

2013-2014	M.F.A. Creative Writing- Cal Arts   Valencia,CA (completed coursework towards degree)
2000	B.A. Studio Art- Williams College   Williamstown, MA

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### Professional Experience

**Chicago Poetry Center / Poet in Residence**  
JANUARY 2023 - PRESENT, CHICAGO, IL

- Developed a poetry-focused language arts curriculum and facilitated workshops for K-12 students in Chicago Public Schools for in-school and after-school programming. Worked with over 120 students over 4 months.
- Created a Spanish language poetry curriculum for grades 2-12, focused on Latine/Latine American poets
- Edited and published 70+ blog posts of student work for the organization's website.
- Coached student poets in public speaking and poetry performance skills for a culminating public event.

**Snap Inc. / Culture Program Lead/ Council Facilitator**  
JANUARY 2017 - SEPTEMBER 2022, CHICAGO, IL

- Developed curriculum and facilitated development sessions for teams to align with organizational values, goals, and mission. Content used storytelling, deep listening practices, creative activities, and mindfulness.
- Facilitated weekly onboarding/orientation sessions to introduce New Hire cohorts to company culture and values.
- Partnered with ERGs to plan and facilitate strategic visioning, community building, and cultural events.
- Created and facilitated a curriculum for a six-part Ally Skills series to supplement an internal DEI training by L&D.

**Street Poets / Program Director**  
JANUARY 2016 - JANUARY 2017, LOS ANGELES, CA

- Developed a professional development model for staff and incoming teaching artists. Oversaw and managed the implementation of curriculum for programs in LAUSD High Schools and LA County Youth Probation Facilities.
- Ensured program activities operated within organizational budget and policies, and oversaw grant evaluations and reporting.

**Street Poets / Lead Teaching Artist**

APRIL 2012 - APRIL 2016, LOS ANGELES, CA

- Developed and facilitated poetry writing workshops for students in LAUSD and LA County Youth Probation facilities across LA County in 8-10 week artist-in-residence programs.
- Mentored youth and provided opportunities for continued engagement with the organization after off-site programs culminated.
- Strategized with off-site partners to ensure program quality, engagement, and consistency.

**Northwestern University Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities / Artist in Residence**

FALL 2016, EVANSTON, IL

- Invited guest to undergraduate course, The Poetics of Engagement, contributing insights on the intersections of poetry, performance, and community practice.

**Y.O.U.- Youth and Opportunity United- Poetry Foundation and Northwestern University Youth Initiative/ Visiting Artist**

FALL 2016, EVANSTON, IL

- Collaborated with a local non-profit to design innovative after-school poetry workshops for HS students, culminating in a public reading at the Poetry Foundation.

**MACLA / Artist in Residence**

MARCH 2010, SAN JOSE, CA

- Designed and delivered a week-long residency of creative writing and performance workshops, engaging high school students and community members (ages 15+).

**Youth Speaks / Artist in Residence**

DECEMBER 2008- MAY 2009, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

- Conducted month-long residencies featuring personalized master classes for youth ages 14- 18, mentoring emerging voices in the craft and revision of original work.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison/ Visiting Artist First Wave Hip Hop Theatre Program**

JUNE- AUGUST 2007, MADISON, WI

- Facilitated writing and performance workshops with a cohort of fifteen first-year students.
- Supported the development and direction of multi-disciplinary ensemble pieces.

## **Awards/ Grants/ Fellowships**

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### **City of Chicago Poet Laureate**

2026-2028 - City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

### **Dark Matter Residency**

2025 - Elastic Arts Foundation

### **Letras Boricua Fellowship**

2024 - Mellon Foundation and Flamboyant Arts Fund

### **Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize**

2017 - Northwestern University Press

### **Hispanic Women's Corporation- National HWC Fine Arts Award**

2011

### **Hedgebrook Writer in Residence**

2008

### **Williams College Bicentennial Medal**

2008

### **Smithsonian Magazine- America's Young Innovators in The Arts and Sciences**

2007

### **Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Performance- Def Poetry**

#### **Jam on Broadway**

2003

### **National Poetry Slam- Individual Slam Champion**

2001

### **Nuyorican Poets Café- Grand Slam Champion**

2001

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## **Publications**

### **Books**

2018 - A Southside Girl's Guide to Love and Sex- Tia Chucha Press

2017 - The University of Hip-Hop, Northwestern University Press

### **Anthologies**

2015 - The Break Beat Poets, Haymarket Books

2014 - Courage: Daring Poems for Gutsy Girls, Write Bloody Publishing

2009 - O Magazine- Oprah's First Ever O Power List: Volume 10, No. 9.

2008 - City Kids City Schools, The New Press

2007 - The Spoken Word Revolution: Redux, Sourcebooks Media Fusion

2004 - Talk To Me: Monologue Plays, Vintage Books

2003 - Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam on Broadway and More, Atria

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## **Notable Performances**

### **The Kennedy Center - Arts Summit**

Washington, D.C.

2018

**Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Washington, D.C.  
2016

**Solo performances/workshops at over 150 colleges and universities**  
2005-present

**White House Poetry Jam**

Washington, D.C.  
2009

**Def Poetry Jam on HBO- Seasons 1,3,4,5,6**

2002-2007

**Viva Puente! Tribute to Tito Puente**

Lincoln Center- New York, NY  
2004

**Declare Yourself National Tour- Produced by Norman Lear**

National Tour

2004

**Def Poetry Jam on Broadway**

Original cast member and writer; Longacre Theatre- New York, NY  
2002-2003