

Mayda Del Valle

Writer/Educator/
Facilitator

Mayda A. Del Valle

Chicago, IL 60629
info@maydadelvalle.com

Education

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

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

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 Flamboyan 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

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

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