SHIMA AISHA ROBINSON AKA DWENNIMMEN

Shima Aisha Robinson is an *amiskwaciy-wâskahikan* (Edmonton) born student, community builder, poet and spoken word artist who embodies, with every literary and scholarly effort, the ancient meaning of her chosen pen name. *Dwennimmen* is the name of an ancient African Adinkra symbol, which means strength, humility, learning and wisdom. It is no surprise, then, that this veteran of the Alberta poetry community uses a searing intellect and dynamic precision-of-language to create poetry which ushers her readers and listeners toward greater understanding and poignant reflection. For Shima Aisha Robinson aka Dwennimmen, poetry has long been a compass, a salve, an anchor and guiding light. She uses the potential and force of poetry to uncover the full range of her cerebral, linguistic and spiritual fortitude. This is why her every poem and performance testifies to an emerging power and wisdom, an authentic, deeply human potency which she hopes to pass on to listeners and poetry-lovers around the world. She is the author of two books including *HORN*, 2016, Denseverse (self published), and *Bellow*, 2022, Glass House Press. Shima is the 10th Edmonton Poet Laureate.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology Major, Creative Writing Minor (May 2019)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

Master Class: D'bi Young Anitafrika - Presented by Black Arts Matter (February 2019)

• ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

Training: Theatre for Living - Level 1 (August 2018)

Theatre for Living, Director: David Diamond, Vancouver, British Columbia

Saskatoon Poetic Arts Festival Cohort Member (May 2018)

 Various locations, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for a week-long intensive focused on the development of a breadth of skills in the poetic, performance and oratorial arts

Peacemaking Circle Certification (December 2015)

YOUCAN Youth Services, Edmonton, Alberta

WRIT 0245 Performance Poetry with Mary Pinkowski, 2013 Edmonton Poet Laureate (June 2013)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

10th Edmonton Poet Laureate (June 30th 2023 - present)

City of Edmonton, Alberta

Learning and Outreach Manager (May 2022 - February 2024)

Fringe Theatre Adventures, Edmonton, Alberta

President of Alberta NDP City Center Constituency Association (Nov 2021 - January 2024)

Edmonton, Alberta

Artistic Producer (June 2021 - January 2024)

- Edmonton Poetry Festival Society, Edmonton, Alberta
 - o Edmonton Poetry Festivals Produced:
 - We're Back April 2022
 - Ignite Unite April 2023

Programming/Working Group & Research Coordinator (Feb 2018 - April 2022)

Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG), Edmonton, Alberta

Production/Facilitator Volunteer - iHuman Music Studio (April 2019 - August 2020)

iHuman Youth Society, Edmonton, Alberta

Contract Creative Writing Instructor (2017, 2019)

The Learning Centre Literacy Association (LCLA), Edmonton, Alberta

Research Assistant (2014 - 2018)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

Contract Creative Writing Instructor (2013-2014)

Alberta Health Services (AHS) - Community Linking Program: "Out of the Shadows", Edmonton, Alberta

GRANTS AWARDED

Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) - Explore & Create Grant (2021)

• \$8,000 for a 6 month poetry mentorship with mentor Brandon Wint

Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) - Cultural Diversity in the Arts Grant (2019)

• \$25,000 for the BELLOW Project w/damn magpies (local improvisational music collective)

Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) - Artist's Trust Fund Award (2018)

• \$15,000 for personal use to offset artist cost of living

Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) - Cultural Diversity in the Arts Grant (2018)

• \$15,000 on behalf of the Black Girl Magic Collective in the McLuhan House Residency

APIRG Working Group Grants for "Sapling Poetry" (2015-17)

• Upwards of \$3,300 to date for the programming design and implementation of all Sapling Poetry projects

Perseverance Award, MacEwan University Students' Association (2016)

\$1000 awarded in recognition of my recovery from mental illness and pursuit of matriculation

APIRG Contingency Fund (2016/17)

 \$1000 to date for ongoing coverage of Sapling Poetry initiatives and the DIY publication of my debut book of poems titled, "Horn"

Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) - Micro Grant (2016)

• \$1,000 for use to offset artist cost of printing for the first run of my first book of poems

USRI (Undergraduate Student Research Initiative), MacEwan University (2014-2015)

• \$3000 awarded to research spoken word culture in Edmonton's Breath in Poetry scene

Dallas James Gendall Award, MacEwan University (2014/16)

\$2000 awarded to students with disabilities pursuing post-secondary education at MacEwan University

RESEARCH PROJECTS

RESEARCHER, "Impact of Slam" Project (July 2014 - July 2015) USRI (Undergraduate Student Research Initiative), MacEwan University

- Awarded a \$3000 grant to research spoken word culture in Edmonton's Breath in Poetry scene
- Addressed the query "What is the effect of participating in slam poetry on the formation of multiple subjectivities?"

SITE SOCIOLOGIST, "Generations" Hip Hop Film Project (February 2015) Clinks Film Production Company & MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

- Observed the film crew and subjects for the duration of the shoot
- Identified and documented key sociological issues including dynamics between the documentary
 participants and their use of significant technology (beat makers, turntables, samplers, and laptops)
- Identified appropriate queries for the crew to understand the creation of local Edmonton Hip Hop music from emcee to DJ to production to documentation

INTERNSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN via SCIP - Volunteer Alberta (January – August 2019) iHuman Youth Society, Edmonton, Alberta

Designed website content for iHuman Youth Society

SPOKEN WORD POETRY INTERN via SCIP - Volunteer Alberta (July 2015 – August 2018) Boyle Street Education Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

- Designed programming in spoken word creativity for Boyle Street Co-op's Youth Unit
- Currently implementing the program design, which allows youth to drop in, work one-on-one on spoken word projects and recordings, and work with Boyle Street to address basic needs for food, assistance, and a sense of belonging

MEMBER OF THE BLACK GIRL MAGIC COLLECTIVE (June 2017 – 2019)

McLuhan House Residency, Edmonton, Alberta

- Spoken Word Poet
- Event Organizer
- Grant Writer

FACILITATION AND TEACHING

WORDSWORTH (July 2023)

Red Deer Polytechnic, Red Deer, Alberta

Taught five days worth of lessons on spoken word poetry to a class of 15-19 year olds

WRITING POETRY with DWENNIMMEN (June 2023)

Capital City Press - Young Writers' Conference

• Facilitated a 1.5 hour workshop on writing and performing poetry

Engagement Lab - Guest Facilitator (October 2022)

Theatre Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta (online)

- Co-facilitated a 2 hour session for theatre and arts practitioners and venue representatives driven by my life and work experience in the arts
- Participated in the recording of a podcast episode highlighting key points and takeaways from the co-facilitated session.

WORDSWORTH (July 2022)

Red Deer Polytechnic, Red Deer, Alberta

Taught five days worth of lessons on spoken word poetry to a class of 15-19 year olds

YOUTH WRITE (July 2022) Bennett Center, Edmonton, Alberta

• Taught five days worth of lessons on spoken word poetry to a class of 8-13 year olds

JUBE SCHOOL (March 2022)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Delivered a lesson to a class of 5th grade students on spoken word poetry

PERSPECTIVES ON QUEER ORGANIZING IN YEG: Resisting Police Violence (March 2021) Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU)

Delivered a workshop on grassroots organizing for MacEwan Students

ON BEING A SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR (February 2020)

Ross Sheppard High School, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry integrated into a class talk on the merits and struggles of being a social justice warrior, for four assembled classes of highschool students. Assisted in guiding conversations at their student planned global cafe event following my talk.

THE BUSINESS OF ART (January 2020)

The Come Up (Africa Centre - Youth Group) at St. JOHN'S INSTITUTE

• Facilitated a presentation on the business of art with a focus on grant and award applications.

GUEST SPEAKER - Spoken Word Poetry and the Performance of Political Awareness (March 2019) Jasper Place High School, Global Cafe

• Presented performances of a selection of spoken word poems facilitated by prompting questions and discussions for two separate class sessions.

GUEST LECTURER - Centring the Margins in Canadian Society: A Health (Care) Based Analysis of Accessibility for Indigenous Peoples (June 2018)

University of Alberta, SOCIOLOGY 203, Edmonton, Alberta

• Presented and facilitated topics and discussions on the historical lack of accessibility to healthcare and community services and resources for Indigenous peoples on behalf of APIRG

INTERSECTIONS OF QUEER (March 2018)

University of Alberta, ECHA (Edmonton Clinic Health Academy), Edmonton Alberta

• Facilitated a panel titled: "Queering the Lexicon" on the use of various languages in the panelists' lived experience

FOR POSITION ONLY - CATCHING WORDS WORKSHOP w/ AJA LOUDEN (February 2018) Allard Hall - MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

- Co-facilitated a workshop on the linkages between images and words
- Performed my original poem, "Instrumental", for attendees as a composite part of the workshop activities

SHADES OF COLOUR (February 2018)

Teapsy, Whyte Ave, Edmonton, Alberta

- Facilitated a poetry workshop for an APIRG Working Group for LGBTQ2S+ known as "Shades of Colour"
- Explored my "drop-in" writing curriculum

SPEAKING OF IDENTITY WORKSHOP (November 2017)

MacEwan University - Robbins Health Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

• Explored topics of gender identity through the use of performative poetry workshopping and conversation

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION (June 2017)

University of Alberta, ECHA (Edmonton Clinic Health Academy), Edmonton, Alberta

 Delivered an Anti-Oppression training treating the challenges of administration and governance the UofA SU will face in seeking to represent diverse, changing and marginalized members of the student body

LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION: ADULT CREATIVE WRITING CLASS (May 2017 – June 2017)

Abbotsfield Mall, Edmonton, Alberta

- Collaboration with Lady Vanessa Cardona of the Edmonton 2016 Slam Team
- Instructed adult literacy class through the performance development and presentation of spoken word poetry

APIRG ANTI_OPPRESSION WORKSHOP for LOCAL DANCE COLLECTIVES

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta (March 2017)

• Created a framework for discovering ways of addressing issues of gendered, racial and physical violence in two closely connected dance music communities in South Edmonton through group facilitation of policy planning and community care

DROP IN WORKSHOP FACILITATION FOR MARGINALIZED YOUTH (February 2017 – present) Old Strathcona Youth Services, Edmonton, Alberta

- Collaboration with local poet Kaz Mega
- Designed and adapted discussion based, exploratory, instructional programming in spoken word and poetry writing and performance

WORKSHOP FACILITATION AND PERFORMANCE FOR GRADE 9 DRAMA CLASS (February 2017) Louis St. Laurent School, Edmonton, Alberta

- Performed original works adapted for youth aged 13-14 years (Grade 9)
- Designed and implemented programming to achieve learning objectives set by Edmonton Catholic School Board
- Collaborated with local poets Kaz Mega and former Youth Poet Laureate of Edmonton, Charlotte Cranston

CREATIVE WRITING COMMUNITY ARTIST (February 2017 – 2019) CreArt: Free School of Community Arts, Edmonton, Alberta

- Designing, adapting and delivering programming and creative writing skills development supports
- Instructing on the basics of English language creative writing
- Coordinating programming with other staff and recruiting artists for instructor roles in other disciplines

GUEST LECTURER/PERFORMER, "Healing and Creativity in Social Work" (January – April 2017) University of Calgary at Enterprise Square, Faculty of Social Work, Edmonton, Alberta

• Designed, adapted and delivered a four-instalment discussion circle and talk/poetry performance, centered on the development of context and capacity in envisioning, understanding and applying creativity to social work

WORKSHOP FACILITATION AND PERFORMANCE FOR LGBTQ2S+ YOUTH (August 2016) Camp Fyrefly, Edmonton, Alberta

- Developed and delivered a spoken word poetry workshop for youth with another poet
- Presented the workshop in accordance with the "safer space" rules of Camp Fyrefly
- Performed selection of spoken word poetry

COORDINATOR / FACILITATOR, "Impressions" Poetry Project (November 2015) Boyle Street Education Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to develop and coordinate a week of spoken word programming for the school's DIY (Do-It-Yourself) publication.
- Hired 4 local poets and a peacemaking circle facilitator to work with 15 youths
- Used a multidisciplinary arts approach (printmaking, poetry, writing, and, photography) to explore the theme "Impressions" through self-recognition, sound, movement, physicality, and form
- Worked with students to edit and create a post-workshop anthology
- Project's success encouraged Boyle Street to market "Impressions" as a program for other high schools to create one-off DIY anthologies as a comprehensive learning experience

POETRY WORKSHOP FACILITATOR (October 2015)

Jasper Place High School, Edmonton, Alberta

• Facilitated a poetry workshop for Grade 10 students

CREATIVE WRITING INSTRUCTOR, "Out of the Shadows" Program (2013-2014) Alberta Health Services, Edmonton, Alberta

• Guided groups of adults and youths with mental health barriers through activities and tutorials on creative writing

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Convocation Hall Music Series feat: Dwennimmen and damn magpies (September 2024) Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poems from the book Bellow (Glass House Press 2022) accompanied by improvisational music collective damn magpies as: The Bellow Project

Vers/E Queer Poetry Reading Series (August 2024)

Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poems as feature poet

Jube Fest (July 2024)

Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poems as an opening feature for Jube Fest at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

North Country Fair (June 2023)

Drift Pile Cree Nation, Alberta

- Performed a selections of original poems in a feature set on REED stage
- Hosted a showcase/workshop for Hip Hop musicians
- Performed a selection of original work on mainstage

KWAKASIMA (June 2023)

Africa Day Gala, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed excerpts of original poems for a collaborative presentation involving dance and mbira performance.

WOMEN OF FOLKWAYS (March 2023)

Northern Lights Folks Club, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a combination of original poetry and cover songs of folk artists with Audrey Ochoa, Mallory Chipman and Dana Wyley

GUEST FEATURE PERFORMANCE with TZADEKA (February 2023) Yardbird Suite, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed the track "We Need a Little Kindness Here" from Tzadeka's latest album, Cities on Fire, as a guest emcee/poet.

LEVERAGING OUR SYNERGIES: Cultural Resilience in the Diaspora - Conference (February 2023)

• Performed the original poem "Landing" from the book, *Bellow*

THE BELLOW PROJECT (January 2023)

- Arcadia Brewing Co., Edmonton, Alberta
- Performed the full book, *Bellow*, in collaboration with local improvisational sound collective known as "damn magpies", in a performance called *The Bellow Project*.

BOXING DAY SHOW (December 2022)

Ritchie Community League - Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a live version of the track "Need a Little Kindness Here" with Tzadeka and the Nurder Hornettes

MITCHELL ART GALLERY 5th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (November 2022) Mitchell Art Gallery - Allard Hall, Edmonton Alberta

• Performed an original selection of three spoken word poems including a commissioned work titled, *Stand*

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEADLY (October 2022)

El Cortez, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed an original hip hop piece which I wrote to an original beat

SHMOOZY (September 2022)

Latitude 53, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word poems for this Latitude 53 fundraiser

A Week of Liberation - AWOL (September 2022)

Old Strathcona Community Hall

Performed a selection of original spoken word poems

PURPLE CITY - TAKLEEF ENSEMBLE (August 2022) Metro Cinema (Garneau), Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word poems from my book *HORN* as a member of the local drone collective known as Takleef Ensemble

SHE THE ROCK - SKIRTS A-FIRE (March 2022)

Westbury Theatre - The Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original spoken word poems

VAN SLAM (February 2022)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original spoken word poems for Van Slam (Vancouver Poetry Slam)

SITE/SIGHT/PLACE (December 2021)

Orange HUB - FAVA, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed an original spoken word work as well as dance choreography and dance freestyle as a cast member for this multidisciplinary theatre presentation

TAKLEEF ENSEMBLE (September 2021) CO*LAB, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word works from my book *HORN* as a member of the local drone collective known as Takleef Ensemble

TRAP CITY ALBUM RELEASE (September 2021)

The Aviary, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word poetry for a live audience

SHAMAIR TURNER FUNDRAISER EVENT (August 2021)

The Black Lodge, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word poetry for a live audience in support of fundraising efforts for Shamair Turner running for city council

PURPLE CITY - TAKLEEF ENSEMBLE (August 2021)

Heritage Amphitheatre, Hawrelak Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original spoken word poems from my book *HORN* as a member of the local drone collective known as Takleef Ensemble

MARY BURLIE DAY - DECLARATION (July 2021)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed an original commissioned spoken word poem called *The Black Angel of Boyle Street*

LOVE IS LOVE (February 2021)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry for an NDP fundraiser benefiting the Women's Caucus

ACB HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 2021)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed an original commissioned spoken word poem - hosted by HIV Edmonton

ALBERTA STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (January 2021)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

• Delivered a speech to Alberta Student Leadership Summit delegates - hosted by the University of Alberta Students' Union.

MIDWINTER DREAMS (December 2020)

Mile Zero, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry, streamed live from the venue alongside a variety of other guest artists participating on Zoom, hosted by Matthew "Creeasian" Wood

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR (December 2020)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed original poem: "For My Sisters", to commemorate the massacre at École Polytechnique de Montreal

NON ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION - University of Alberta (December 2020) Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed original poem: "For My Sisters", to commemorate the massacre at École Polytechnique de Montreal

PARKLAND INSTITUTE CONFERENCE PARTY (November 2020)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

PEKIWEWIN x LOCAL GOOD FUNDRAISER (September 2020)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

VOICING OUR VALUES (September 2020) MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed original poem "Grounding" for video collection project on responses to sexual violence in local communities

PEKIWEWIN CAMP FUNDRAISER (September 2020)

The Black Lodge, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

MARK SEGGER - Collaboration - Live Stream (August 2020) The Yardbird Suite, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed original poem "Landing" accompanied by Mark Segger on drums

CO*LAB - Quarters Arts Summer Sessions (July 2020)

The CO*LAB, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

SOUNDING - FOUND FESTIVAL - Short Films (June 2020) Various Locations, Edmonton, Alberta

• Co-created three short films shot and produced by Pepper'd with vocal recordings from the HORN audiobook as partial soundtrack along with instrumental work by Biboye Onanuga

STARLITE SESSIONS x NORTH COUNTRY FAIR - Live Stream (June 2020) Starlite Room, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

TALKIN' SMAAC - A Night of Poetry Song and Abolition (June 2020)

- Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta
- Performed a selection of original poetry

HEART OF THE CITY ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL - Poetry Online Stage (June 2020)

- Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta
- Performed a selection of original poetry

GREEN DRINKS - The Local Good (May 2020)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA - BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION (February 2020) Alberta Legislature, Front Atrium, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES - Benefit Show (January 2020) Orange Hall, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry in support of the Boyle Street Community Services Coop on a bill with rock and grunge musicians

CHRISTMAS BENEFIT SHOW (December 2019)

The Empress Ale House, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry on a bill with rock, folk and country musicians

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR MEMORIAL BRUNCH (December 2019)

Productivity and Innovation Centre Atrium - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology , Edmonton, Alberta

Performed original, commissioned poem, "For Our Sisters"

PARKLAND INSTITUTE CONFERENCE (November 2019)

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

Tzadeka with Pooky G & Dwennimmen (November 2019)

Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry as part of an all women showcase

MOMENTS BY MORREL - COMPANY LAUNCH PARTY (November 2019)

Homestead Co-Working Space, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

DIGNITY DAY LAUNCH (October 2019)

iHuman Youth Society, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

DIRT BUFFET CABARET (September 2019) Spazio Performativo, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original electronic music

KALEIDO FESTIVAL - CENTRAL STAGE (September 2019)

- 93rd Street & 118Ave, Edmonton, Alberta
- Performed a selection of original poetry

MAGNUM OPUS - iHuman Fundraiser (July 2019)

- Alberta Aviation Museum, Edmonton, Alberta
- Performed a selection of original poetry

RHYTHM & POETRY - SHOWCASE (June 2019)

9910, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

Dwennimmen/Ethan Bokma/damn magpies (May 2019) Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

- Performed a selection of original poetry in collaboration with Ethan Bokma as a duo
- Performed a selection of original poetry in collaboration with damn magpies as a collective

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL - LANDSCAPES (April 2019) Allard Hall. Edmonton. Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry in live collaboration with a local visual artist

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL - DRONE & WORDS (April 2019)

Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry in live collaboration with a local drone musician

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL - FIGHTING NORMAL (April 2019)

Audrey's Books, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry on the subject of my personal journey through mental illness

DIRT BUFFET CABARET (March 2019)

Spazio Performativo, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

SKIRTS A-FIRE (March 2019)

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry in ensemble as well as participated in a panel discussion

SPACE DANCE (March 2019)

Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry for a queer dance party and showcase

CONJURE: 1st ANNIVERSARY (December 2018)

Mercury Room, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry for the Conjure Dance Collective's 1st Anniversary party

SHEPAPALOZZA (December 2018)

Starlite Room , Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry for the MLA David Shepherd's NDP Fundraiser

BREATH IN POETRY COLLECTIVE'S INDIVIDUAL SLAM FINALS (December 2018)

The Nook Cafe, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed selection of original poetry for the 3,2,1, Individual Slam with the Breath in Poetry Collective

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR MEMORIAL BRUNCH (December 2018) Fresh Express - NAIT, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed original, commissioned poem "For Our Sisters"

STAY W.O.C. by Apathy is Boring (November 2018) Mercury Room, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

FEATURED POET at OLIVE READING SERIES (September 2018) Almanac, Edmonton Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

EDMONTON STREETCAR PERFORMANCE (September 2018) Aboard the Edmonton Streetcar, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

SASS THE PATRIARCHY (July 2018)

The Aviary, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry in advocacy of ending gender based violence globally

HEART OF THE CITY MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL (June 2018)

Giovanni Caboto Park, Edmonton, Alberta

- Performance on the Queer Poetry Stage
- ➢ Performance at the Youth Stage
- ➢ Feature performance at the Beat Stage

TURNING THE TIDE BOOK LAUNCH/PERFORMANCE (June 2018)

Amigos Cantina, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

• Performed selection of original poetry from my debut book of poems: HORN

HEART OF THE CITY: QUEER POETRY STAGE (June 2018)

Heart of the City Festival in Giovanni Caboto Park, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

WORD FIGHT (June 2018)

ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry in costume for a mock slam

BREATH IN POETRY COLLECTIVE SLAM TEAM FINALS (May 2018) ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed selection of original poetry in competition for membership on the 2018 Breath in Poetry Slam Team

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL: ALL-STAR SLAM (April 2018)

ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry for a cash prize slam

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL: BACKSTAGE THEATRE (April 2018)

ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry following a theatre presentation

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL: NÊHIYAWÊTÂN (2018)

Grant MacEwan University, Allard Hall, Edmonton Alberta

Performed selection of original poetry

COMPOSITION MAJOR: FINAL RECITAL (March 2018)

MacEwan University - Betty Andrews Recital Hall, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed original poem, "Sister Sorrow", in collaboration with a live electronic performance by a graduating composition major of MacEwan University's Music Program

SKIRTS A-FIRE (March 2018)

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, Edmonton, Alberta

- Black Girl Magic Collective performance feature
- Performed original poem, *Landing*, as a part of the "Unwoven" showcase by Black Girl Magic members and guest Indigenous women artists

POETRY PALS (March 2018)

Sole House, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a half hour set of original work from my first book of poems, *Horn*, as well as new work from an unpublished manuscript

BLACK ARTS MATTER (February 2018)

Backstage Theatre - ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed original poem, "Landing", in the Black Girl Magic Collective's featured showcase w/ American Sign Language interpretation

FOR POSITION ONLY (January 2018)

MacEwan University - John and Maggie Mitchell Art Gallery, Edmonton Alberta

- Original poem, "Instrumental", posted on the front wall of the John and Maggie Mitchell gallery
- Performance in Allard Hall outside the gallery for the opening of the show "For Position Only" (FPO)

THE FUTURE AND ALL THAT JAZZ (December 2017)

NASCAR Hall of Fame and the North Carolina Convention Centre, Charlotte, North Carolina

• Performed improvised and original commissioned poetry for the TERMIS America Annual Conference and Exhibition with multiple performances over the course of one week

TONIGHT IT'S POETRY - FEATURE (November 2017)

Amigos Cantina - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

 Performed a selection of original poetry as a featured artist at the official Saskatoon slam poetry event, "Tonight It's Poetry" (TIP)

FAMILY DAY POETRY SHOWCASE (February 2017) City Hall, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original spoken word poems for families on Family Day, at City Hall

POETRY OF THE POTUS (November 2017)

The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed original poem "Landing" at an evening of poetry inspired by critique of the current US
presidency

CANADIAN FESTIVAL OF SPOKEN WORD (October 2017)

Various Venues, Peterborough, Ontario

Performed as a member of the 2017 Breath In Poetry Slam Team representing Edmonton at the CFSW 2017 week-long competition

AN EVENING OF UNBROKEN WORD (August 2017)

Noorish, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed for 30 minutes in the round for an evening of spoken word poetry performances with the "Stand Down Crew"

POETRY SLAM COMPETITION (July 2017)

Saskatchewan Festival of Words, Moosejaw, Saskatchewan

• Performed a selection of original poems for this curated, invitational slam competition as a member of the Edmonton "Breath In Poetry" Slam Team

SUPPORT DON'T PUNISH (June 2017)

Beaver Hills House Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry for the "Support Don't Punish" national day of action against incarceration

FOUND FESTIVAL (June 2017)

Gazebo Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry as a featured artist on the general outdoor stage

BLACK ARTS MATTER SHOWCASE (May 2017)

El Cortez, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poetry and free-styled lyrics in the round (cypher) with community members

HEART OF THE CITY MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER (May 2017)

The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry to raise funds for the Heart of the City Music & Arts Festival 2017

CANADIAN INDIVIDUAL POETRY SLAM (April 2017)

Verses Festival of Words, Vancouver, British Columbia

• Performed a selection of original poems - both published and unpublished for the Canadian national championship competition in slam poetry

780 TURNPIKE & VIZION (April 2017)

Arcadia, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poetry

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL (April 2017)

- Performed a selection of original poems at various locations in Edmonton, Alberta
 - > Public Reading and Q & A, CBC Center Stage
 - > Leonard Cohen Tribute (collaboration with Billie Zizi), Studio 96
 - > French Twist (collaboration with Pierrette Requier Edmonton Poet Laureate), The Kasbar
 - > Breath in Poetry: Slam Finals, Strathcona Performing Arts Centre

APIRG (Alberta Public Interest Research Group) PLEBICITE VICTORY PARTY (April 2017) Massawa Café, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of original poems

FRIENDSHIP BENCH LAUNCH (March 2017)

University of Alberta, Rutherford Atrium, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poems on mental health

SKIRTS A-FIRE (March 2017)

Nina Haggerty Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

- Black Girl Magic Collective performance feature
- Performed a feature selection of poems from debut publication, "Horn" and other recent writing

PAY-IT-FORWARD FOUNDATION COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER (March 2017) Sneaky Pete's. Edmonton. Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poems to benefit the Pay-It-Forward Foundation's Community work

THE OLIVE READING SERIES: STUDENT FEATURE (March 2017) The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed curated work from my debut publication, "Horn"

BLACK GIRL MAGIC FEATURE: BLACK ARTS MATTER: CHINOOK SERIES (February 2017) Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original poems from my debut publication "Horn"

BREATH IN POETRY FEATURE (February 2017) Massawa Café, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a selection of poems from my debut publication, "Horn"

SHIFT LAB (December 2016)

Massawa Café, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed original work exploring the significance and quality of the concept of home

CKUA Leonard Cohen Tribute (November 2016) CKUA, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed original work and tribute Cohen piece (included in proceedings via audio/visual)

SPEAK OUT WORKSHOP (August 2016) Camp Fyrefly, Edmonton Alberta

Performed original work and co-facilitated a workshop on spoken word poetry for youth and councillors
of the Camp Fyrefly's summer camp.

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL (July 2016)

Various locations, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of work from "HORN" as a feature of the Sister II Sister Showcase

KNOWLEDGE IS POWWOW (June 2016)

Boyle Street Plaza, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selected works from "HORN"

NEXT FEST (June 2016)

The Roxy Theatre, Edmonton, Alberta

- Performed a selection of work from "HORN" and other writing for:
 - ➢ Sisters Take the Mic
 - ➤ Slam Finals
 - > Accord Ensemble collaboration

WIN HOUSE Benefit (May 2016)

Massawa Café, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed selection of work from "HORN"

DIGNITY DAY (October 2016) Edmonton City Hall, Alberta

• Performance of a selection of poems from my debut publication, "Horn" for an all ages audience

BROWN, BLACK AND FIERCE Festival (November 2015) Edmonton Public Library, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed at a festival by and for Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC) located in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton)

"TAKE BACK THE MIC" Slam, NextFest 2015 (June 2015)

Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a competitive slam poetry reading

BIP EDMONTON SLAM Finalist (April 2015)

Breath in Poetry City-Wide Finals, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a selection of original work, both published and unpublished

"WHERE THE HEART IS" (March 2015) Christ Church, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed a solo poem "Motherless Child" with choral accompaniment by the Accord Ensemble, an Edmonton-based youth choir

CUPW (Canadian Union of Postal Workers) Equinox Women's Retreat (March 2015) Bennett Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed a 30-minute spoken word set

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND CONFERENCES

KEYNOTE: ALBERTA STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (January 2021)

Via Zoom Video Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

Delivered a keynote speech for the annual ASLS conference

KEYNOTE: STRIDE PROGRAM LAUNCH (September 2020) Via ZoomVideo Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

• Delivered a keynote speech for the University of Alberta Students' Union's STRIDE program for women in governance and community leadership

RACISM & POVERTY PANEL - John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (January 2020) St. John's Cultural Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

• Spoke on my personal and professional experiences of marginalization

POLITICAL BREAKDOWNS - Political Science Graduate Student Conference - U of A (April 2019) The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed original poetry and gave a talk on the benefits of self publishing through a political scientific lens

CHINOOK SERIES - Decolonizing Process and Practice: What that REALLY Means - panel (February 2019)

ATB Arts Barns, Edmonton, Alberta

• Spoke on my personal and professional orientation to questions of decolonization

READING IDENTITY CONFERENCE - Presenter (February 2019)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed original work of poetry Landing for the conference's poetry session

ALBERTA STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT - University of Alberta (January 2019) Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta

Delivered a talk themed on the message: Breaking Out of Your Shell

MONTH OF THE ARTIST PANEL - Alberta Culture & Tourism (January 2019) The Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton, Alberta

• Spoke on my experiences as an artist from Edmonton, Alberta

PRESENTER/PERFORMER (June 2018)

Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) Conference - The Delta Hotel, Fredericton, NB

• Performed original poem Underbelly of an Origin Story with a slate of local poets

MANIFEST (March 2018)

Shelf Life Books, Calgary, Alberta

- Panel seat in a discussion of poetry and feminism
- Performed original poems from my first book, *Horn*, as well as new unpublished poems

WGA WRITER'S HUB FOR YOUTH PRESENTS: ASK AN EXPERT 2017 Web Based Forum, Edmonton, Alberta

• Online participation in afternoon Q and A session on my writing experiences and advice

A CONVERSATION ON SOLIDARITIES, ALLIANCES AND DECOLONIZATION: AN INDIGENOUS FEMINISM WORKSHOP (March 2017)

University of Alberta, Lister Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

- Panel discussion on the relevance of solidarity between indigenous people and people of colour
- Performance of original poem titled, "Landing"

GUEST LECTURER for D. Crosby instructing SOC 224 Deviance and Conformity (May 2016) University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

• Delivered a lecture on mental health and illness intersecting with deviantization and creativity

GALL CONFERENCE (September 2015)

Boyle McCauley Community Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

• Participated in a panel on storytelling titled: Storytelling Conversation: Mental Health, Criminalization and Poverty

PRESENTER/PERFORMER (May 2016)

Grant MacEwan Undergraduate Student Symposium, Edmonton, Alberta

Presented MacEwan funded research on spoken word poetry in Edmonton titled: "The Impact of Slam"

PRESENTER / PERFORMER (May 2015)

Inner City High, Edmonton, Alberta

Presented and performed with KazMega (Edmonton-based hip-hop artist)

PANELIST / PERFORMER (May 2014)

High Risk Youth Conference, MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

• Invited to speak and perform at a conference for service providers, researchers, and experts focused on the growing population of youth with increasingly complex needs

PUBLICATIONS/RECORDINGS

- *Bellow,* Glass House Press, 2022 poetry chapbook
- The Bellow Project, full length spoken word album feat. improvisational sound collective damn magpies
- *From Foreign* on *If I Were a Dance* writing and vocals for sound and poetry collab released by Pseudo Laboratories, 2021
- *Tribute* poem in Pandemic Poems a collection edited by Kevin B. Solez, 2020
- HORN (audiobook), BoogETown Productions, 2017
- HORN, Denseverse Publishing & Production, 2016 book of poetry
- *Nature*, *Sun and Snow Anthology*, Edmonton: Rhythm International, 2013.

COMMISSIONED WORKS

HIV Edmonton (February 2021) Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to write a poem to honour the spirit of teaching and learning from one another
 - o "Each One Teach One"

The Grizzlar Coffee & Records (April 2020) Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to write a poem to accompany a micro-batch of Rawandese coffee
 - o "Humere to Your Cup"

John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights - Dignity Day (August 2019 - October 2019) Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to write poetry for collaborative work with other Dignity Day 2019 artists
 - o "Road Map to the Pot of Gold"

Wedding Officiation (January 2017) Edmonton, Alberta

• Commissioned to write and perform personalized poem for the newly-weds as well as act as ceremonial officiate of a wedding

Multicultural Education Foundation's "Harmony Brunch" (March 2016) Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to write and perform poem
 - o "Tending"

Alberta Federation of Labour (December 2015) Edmonton, Alberta

- Commissioned to write and perform "For My Sisters" at École Polytechnique de Montréal Memorial
- Link to recorded performance is at: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKRL9fE1tyc</u>

HOSTING

FOUND FESTIVAL - SNAP IF YOU CAN HEAR ME (July 2021) End of Steel Park, Edmonton, Alberta

 Hosted and curated two days of poetry performance outdoors in End of Steel Park for the local found space festival

WORD*LAB (January 2021 - present) CO*LAB, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosting a monthly open mic and feature poet presentation, co produced by Quarters Arts Society and Common Ground Arts Society

Sewing Machine Factory Open Mic Series - Session #2 (February 2020) Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosted an evening open mic poetry event. Performed a selection of original poetry as well as introducing other participant poets.

Sewing Machine Factory Open Mic Series - Session #1 (January 2020) Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosted an evening open mic poetry event. Performed a selection of original poetry as well as introducing other participant poets.

Endless Bummer Poetry Showcase (September 2019) Sewing Machine Factory, Edmonton, Alberta

 Hosted and performed a selection of original poems in a poetry showcase for a local performance art festival

Project Noir (September 2019)

MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta

Hosted a day of consultation for Black artists and entrepreneurs

Found Glory at Found Festival (July 2019)

- Backstage Theatre & The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta
- Organized/Curated/Hosted a showcase of local poets

Black & Brown Voices United (November 2018)

Telus International Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performed selection of original poetry as well as hosting and organizing the evening

GROOVY TIMES II (September 2018)

The Aviary, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed selection of original poetry as well as hosting and curating the poetry performances for the evening

FROM THE JUMP: ORIGIN STORIES REMIXED (September 2018)

The Aviary, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performed selection of original poetry as well as hosting and organizing the evening on behalf of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)

Identity Alchemy at Found Festival (July 2018)

End of Steel Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosted a showcase of poets selected for the Queer poetry reading installment for Found Fest.

Identity Alchemy at the Almanac (May 2018)

The Almanac, Edmonton, Alberta

Hosted five poets from local Queer communities who performed original spoken word poetry

Sapling (2016 - 2018)

Boyle Street Education Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

 Created Sapling to host youth-focused open mics/workshops and cyphers that are public and affiliated with Boyle Street Co-Op, CreArt Edmonton, Grant MacEwan University and APIRG on the University of Alberta Campus

FemmeCypher iHuman Fundraiser (July 2017) Chvrch of John, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosted and performed in an all women showcase to raise funds for iHuman Youth Society

Heart of the City Music and Art Festival (June 2017) Giovanni Caboto Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Coordination of "The Beat" poetry stage, including performance of selected original work and sound tech

Hip Hop in the Park X (June 2017)

Boyle Street Plaza, Edmonton, Alberta

• Co-hosted the festivities at the 10th annual celebration of Hip Hop in the Park

Equity, Diversity & Keeping Our Hip Hop in Check (1, 2) (May 2017)

Parkdale Cromdale Community League, Edmonton, Alberta

• Hosted both the speaker/facilitator and the event through my capacity as a board member of Hip Hop in the Park and as the director of Sapling Poetry

Whiteface (May 2017)

Parkdale Cromdale Community League, Edmonton, Alberta

 Collaborated with Lady Vanessa Cardona, Todd Houseman, Parkdale Cromdale Community League, and Listen Louder Productions to stage a second performance of the dance theatre presentation *Whiteface* in cooperation with Sapling Poetry

Living Languages (August 2016)

Central MacDougall Park, Edmonton, Alberta

• Collaborated with the Inner City Recreation and Wellness program, MLA David Shepherd's Office, and REACH Edmonton to facilitate an outdoor open mic jam

LIVING LANGUAGES SERIES (June 2016 - August 2016)

MacDougall Park, Edmonton, Alberta

- Performance and hosting of an outdoor, family friendly park party for the residents of MacDougall and friends
- Administered payment of the professional disc jockey retained for the event
- Promotion and stage management for each instalment the monthly event

RHYTHMS OF THE EARTH: A Celebration of Black History (February 2016) The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House, Edmonton, Alberta

Performed and co-hosted

The Poet Tree (2004 - 2007)

Naked Cyber Café, Edmonton, Alberta

• Created and hosted an open mic gathering that welcomed people of all ages to perform poetry and music

Sotto Voice Box Radio Show (2003-2007)

CJSR 88.5 FM Radio, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Hosted weekly late-night radio show of urban music, poetry, electronic music

No Sweat (March 2006)

Myer Horowitz Theatre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Hosted a show against sweatshop production; hosted entirely in verse

RECORDINGS & VIDEOS

Brickyard Western Showcase - Brick Books

Link to recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvP8fyhe6iw</u>

The No Normal Podcast - From Foreign - collab with Mustafa Rafiq featuring 4 poems:

- ≻ Homely
- > Priceless
- ≻ Rebuttal
- ≻ Triumph
- Link to recording: <u>https://soundcloud.com/newmusicedmonton</u>

"Sounding" - series of three short films co-created with Pepper'd

Link to films: <u>https://commongroundarts.ca/found/event/sounding/</u>

"Cultural Diversity in the Arts Grant 2019 - Shima Aisha Robinson" - Interview/Spoken Word

Link to recorded performance: <u>https://youtu.be/1Kg6fNeQ1nY</u>

"2017 Edmonton Artist's Trust Fund Recipient" - Interview/Spoken Word

Link to recorded performance: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHxd6EbyxhE</u> (6:26 - 7:19)

INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA

CBC - Radio Active

Interview and Reading from 10th Poet Laureate

• Performance of an original poem and Q & A with the hosts of CBC Radio Active in recognition of the appointment of 10th Edmonton Poet Laureate

WORD (June 3rd, 2017)

CJSR 88.5 FM, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

 Performance of a curated selection of original poems, discussion of upcoming presentations and my art career

Liquid Chatter (January 8, 2016)

CJSR 88.5 FM, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

• Performance of a curated selection of original poem, discussed feminism and anti-terrorism

Liquid Chatter (December 11, 2015)

CJSR 88.5 FM, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Performance of a curated selection of original poems, discussed mental health and illness

CBC Radio (March 18, 2013)

Edmonton, Alberta

Interviewed by Portia Clark about my experiences as an instructor of the Alberta Health Services (AHS) community linking group "Out of the Shadows" for persons with mental health issues

MEMBERSHIPS

Edmonton Arts Council (Jan. 2017 - 2023)

Writers' Guild of Alberta (Jan. 2017 - 2023)

JURYS

- Fringe Theatre December 2022 Westbury Awards Jury Member
- RIDER Edmonton April 2021- RISER Jury Member
- Edmonton Arts Council January 2020 Festival Seed Grant Jury Member
- Edmonton Arts Council November 2017 Travel Grant Jury Member
- Edmonton Arts Council October 2016 Travel Grant Jury Member

SHIMA ROBINSON - CURRICULUM VITAE

WEBSITE

http://www.denseverse.net