

# Guadalupe “Lupe” Mendez

Writer/Educator/Organizer

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## Education:

*B.A. in Bilingual Education*

**University of St. Thomas**

**August 1995 – December 2000**

*MFA in Creative Writing*

**University of Texas at El Paso**

**June 2012 – December 2015**

*Thesis: Damas y Caballeros*

*Thesis Chair: Sasha Pimentel, MFA*

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## Featured Readings/Performances:

<i>Docupoetics Reading</i>	City College of New York	New York, NY	November, 2021
<i>Texas Assoc. of Chicanos in Higher Ed</i>	Univ. of Houston Downtown	Houston, TX	November, 2021
<i>Latinx Heritage Celebration</i>	Houston Holocaust Museum	Houston, TX	October, 2021
<i>Open Reading/ Writing Sessions</i>	La Porte ISD Central Office	La Porte, TX	October, 2021
<i>Hispanic Heritage Month Reading</i>	Papa John’s Corp. Offices	Modesto, CA	<i>September, 2021</i>
<i>Education + Community Training</i>	San Jacinto Comm. College	Pasadena, TX	September, 2021
<i>Bbaravado Reading</i>	Bbaravado Ink Bookfair	Galveston, TX	July, 2021
<i>Poetry Hour: Notes From the Field</i>	Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture	Marysville, CA	April, 2021
<i>Defunkt Issue Launch</i>	Defunkt Magazine	Houston, TX	March, 2021
<i>TX Inst. Of Letters Award Winners</i>	Texas Book Festival	Austin, TX	November, 2020
<i>Poets, Presidents &amp; Pandemics</i>	Words & Music Festival	New Orleans, LA	November, 2020
<i>Palabras y Poemas</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward Community Corp.	Houston, TX	October, 2020
<i>A Discussion: Education/Writing</i>	Mills College	Oakland, CA	October, 2020
<i>Thursday Readings</i>	Busboys & Poets	Washington D.C.	January, 2020
<i>Words &amp; Sh*t Reading</i>	Write Art Out Inc.	San Antonio, TX	May, 2020
<i>Residency Night Read</i>	Residency @ the Betsy Hotel	Miami Beach, FL	December, 2019
<i>Poetry @ the Dream Summit</i>	Houston ISD (Hattie M. White)	Houston, TX	December, 2019
<i>Book Tour Reading III</i>	Univ. of Texas @ El Paso	El Paso, TX	November, 2019
<i>Book Tour Reading II</i>	Lamar University	Beaumont, TX	November, 2019
<i>Book Tour Reading I</i>	Univ. of Houston, Central	Houston, TX	October, 2019
<i>CantoMundo</i>	Columbia University	Manhattan, NY	June, 2019
<i>Book Launch Event</i>	Rec Room Houston	Houston, TX	May, 2019
<i>Poetry @ the Dream Summit</i>	Houston ISD (Hattie M. White)	Houston, TX	December, 2018

<i>Literary Spotlight Reading</i>	Univ. of Houston – Downtown	Houston, TX	October, 2018
<i>Reunir/Reunite: Art in Resistance</i>	MATCH in Midtown	Houston, TX	September, 2018
<i>Out of the Box Reading</i>	Univ. of Houston @ Victoria	Victoria, TX	March, 2018
<i>Iconoclast Sessions</i>	St. Paul’s Methodist	Houston, TX	September, 2017
<i>La Palabra Abierta</i>	Plaza Mayor	Madrid, SP	June, 2017
<i>Poetry Corner @ Westminster</i>	Westminster Abby	London, ENG, UK	June, 2017
<i>Jazz &amp; the Word</i>	Project Row Houses	Houston, TX	January, 2017
<i>The Poet Mendez: Poetry &amp; Activism</i>	Univ. of Houston Clear Lake	Clear Lake, TX	March, 2016
<i>Opener for Dolores Huerta</i>	Neighborhood Cntr.	Houston, TX	April, 2016
<i>Nat’l Poetry Month</i>	Lone Star College	Houston, TX	April, 2015
<i>Latino Hero’s Banquet</i>	Univ. of TX (San Antonio)	San Antonio, TX	September, 2015
<i>CantoMundo</i>	Mex.Am. Cultural Ctr.	Austin, TX	July, 2014, 2015
<i>Public Poetry Reading</i>	HPL – Clayton Library	Houston, TX	August, 2013
<i>Rio Grande Valley Int’l Poetry Fest.</i>	Narciso Cultural Arts Center	San Benito, TX	April, 2013
<i>Magnitud/e</i>	Fotofest	Houston, TX	January, 2013
<i>Opened for Dagoberto Gilb</i>	San Antonio Public Library	San Antonio, TX	November, 2011
<i>Encuentro!</i>	Sam Houston State Univ.	Huntsville, TX	September, 2008
<i>A Legacy of Hope</i>	Holocaust Museum	Houston, TX	February, 2007
<i>Empowerment Through the Arts</i>	Univ. of Houston	Houston, TX	May, 2006
<i>Dia de Los Muertos</i>	Lawndale Art Center	Houston. TX	Nov., 2003 – 2005
<i>Read the Red</i>	Ruta Maya Bookstore	Austin, TX	October, 2005
<i>Dia de Los Muertos</i>	Lawndale Art Center	Houston. TX	November, 2003
<i>Poetry Tent Reading</i>	Texas Book Festival	Austin, TX	October, 2003 - 2005
<i>Festival Cervantino</i>	El Postino Art Gallery	Guanajuato, MX	September, 2003
<i>Latino Read Aloud</i>	Blue Star Art Space	San Antonio. TX	May, 2003

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## Publication History

### Books

*Why I Am Like Tequila*, Willow Books Press, May 2019

– Winner, Texas Institute of Letters, John A Robertson Award, Best First Book of Poetry, 2019.

### Poems

There is Only You, *Best American Poetry 2021 Anthology*, Scribner, September 2021 – Forthcoming

La Suavecita, *Poem-A-Day*, Academy of American Poets, March 2021

Driving By the old State Theatre on Ama's 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday, *Puro Chicanx Writers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthology*,  
Cutthroat, November, 2020

How Candles Are Made, *Poetry Magazine*, May 2020.

Rules at the Juan Marcos Huelga School (Even the Unspoken Ones), *The Break Beat Poets Vol. 4: LatiNeXt*,  
Haymarket, April, 2020.

Rules at the Juan Marcos Huelga School (Even the Unspoken Ones), *Poetry Magazine*, March 2020.

I'm an Overprotective Mexican Father, *Green Mountain Review*, February 2020.

There is Only You, *Green Mountain Review*, February 2020.

The Arkema Plant – Crosby, TX, *Hunger Mountain*, Fall 2019.

When I Hear That They Want to Let Teachers Carry Guns, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, Finalist –  
Brett Elizabeth Jenkins Poetry Prize, December 2018.

Jesus Don't Like, *Rabbit Catastrophe Review*, Fall 2018.

Mercy, *A Dozen Nothing*, Summer 2018.

Advice on My 1<sup>st</sup> Night, *A Dozen Nothing*, Summer 2018.

Angustia v. Silence, *A Dozen Nothing*, Summer 2018.

Prayer Holding Night, *A Dozen Nothing*, Summer 2018.

Migration of Words, *A Dozen Nothing*, Summer 2018.

Aguacero, *Houston Public Media*, Summer 2018.

Cryogenic Kids, *Glass Poetry Journal*, Fall 2017.

Prayer of a Workhorse, *Glass Poetry Journal*, Fall 2017.

To the Priest Who Told One of My Students That Holding a Forum After the Election Could Make the Kids Act  
Like "the Savage Latinos" He Saw on TV Burning Trump Piñatas, *Texas Review*, Summer 2017

Abijoles, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, Spring, 2017.

A Weed in a Garden, *Tecolote Journal*, Spring 2017.

Woman on Street, *Literal Literary Magazine*, Winter 2017.

Woman in Red Dress, *IMANIMAN Anthology*, Fall 2016.

Why I am like Tequila, *Gigantic Sequence Issue 7.2*, Summer 2016.

Women in Blue Dress, *Gulf Coast Literary Journal*, Spring 2016.

To My Tio Joaquin, *The Beatest State in the Union Anthology*, Spring 2016.

An Exorcist on TV the Night Hurricane Alicia Came, *Pilgrimage Literary Magazine*, Winter 2015.

Poem About My Name, *New Sound Journal*, Winter 2015.

A Dancer Tells Me, *HeART Online Journal*, Fall 2015.

When A Student Dies, *Ostrich Review – Issue 3.2*, Fall 2015.

Human Rights Worker, *The Thing Itself Literary Journal*, Spring 2015.

So, How Are You, *Luna Luna Magazine*, Spring 2015.

Flight, *Luna Luna Magazine*, Fall 2014.

Revolución, *Revista Sincope*, Spring 2014.

Tile, *Glassworks Literary Journal*, Spring 2013.

I Teach, *Huizache*, Issue 2, Vol. 1, Fall 2012.

Stop Watching Me, *Huizache*, Issue 2, Vol. 1, Fall 2012

## Articles

Poet as Anthropologist, *Aster(ix) Journal*, Winter 2021

Poetry Foundation, *Adding Latinx Poetry to Your Curriculum*, February 2019.

The Angulo Reader, *On What Violence, Triggers, and Tenderness Can Look Like*, September 2019 .

Queen Mob's Tea House, *Review: Citizen Illegal by Jose Guadalupe Olivares*, July 2019.

Kenyon Review, *A Better Tomorrow: A Micro-essay*, December 2017.

Latino Rebels, *On Empathy, Apathy & Giving No F\*cks*, August 2017.

Kenyon Review, *We Have the House and it is Gated: Latina/o Writers on Resistance*, November 2016.

Free Press Houston, *The Browning of Baytown Has Already Begun*, December 2014.

## Fiction/Prose

"I Drive Around With Tears in my Eyes," *Defunkt Magazine*, March 2021

"Hay un diluvio después de la inundación," *Literal Literary Journal*, September 2017.

"Run Caballero, Run," *Monologue Bank*, August 2017.

"Valparaiso," *Monologue Bank*, March 2017.

"What should Run In the Mind of a Caballero," *Norton's Anthology of Latino Sudden Fiction: Short Short Stories from the U.S and Latin America*, W.W. Norton, September 2009

## Presentations

"*Latinx Lit in all the Classes*" - Workshop, Teacher Poetry Summit, Poetry Foundation, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL., July 2018.

"*2 Tongue Poetry: Bilingual Works*" - Workshop, Brave New Voices, University of Houston, Houston, TX., July 2018.

"*Latinx Lit in Your Curriculum*" - Workshop, Teacher Poetry Summit, Poetry Foundation, Dade Co. Schools, Miami, FL., February 2018.

"*The Reconstructed Self*" - Panelist, Thinking Its Presence, Poetry Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ., October 2017

"*Poetry, Activism and Cultura*" - Guest Speaker, Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation, UHCL Univ. of Houston – Clear Lake, Clear Lake, TX., September 2016.

- “Cultivating Our Ancestral Heritage”* - Panelist, NACCS (Tejas Foco),  
Lone Star College, Kingwood, TX. February 2016.
- “Chican@ Renaissance”* - Panelist, American Literature Association,  
New Orleans, LA., September 2015.
- “Houston’s Huelga Schools”* - Panelist, NACCS (Tejas Foco),  
Lone Star College – North Harris, Hou, TX., February 2015.
- “Poetry as Activism”* - Panelist, Facing Race Conference on Social Justice,  
Dallas, TX, December 2014.

## Teaching Experience:

### Inprint Houston

*Workshop Instructor, Creative Writing Course – “Blackouts + Docupoetry”*

- Design a 6-week workshop series using balanced model of creative writing cycle
- Prepare model texts for workshop participants with annotations for student engagement
- Create prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises

**July - August 2021**

*Houston, TX*

### University of Rostock

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing/Social Justice Intersection*

- Provided outline for lecture on research writing and poetry entitled “Docupoetics and History”
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Fielded questions from students about the writing process regarding archival research

**Fall, 2020**

*Rostock, Germany*

### University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

- Provided outline for lecture on research writing and poetry entitled “Docupoetics v. Anthropoesia”
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Fielded questions from students about the writing process regarding Docupoetry and Anthropoesia

**Fall, 2020**

*Edinburg, TX*

### Lamar University

*Guest Lecturer, Honors Literature & American Literature*

- Provided guided notes for lecture on poetics and themes in *Why I Am Like Tequila*
- Prepared sample reading for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created engagement questions for class discussion to foster academic discourse
- Engaged in a Q&A session to further discuss craft and language considerations in text

**January, 2020**

*Beaumont, TX*

### University of Houston, Downtown

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

- Provided outline for lecture on research writing and poetry and “Anthropoesía”
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises

**Spring, 2020**

*Houston, TX*

### University of Houston

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

- Provided outline for lecture on cultural resources and oral histories in poetry writing
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises

**October, 2019**

*Houston, TX*

**University of Texas at El Paso,**  
*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

**November, 2019**  
*El Paso, TX*

- Provided outline for lecture on alternative form of “Nature Writing”
- Prepared model text for class lecture with key questions to illicit student discourse
- Created prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises

**Houston Independent School District (District Wide)**

**July 2019 – Present**

*Professional Development Specialist, Curriculum & Development- Sec. ELA Houston, TX*

- Designed and implemented district curriculum reflecting needs for both face-to-face instruction and online platforms
- Developed and delivered district professional development for teachers and leaders at school sites or in online environments
- Worked with teachers and principals to review performance data and development plans to prioritize the most pressing development needs to increase student achievement
- Provided teachers with appropriate professional development opportunities to meet priority needs
- Partnered with principals and other school support leaders to ensure campus development focus is aligned to priorities as determined by the analysis of campus data
- Coached, modeled teachers to utilize new technologies that will engage students to increase academic achievement in face-to-face, online and hybrid class settings
- Researched teaching methods and techniques and develops procedures to meet program goals

**Inprint Houston**

**August – Nov., 2019**

*Workshop Instructor, Creative Writing Course – “Other Nature Writings”*

*Houston, TX*

- Design a 10-week workshop series using balanced model of creative writing cycle
- Provide outline for lectures on alternative form of “Nature Writing”
- Prepare model texts for workshop participants with annotations for student engagement
- Create prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises
- Establish format for formal workshop critique in a 10-week schedule
- Maintain continuous communication with participating writings through email and social media
- Guide participants in “discovery conversations” where conversations revolve around one-on-one needs and questions through the 10-week timeframe

**Cristo Rey Jesuit College Prep (Houston)**

**June 2014 – 2019**

*10<sup>th</sup> Grade College Readiness / 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English – Authors of Color*

*Houston, TX*

- Enacted a program of study meeting the individual needs, interests, & abilities of students
- Created curriculum tracking methods to best address students learning and reading levels
- Prepared lessons that reflect accommodations for individual differences
- Created a curriculum to engage students in a mix of Contemporary American Literature of Color & Social Justice standards for all students on a 12<sup>th</sup> grade level within a reading workshop learning model
- Created final cumulative assessment for all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the form of an analytic/reflective Personal Statement thesis delivered at the end of the academic year
- Established grading rubrics for writing (short essay, literary critique, article responses, thesis development)

**Inprint Houston**

**June - August 2018**

*Workshop Instructor, Creative Writing Course – “Cross Genre Writing”*

*Houston, TX*

- Design a 10-week workshop series using balanced model of creative writing cycle
- Prepare model texts for workshop participants with annotations for student engagement
- Create prompts to be used for generative workshop exercises
- Establish format for formal workshop critique in a 10-week schedule
- Maintain continuous communication with participating writings through email and social media
- Guide participants in “discovery conversations” where conversations revolve around one-on-one needs and questions through the 10-week timeframe

**University of Houston**

**April 2018**

*Guest Lecturer, Literature & Educational Pedagogy*

*Houston, TX*

- Provided outline for lecture on best teaching practices in English Language Arts

- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created engagement questions for class discussion to foster academic discourse
- Allocated student reading time and practice time with “Read-Aloud” strategies

**University of Houston**

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

- Provided outline for lecture on contemporary examples of Chicano/a graphic novel texts
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created engagement questions for class discussion to foster academic discourse

**October 2017**

*Houston, TX*

**Lone Star College, North Harris**

*Guest Lecturer, Creative Writing*

- Provided outline for lecture on contemporary examples of Chicano/a literature
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created engagement questions for class discussion to foster academic discourse

**September 2016**

*Houston, TX*

**Houston Community College, Central**

*Guest Lecturer, American Literature*

- Provided guided notes for lecture on best practices in persuasive writing
- Prepared model text for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Allocated practice time with quick response writing to assist in preparing for longer writing assignment

**September 2015**

*Houston, TX*

**Houston Community College, Central**

*Guest Lecturer, Mexican American Studies Literature*

- Provided outline for lecture on contemporary examples of Chicano/a literature
- Prepared model texts for class lecture with annotations for student engagement
- Created engagement questions for class discussion to foster academic discourse

**October 2015**

*Houston, TX*

**Helms Elementary**

*Dual Language Educator*

- Enacted a program of study meeting the individual needs, interests, & abilities of the students.
- Create a classroom environment conducive to learning, appropriate to the maturity & interests of the students.
- Prepare lessons that reflect accommodations for individual differences.
- Maintained accurate, complete, and correct records as required by law, district policy, and administrative regulations.
- Established and maintained open lines of communication with students, parents, and community members.
- Provided support with team members through PLC meetings and team level planning time.
- Assisted in creating whole school activities for community involvement.

**July 2012 – June 2014**

**Lone Star College-Upward Bound**

*Student Success Advisor*

- Established and maintained a high school tutoring system for all participants age 14 – 18.
- Provided student counseling in college, career and job selection.
- Maintained communication between project participants, parents, and target schools.
- Provided leadership for effective parental and community involvement.
- Tutored student participants in English, math, science, and other high school subjects.

**May 2011- July 2012**

*Houston, TX*

**KIPP Inc – Sharpstown Campus**

*ESL – Coordinator*

- Created a viable LPAC committee on campus.
- Provided faculty with all LEP student information (denial, monitor, and current status).
- Prepared/Processed all documentation for use by overall school district needs.
- Communicated data for all Bilingual/ESL students tested to the Registrar as required by TEA.
- Continued monitoring students for two years after exit – including testing and LPAC review.
- Communicated with parents of LEP students through entry/exit letters and notification of status.

**August 2009 – May 2010**

*Houston, TX*

**KIPP Sharpstown/Sharp***3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading/Writing***June 2009 – May 2011***Houston, TX*

- Developed a unique curriculum for middle school appropriate instruction.
- Guided the learning process toward the achievement of curriculum goals -98% on State testing averages.
- Employed a variety of instructional techniques and media consistent with the physical limitations of the location provided, and the needs and capabilities of the individuals or student groups involved.
- Diagnosed learning disabilities of students on a regular basis, seeking the assistance of district specialists as required.
- Established and maintain open lines of communication with students, parents, and community members.

**L.T. Cunningham Elementary, HISD***Title III – Coordinator***August 2005 – May, 2008***Houston, TX*

- Designed a \$36,000 budget spending plan from the Multilingual Department within Houston Independent School District.
- Surveyed faculty for needs/wants for ESL materials for school wide/individual classroom use.
- Implemented roll out plan for disbursement of materials purchased with Title III monies.
- Created budget framework as well as monthly reports regarding budget usage for administrative records.
- Provided additional support and training for teachers in ESL instruction (SIOP Model).
- Facilitated observation/feedback opportunities with faculty members in need of assistance in ESL instruction

**L.T. Cunningham Elementary, HISD***4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher***August 2001 – May 2009***Houston, TX*

- Enacted a program of study meeting the individual needs, interests, & abilities of the students.
- Create a classroom environment conducive to learning, appropriate to the maturity & interests of the students.
- Prepare lessons that reflect accommodations for individual differences.
- Maintain accurate, complete, and correct records as required by law, district policy, and administrative regulations.
- Establish and maintain open lines of communication with students, parents, and community members.

**Service Experience:****Defunkt Magazine***Board President/Community Outreach***Summer, 2021 - Present***Houston, TX*

- Meet quarterly for publishing house updates and board action plans
- Engage in distribution of news and invitations to FWB events
- Brainstorm new engagement opportunities with the public
- Reivew and discuss forthcoming content in relation to Four Way Books releases

**Four Way Books***Board Member, Marketing/Events***Winter, 2021 - Present***New York, NY*

- Meet quarterly for publishing house updates and board action plans
- Engage in distribution of news and invitations to FWB events
- Brainstorm new engagement opportunities with the public
- Reivew and discuss forthcoming content in relation to Four Way Books releases

**Green Mountains Review***Associate Editor, Northern Vermont University***Apr. 2020 – Present***Johnson, VT*

- Establishing formal communication with BIPOC writers, specifically Latinx writers for GMR
- Meet monthly for editorial team meetings to determine new ways to engage the public with GMR content
- Design a new content series, "Social Virtues Series" focusing on BIPOC writers and social justice movements.
- Serve as part of selection committee for literary content within Green Mountains Review
- Assist in drawing attention and traffic to GMR social media accounts as needed



## **Sin Muros: A Latinx Theatre Festival**

*Festival Coordinator*

- Oversee Festival production during the second week of February
- Assist in promotional designs and public relations to highlight Festival event
- Design and implement Festival timeline and responsibilities
- Hold Weekly/Monthly meetings for Festival organizing
- Create breakdown of committee responsibilities for committee members
- Manage and organize Latinx play selection process for Festival
- Arrange and coordinate play selection announcement
- Meet with Stages facility, artistic and managing directors to coordinate all logistical

**July 2020 - present**  
*Stages - Houston, TX*

## **Acentos Review**

*Associate Editor*

- Establishing of Masthead redesign for decade old Latinx literary magazine.
- Serve as part of selection committee for literary content within the Acentos Review
- Create and distribute promotions/solicitations during submission period for next issues

**Dec., 2019 – Present**  
*Online*

## **Poets & Writers Inc.**

*Literary Outreach Coordinator - Houston*

- Create content entries for “United States of Writing” Blog series for PW website
- Interview local Houston area writers for editing capacity in creating of PW blogs
- Establish social media presence as a platform to celebrate and spotlight literary work by Houston writers and organizations
- Maintain continuous communication with local Houston based literary artists through email and social media
- Guide local Houston area literary artists through review of Poets & Writers’ financial resource supports
- Curate reading opportunities for local Houston area literary artists on behalf of PW
- Organize and host virtual/face-to-face “town hall” meetings over PW resources

**Apr. 2019 – June 2021**  
*Manhattan, NYC, NY*

## **InkWell Podcast**

*Co-Host/ Interviewer*

- Review sequence of books (non-fiction, poetry, fiction, short fiction, YA) for a season long podcast
- Engage in focused discussion about books, literary formats, critiques, insights with guest readers
- Provide a range of questions to guest readers and artists about their work and their craft in literary arts
- Plan and create list of suitable writers of interest for collaborative podcast w/ Inprint staff

**Jan. 2017 – present**  
*Houston, TX*

## **Tintero Projects**

*Founder*

- Implemented non-fiction based lessons for adults and teens ages 16 on up
- Create a local poetry/writers resource guide for workshop participants
- Create “Pop – up” workshops in genre based writing for the general public at no charge
- Organize literary readings and book signings for local authors to engage with the public
- Design and publish promotional materials for readings, events during yearly season
- Brainstorm and host a “Q & A” for the public with the writers at specific events
- Organized poetry book reading events for visiting authors in local Houston venues
- Collaborate with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to organize “Art + Lit” Series, highlighting Latinx art and exhibits in a given season
- Collaborate with Stages Theatre to plan/implement “SIN MUROS” –Latinx Theatre Festival
- Maintain website with up-to-date information for readings, events, bios, and photos for the season

**September 2016 - present**  
*Multiple venues – Hou., TX*

## **Nuestra Palabra On The Air: KPFT, 90.1 Fm**

*Producer/ Co-Host*

- Designed all social media and physical announcements for radio show highlights
- Screen and prepare upcoming guests on radio platform questions
- Schedule and book guests for radio show with writers/ influencers/ academics on a variety of topics
- Develop run-of-show for 55-minute show format with 3 music breaks
- Research and develop radio playlist for radio show guests and listeners

**January 2014 – Dec. 2017**  
*Houston, TX*

- Host and interview guests on air, highlighting talking points and relevant details for events/topics.

### **Librotráfico Caravan**

*Co-Founder/ Public Relations/ Marketing*

- Designed all social media and physical announcements for public use and messaging
- Coordinated El Paso “leg” of the Caravan including literary events and book donation drive
- Served as liaison and point of contact for El Paso based groups to organize events
- Organized network pool and outreach meetings for volunteers and interested parties for caravan
- Represented movement, providing Spanish-Language Media with details as Caravan Spokesperson

**March, 2012**

*Multiple Venues, SW U.S.*

### **Word Around Town Poetry Tour**

*Co- Organizer/ Promoter*

- Establish/Maintain contact with local poetry venues in order to schedule readings
- Networked with more than twenty poets, in order to organize performances in a seven day period
- Wrote local press releases for use of radio, television, and Houston based publications
- Created a reading schedule for the seven venues for each night of the tour, adjusted for poets’ availability
- Facilitated reading order in a timely fashion (8:00 – 10:00p) for each night of the tour
- Planned and hosted a yearly audition night adding new readers/performers to the yearly line-up of writers for the tour
- Created a rubric for judges to use during audition night in order to facilitate possible selections
- Maintained website with bios, photos and blog postings highlighting the Word Around Poetry Tour

**June, 2007 - 2015**

*Multiple venues – Hou., TX*

### **Latino Book & Family Festival**

*Volunteer Coord. / Co- Organizer*

- Designed protocol and volunteering handbook for volunteer training meetings
- Created organizing format to determine need for volunteers across book festival
- Served as point of contact for over 400 volunteers in a two day period for LBFF event
- Established a survey for vendors, panelists and readers to assess needs during the two day event
- Created a flow chart to establish chain of communication and contact between the volunteers and the public and volunteers to writing community for the two-day event

**Sept., 2002 - 2007**

*Brown Conv. Cntr.– Hou., TX*

### **Awards & Recognition**

2021	2022 Texas State Poet Laureate	– Selected, Texas Commission on the Arts
2020	Texas State Poet Laureate	– Finalist, Texas Commission on the Arts
2019	John A. Roberston Prize	– Best First Book of Poetry, Texas Institute Of Letters
2019	Poem of the Week	– Selected: Split This Rock
2018	Editor’s Choice Book Award	– Selected: Book Publication, Willow Books
2018	Brett Elizabeth Jenkins Prize	– Semi-Finalist: Tinderbox Poetry Journal, Online
2017	Houston Poet Laureate	– Finalist, Houston Poet Laureate
2017	Poetry Incubator	– Fellowship: Poetry Foundation
2016	Macondo Writers Workshop	– Fellowship: Macondo Foundation
2014	Retreat Fellowship	– Fellowship: Canto Mundo
2013	NALAC Leadership Institute	– Fellowship: Nat’l Assoc. of Latino Arts & Culture
2012	Downs Intellectual Freedom Award	– Univ. of Illinois @ Urbana - Champaign

### **Skills**

- Bilingual (Spanish/English)
- Curriculum & Instructional Design
- Hybrid Instruction Experience
- Grant Writing Experience
- Literary Curatorial Experience
- Literary Magazine Editorial Experience
- Festival Coordination Experience

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Macondo Fellow, 2016 – Present
- CantoMundo Graduate Fellow, 2014 - Present
- National Association of Latino Arts & Culture, 2013 – 2021