

## Desireé Dallagiacomo (*she/her*)

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### Abridged Bio

A dynamic and experienced writer and educator, Desireé has facilitated thousands of workshops and her poetry and creative writing have been read, watched, and listened to by millions of people across the world. Desireé's creative and community work draws from an indigenous, feminist, communal, and class-conscious framework. With over 14 years of in-depth community and classroom teaching experience and a writing career equally as long, Desireé facilitates spaces for community to flourish and writing voices to strengthen. Chahta and an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, a sister, an auntie, and a committed storyteller and space creator. Interested in continuous and long-term community building through creative writing and storytelling as well as intentional community building through frameworks of belonging and resource sharing. A lifelong student communally and formally taught and trained to write and teach. Desireé's teaching and community work has a particular interest in gender-diverse writers systemically denied access to artistic and creative resources, and her community work aims to liberate resources and opportunities alongside community. Desireé has extensive experience working among diverse communities across the United States through grassroots writing and storytelling frameworks with an emphasis on counter-storytelling and narrative correction work.

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### Work Experience: Teaching, Community Work, & Facilitation

#### **2020-present Founder & Director, Undercurrent, Kin Keeping, & Throughline Writing Workshops**

400+ unique students since March 2020. Lead, advise, coach, and develop a staff of teaching assistants and workshop assistants, design weekly curriculum and workshop materials. Manage and create digital content, class materials, and supplemental materials. Create and implement community-building lessons for 75 students each week. Recruit and retain a robust and engaged student population from a global community. 4 hours of live instruction implemented virtually every week.

#### **2016-present Founder, Director, & Lead Teaching Artist, The Heart of It Writing Retreat**

Lead organizer, curator, and instructor of an annual writing retreat for emerging and mid-career gender-diverse writers. Design, plan, and organize multiple four-day cohorts of intensive writing, performance, and artistic development. Oversee, mentor, and train a staff of emerging teaching artists. Manage and train a staff of 2-4. Handle all bookkeeping, finances, and logistics. Garnering 700+ unique applicants in 7 years, of which 8-20% are accepted to attend.

#### **2014-present Writer in Residence, Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Baton Rouge, LA**

Source, design, and implement four weeks of poetry and memoir curriculum for all Baton Rouge Magnet High School creative writing students. Facilitate ten workshops per semester (20 per year) for 60+ upperclass students.

- 2018-2022      Program Manager and Poet-in-Residence, Humanities Amped, Baton Rouge, LA**  
Develop, plan, and implement creative writing and youth development programming for Humanities Amped, curate and create Humanities Amped poetry curriculum used in HA in-school and after school programming in EBR; curate and lead the after-school teen writing cohort, WordCrew; curate and lead the after-school teen leadership cohort, Apprentice Leaders Rising. Design and implement community programming for parents, caretakers, extended families, and community members. Curate and lead multiple community workshops and classes. Supervise and train mentor writers, youth mentor writers, and community facilitators.
- 2014-2018      Director of Programming and Artistic Director, Forward Arts, Baton Rouge, LA**  
Develop, plan, and implement all programming for Forward Arts, curate and create the Forward Arts poetry curriculum used in Forward Arts in-school residencies for every public high school and middle school in EBR; directly supervisor all teaching staff; designed curriculum to align with high school ELA standards; curate and lead the after-school teen writing leadership cohort, WordCrew. Head coach of the Forward Arts Brave New Voices International Poetry Slam Team (2017 championship team).
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### **Notable Performances, teaching appearances, and keynotes, 2013-2023**

#### **Abridged College & University Appearances:**

Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)  
Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)  
Dartmouth University (Hanover, NH)  
Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)  
Columbia University (New York, NY)  
Lakehead University (Thunderbay, ON, Canada)  
Southern Oregon University (Ashland, OR)  
Butte Community College (Oroville, CA)  
University of Nevada (Reno, NV)  
Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)  
University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM)  
University of Texas (Dallas, TX)  
University of Texas (Houston, TX)  
Texas A&M (Commerce, TX)  
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA)  
University of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)  
Baton Rouge Community College (Baton Rouge, LA)  
University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh, WI)  
University of Indiana (Indianapolis, IN)  
University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI)  
Columbia College (CUPSI workshop)  
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)  
Emerson College (Boston, MA)  
University of New Hampshire (Plymouth, NH)  
Smith College (Northampton, MA)  
Western Washington University (Bellingham, WA)

Southern University (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Texas A&M (College State, TX)  
Xavier University (New Orleans, LA)  
Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)  
Delgado College (New Orleans, LA)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston, MA)  
Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH)  
University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH)  
Kelvin Grove State College (Brisbane, QLD, Australia)  
Brisbane Grammar School for Girls (Brisbane, QLD, Australia)  
Texas A&M (Bryan, TX)  
University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM)

**Extended Middle School, High School, & Community Writer In Residence:**

Baton Rouge High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Bulli High School (Bulli, NSW, Australia)  
McKinley High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Lee High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Woodlawn High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Tara High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Broadmoor High School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Sherwood Middle School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (Baton Rouge, LA & New Orleans, LA)  
LB Landry-Walker High School (New Orleans, LA)  
Vilas Middle School (Alstead, NH)  
The Oxbow School (Napa, CA)  
Pointe Coupee Parish High School (New Roads, LA)  
Livonia High School (Livonia, LA)  
Scotlandville Middle Magnet (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Park Forest Middle School (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Belair High School (Baton Rouge, LA)

**Abridged Past festival appearances:**

Red Dirt Poetry Festival (Alice Springs, NT, Australia)  
Storyfest (Sydney, NSW, Australia)  
National Young Writers Festival (Newcastle, NSW, Australia)  
Brave New Voices (Houston, TX)  
Brave New Voices (San Francisco, CA)  
Brave New Voices (Atlanta, GA)  
Girls Write Up (Wodonga, Vic, Australia)  
Ruckus Festival (Brisbane, QLD, Australia)  
National Poetry Slam (Boston, MA)  
National Poetry Slam (Charlotte, NC)  
National Poetry Slam (Chicago, IL)  
National Poetry Slam (Oakland, CA)  
Women of the World Poetry Slam (Albuquerque, NM)  
Women of the World Poetry Slam (Dallas, TX)

Women of the World Poetry Slam (Minneapolis, MN)  
Individual World Poetry Slam (Washington, DC)  
Individual World Poetry Slam (Phoenix, AZ)  
Write, NOLA! (New Orleans, LA)  
Louisiana Book Festival (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Vancouver Poetry Festival (Vancouver, BC, Canada)  
BRCC Arts Fest (Baton Rouge, LA)  
National Poetry Slam (Oakland, CA)  
Women of the World Poetry Slam (Dallas, TX)  
Brazos Juvenile Justice Center (Bryan, TX)  
Central Poetry Series (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada)  
Festival of Words (Baton Rouge, LA)

## **Books**

SINK, Spring 2019, Button Poetry Press (*Amazon Bestseller & available wherever books are sold*)

Dimly Lit, 2014, Next Left Press

The Year of the Institution, 2013, Next Left Press

## **Other publications**

*My Kind*, The Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health  
*Where'd You Get That Pick Up Line*, Get Lit Words Ignite Anthology  
*One Side of an On-Going Dialogue with Sharon*, My Therapist, Indiefed: Performance Poetry  
*Gutter*, Tandem Volume 11, Bicycle Comics  
*I Break Like a Fever*, Words Dance Journal  
*Señor Frogs*, Ellipsis Literary Journal  
*Thighs Say*, The Vagina Monologues (Tulane University)

## **Interviews, Media Coverage, Academic Journals Citations**

How Rape Has Become a Staple of American Culture, *Everyday Feminism* January 2015  
Sex Tips that Don't Suck, *Everyday Feminism* January 2015  
Complaining About the 'Friend Zone' Perpetuates Rape Culture, *Everyday Feminism* December 2014  
What Walking Through Life With Thunder Things is Really Like, *Everyday Feminism* September 2014  
7 Exquisite Slam Poetry Collections to Read This Summer, *The Curious Reader* 2019  
The Ode to Thunderous Thighs all Women Need to Hear, *Huffpost* September 2015  
Poet Calls Out Our Culture's Absurd Ideas About Body Hair, *Huffpost* July 2015  
Bound to Truth: Baton Rouge Poet Desireé Dallagiacomo Releases Her Debut Collection, *Advocate* 2019  
Ten Questions with Desireé Dallagiacomo, *300 Questions Project* April 2014  
Half A Million Viewers Are Watching a Baton Rouge Poet, *225 Magazine* November 2015  
10 Contemporary Poets to Read this Year, *Swift Wellness* 2022  
3CR Radio Interview, *October* 2019  
Raising Voices, Breaking Boxes: How Spoken Word Creates Dialogue on Gender, Navajyoti, *International Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research* Volume 1, Issue 2, February 2017  
Page, Stage, Engage: Spoken Word as a Tool for Creating More Critical, Engaging, Social Justice Education Programs, by Kyle Tran Myhre  
The Room is on Fire: The History, Pedagogy, and Practice of Youth Spoken Word Poetry, by Susan Weinstein

Desiree Dallagiacomo & Kaycee Filson Sums Up What Discovering Your Sexuality Is Like In A Patriarchal Society, *Bustle Magazine January 2017*

Hilarious Reverse Pick-Up Lines by Poet Desiree Dallagiacomo, *mic.com March 2016*

Listen Carefully: This is What Rape Culture Sounds Like in America, *Huffpost December 2014*

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### **Education, Certifications, and Awards**

University of California, Santa Cruz (2023-present)

Andover Bread Loaf Educator's Cohort 2022 (Middlebury College)

The University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA (2012-2015)

Pushcart Prize Nominee for Poetry, 2014

Women of the World Poetry Slam 2015, Albuquerque, NM, 3rd Place finisher

Individual World Poetry Slam 2014, Phoenix, AZ, 3rd Place Finisher

National Poetry Slam Champion 2014, Oakland, CA, 3rd Place Finisher

Southwest Shootout Regional Slam Champion 2013, Albuquerque, NM

Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Champion (Coach), San Francisco, CA

Ryan Chigazola Poetry Scholarship Recipient (University of New Orleans)

### **Websites & Social Media**

[desireedallagiacomo.com](http://desireedallagiacomo.com)

[theheartofitwritingretreat.com](http://theheartofitwritingretreat.com)

[instagram.com/desireedallagiacomo](https://www.instagram.com/desireedallagiacomo)

[instagram.com/undercurrentwritingworkshop](https://www.instagram.com/undercurrentwritingworkshop)

[theheartofitwritingretreat.com](http://theheartofitwritingretreat.com)