

Marlanda Dekine

Leading with Equity, Rooted in Story, Growing Community

EDUCATION

Converse University, Spartanburg, SC

Master of Fine Arts, Poetry

2020 - 2024

New York University, Paris, FR

Master of Fine Arts, Poetry

2019 (Transferred to Converse University)

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Master of Social Work

2008-2011 | Licensed Master Social Worker, 9787, Current

Furman University, Greenville, SC

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

2004-2008

PUBLICATION HISTORY

Full-Length Collections

Thresh & Hold, Hub City Press, 2022

i am from a punch & a kiss, self-published, 2017

Anthologized Poems

Coast Lines, ed. by Libby Bernardin, Linda Ketron, & Daniel Cross Turner, “The Rice Planters”, “Ghost Town”, “Atlantic Beach, South Carolina”, CLASS Publishing, 2025

This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets, ed. by Kwame Alexander, “For the Healing”, Little, Brown, 2024

What Things Cost, ed. by Rebecca Gayle Howell & Ashley M. Jones, “I Am Bound for de Kingdom”, University of Kentucky Press, 2023

Poetry Out Loud, “Grain Memory”, 2021

Ecological Solidarities: Mobilizing Faith and Justice in an Entangled World, ed. by Krista E. Hughes, Dhawn B. Martin, & Elaine Padilla, “What If?”, Penn State University Press, 2018

Selected Poems

Salvation South, “Wild Violets” and “Coming to Life”, 2025

Callaloo Literary Journal, “[Every War in Our House Started with A Song]”, “Plantersville, South Carolina Gives An Oral Her-Story”, “Arrival”, and “From a Voice”, 2024

Limp Wrist Magazine, “Things about My Body”, 2023 (Nominated for a Pushcart Prize)

Orion: Nature and Culture, “Gaadin/Garden”, 2023

Southern Cultures: Inheritance Issue, “Jackson Village Road”, 2023

beestung mag, “Ars Poetica: A Meditation”, 2022 (Nominated for a Puschart Prize)

American Life in Poetry, “I Am Bound for de Kingdom”, reprinted 2022

Annulet: A Journal of Poetics, “The Shade Tree”, “The Pine Tree”, “I Wonder If”, 2021

SKILLS

Teaching, Creative Writing, Facilitation, Performance, Coalition Development, Community Engagement, Research, Public Speaking

VOLUNTEERISM

Writing Mentor Periplus Collective, Current

Former Board Member Freedom Readers Inc., 2025

Grants Reviewer MAP Fund & Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, 2024

Former Board Member Hub City Writers Project, 2013-2018

Volunteer Executive Director Spoken Word Spartanburg, 2012-2017

Poetry Teacher Triune Mercy Center, 2006

RECOGNITION

Poet Laureate Georgetown County Library, 2025

Alumni Obsidian Foundation United Kingdom, 2025

Individual Artist Fellowship South Carolina Arts Commission, 2023

Langston Hughes Fellowship Palm Beach Poetry Festival, 2022

New Voices Southern Poetry Prize Hub City Press, 2021

Tin House Scholar Tin House, 2021

Fresh Voice of the Year SC Humanities, 2019

Oxford American, "I Am Bound for de Kingdom", 2021 (Nominated for a Pushcart Prize)
Southern Humanities Review, "Plantersville, South Carolina", 2021
POETRY, "Grain Memory", "Perhaps I Am a Fugitive of Empathy", & "My Grandma Told Stories or Cautionary Tales", 2021
Emergence Magazine, "Recordkeeper" & "Acres of Ancestry", 2020, 2021
Root Work Journal, "How to Stay in Your Body When Someone Wants You Out of It", "Granddaddy's Tools", & "A Queer Meditation", 2020
Flycatcher Journal, "Shine" & "Fruits of the Confederacy", 2015

Outstanding Nonprofit Award
Riley Institute at Furman University, 2017

Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Engagement (Co-Recipient) Spartanburg County Foundation, 2016

Peace & Dialogue Award
Atlantic Institute, 2016

Grand Champion Soul Sista Slam Atlanta, 2014

Slam Champion Queen of the South, 2012

SELECTED COURSES, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

- *Listening for the Ancestors: On Writing When the World Feels Uncertain*, Converse University Low-Residency MFA, 2025
- *Saltwater Memory: Gullah Geechee Culture, Language & Lineage* with de'Angelo Dia, Kita Bryant, and Amethyst Ganaway, Griot & Grey Owl Black Southern Writers Conference, 2025
- *Finding a Black South Aesthetic in the Ancestry of Dirt* with Tyree Daye, Ra Malika Imhotep, Ph.D, and Destiny Hemphill, Furious Flower IV: Celebrating the Worlds of Black Poetry, 2024
- *Stories from the Black South: Land, Place, & Ancestral Memory* with Halle Hill, Michelle Lanier, and Desiree Evans, Hub City Writers Project, 2023
- *Who is it can tell me who I am? Poetry and Identity* with Jubi Arriola-Headley, Cindy King and Peggy Robles-Alvarado and *Making a Life in Poetry* with Quenton Baker and Rochelle Hurt, Dodge Poetry Festival, 2022
- *Our Ancestors Were Filled to the Brim with Poetry*, Georgetown County Library, 2022
- *Human Behavior and the Social Environment I*, Limestone College, 2018

SELECTED PERFORMANCES & COMMISSIONS

- *Ars Poetica* with Douglas Boyce, composer, and counter)induction, chamber ensemble, recorded on *The Bird is an Alphabet* (New Focus Recordings), performed at Soapbox Gallery, George Washington University Textile Museum, Chapel at St. Joseph's University, East Carolina University, University of Pittsburgh, Georgetown County Library, 2022-Present
- *Prologue Performance: New Chapters* with Arts Up SC, recordings at Fernwood Baptist Church, 2025
- *Thresh & Hold & Community Poetry Reading*, The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, 2025
- *Wherever You Are* with Lisa Neher, composer, and Addison Pattillo, soprano, performed at M.I.T.'s Killian Hall, 2024
- *More Than Our Own Caves* with Omar Najmi, composer, and Kelley Hollis, soprano, performed at Multicultural Arts Center, 2023
- *Thresh & Hold*, with Starlitt Miller, dancer, and Moses Andrews III, pianist, Columbia Museum of Art, 2024 and Victoria Awkward, dancer, and Zahili Zamora, pianist, Boston Center for the Arts, 2022
- *The Transformative Power of Spoken Word*, TEDx Greenville, 2016