



Melissa Dean

Literary Arts: Poetry



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Melissa A. Dean is an award-winning teaching artist, community arts professional, playwright, curator and published poet. Her creative writing appears in *UnderCurrents: Journal of Critical Environmental Studies*, Volume 20, *Environmental Justice* and *The Art Gallery of York University* quarterly, *Out There*. She obtained her Master in Environmental Studies degree from York University, with special focus on Poetry, Popular Education, and Urban Planning. Her teaching approach focuses on participatory arts based methodologies, strategies, and practices. The theme and title of her major research work completed during her graduate program: "Learning For Liberation: Critical Black Poetry Pedagogy and Transformative Education." She is also a graduate of The Toronto Film School and the Royal Conservatory of Music, where she received specialized training as an Artist Educator.

Dean is a Southern Nevada Wolf Trap Teaching Artist in partnership with the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. She has also worked as a tutor for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada. As Education Artist-in-residence at the Art Gallery of York University, Dean curated the award-winning group exhibition "Lost and Found: (Finding) Hidden Beauty in the 'Hood'" She also created the innovative "If We Ruled the World" Youth Mentorship Program which worked to find creative ways of incorporating youth voice into the Urban Planning decision-making process. Dean specializes in Poetry Integrated Curriculum.

Program Types

Workshops, classes, performances, residencies, professional development

Language Proficiencies

English

Fees

Contact to inquire

Availability

Contact to inquire

Audiences

Schools (grades pre-K-12), young adult, adults, at-risk, persons with disabilities, seniors, social services, Incarcerated Individuals and ESL/ELL

Venues

Schools, colleges, senior centers and community centers

Technical requirements

Contact to inquire

Counties

Clark

NEVADA
ARTS COUNCIL



School & Community Workshops

Melissa A. Dean offers participatory arts based workshops, residencies and activities intended to guide, empower and encourage all participants.

It's Rhyme Time! An Introduction to Poetry (Grades Pre-K-5)

Life Lines: Active Listening, Literacy, and Language Arts

(Grades 6-8)

Poetry Saves Lives: Creative Writing Workshops for Teens

(Grades 9-12)

Professional Development

Learning for Liberation: Critical Poetry Pedagogy and Transformative Education: a teacher's guide for social change; Nevada's preK-12 teachers, community arts professionals, and teaching artists will develop: 1) Creative classroom management skills and techniques through the use of poetry and chants; 2) Innovate, fun, and engaging ways of incorporating poetry and creative writing into curriculum. This series of professional development workshops was created to promote literacy through creative writing poetry.