

Desireé Dallagiacomo (*she/her*)

desireedallagiacomo.com

theheartofitwritingretreat.com

desiree@desireedallagiacomo.com

info@theheartofitwritingretreat.com

ABRIDGED BIO

A dynamic and experienced writer and educator, Desireé has facilitated thousands of workshops in community and academic spaces. Her poetry and creative writing have been read, watched, and listened to by millions of people worldwide. Desireé's creative and community work draws from a feminist, communal, Indigenous, and class-conscious framework. With over 14 years of in-depth teaching experience and a writing career equally as long, Desireé facilitates spaces for community and belonging 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, scholar, space creator, and lifelong student communally and formally taught and trained. Interested in continuous and long-term community building through creative writing and storytelling through frameworks of resource sharing, resource liberation, and consciousness raising. Desireé's teaching and community work has a particular interest in gender-diverse writers systemically denied access to artistic and creative resources, and her facilitation and leadership aims to liberate resources and opportunities alongside collaborators. Desireé has extensive experience working among diverse writers across the United States through grassroots writing and storytelling frameworks with an emphasis on counter-storytelling and narrative correction work.

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).

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)
University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)

EXTENDED MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND 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)
AWP Panelist, 2017 & 2019

BOOKS:

2019 SINK, Button Poetry Press (*Amazon Bestseller & available wherever books are sold*)
2014 Dimly Lit, Next Left Press
2013 The Year of the Institution, 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, Indiefeed: 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, AND ACADEMIC JOURNAL CITATIONS:

2022 10 Contemporary Poets to Read this Year, *Swift Wellness*
2019 Bound to Truth: Baton Rouge Poet Desireé Dallagiacomo Releases Her Debut Collection, *Advocate*
2019 7 Exquisite Slam Poetry Collections to Read This Summer, *The Curious Reader*
2019 3CR Radio Interview
2018 The Room is on Fire: The History, Pedagogy, and Practice of Youth Spoken Word Poetry, by *Susan Weinstein*
2017 Raising Voices, Breaking Boxes: How Spoken Word Creates Dialogue on Gender, Navajyoti, *International Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research Volume 1, Issue 2*
2017 Desireé Dallagiacomo & Kaycee Filson Sums Up What Discovering Your Sexuality Is Like In A Patriarchal Society, *Bustle Magazine*
2016 Hilarious Reverse Pick-Up Lines by Poet Desiree Dallagiacomo, *mic.com*

- 2016 Page, Stage, Engage: Spoken Word as a Tool for Creating More Critical, Engaging, Social Justice Education Programs, by *Kyle Tran Myhre*
- 2015 Half A Million Viewers Are Watching a Baton Rouge Poet, *225 Magazine*
- 2015 Poet Calls Out Our Culture's Absurd Ideas About Body Hair, *Huffpost*
- 2015 The Ode to Thunderous Thighs all Women Need to Hear, *Huffpost September*
- 2015 How Rape Has Become a Staple of American Culture, *Everyday Feminism*
- 2015 Sex Tips that Don't Suck, *Everyday Feminism*
- 2014 Complaining About the 'Friend Zone' Perpetuates Rape Culture, *Everyday Feminism*
- 2014 What Walking Through Life With Thunder Things is Really Like, *Everyday Feminism*
- 2014 Ten Questions with Desiree Dallagiacomo, *300 Questions Project*
- 2014 Listen Carefully: This is What Rape Culture Sounds Like in America, *Huffpost*

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2023-2024 University of California, Santa Cruz — Feminist Studies B.A, Dean's Honors
- 2023-2024 Visualizing Abolition Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
- 2022 Middlebury College, Andover Bread Loaf Educator's Cohort
- 2012-2015 The University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

- 2024 Baskin Feminist Studies Scholarship, UC Santa Cruz
- 2024 Karr Scholarship, UC Santa Cruz
- 2024 Native Forward Scholarship
- 2023 OLLI Sylvia Miller Scholarship, UC Santa Cruz
- 2022-2024 Choctaw Nation Higher Education Award
- 2022 Middlebury College, Andover Bread Loaf Educator's Cohort
- 2018 Derek E. Gordon Artist Grant, The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge
- 2017 Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam (Coach), San Francisco, CA, First Place
- 2015 Women of the World Poetry Slam 2015, Albuquerque, NM, 3rd Place finisher
- 2014 Pushcart Prize Nominee for Poetry
- 2014 Individual World Poetry Slam 2014, Phoenix, AZ, 3rd Place Finisher
- 2014 National Poetry Slam Champion 2014, Oakland, CA, 3rd Place Finisher
- 2013 Southwest Shootout Regional Slam Champion 2013, Albuquerque, NM, 1st Place
- 2013 Ryan Chigazola Poetry Scholarship Recipient, University of New Orleans
- 2013 Innovate UNO, Best overall/literary performance

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

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

