



Olga García Echeverría
Curator & Poet

Olga García Echeverría born and raised in East Los Angeles, California, has been an educator for over 25 years and currently teaches literature in the Chicana Latinx Studies department at California State University of Los Angeles. For the past decade, under the leadership of Poets & Writers and California Center for the Book, she has worked as a bilingual workshop leader for the Rural Libraries Tour, which facilitates creative writing workshops in rural and underserved areas of California.

Her poetry and essays appear in numerous anthologies, print magazines, and online literary venues. She is the author of *Falling Angels: Cuentos y Poemas*. <https://olgagarciaecheverria.com>



Karina Puente
Papel Picado Artist

My name is Karina Puente, and I believe we *all* have what it takes to create a story that comes true. My art has been exhibited in museums and cultural centers such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, MASS MoCA, and the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts.

My Mexican American heritage informs the scale of the Papel Picado installations I display internationally. The art demonstrates the power of taking a deep breath as we bring folk art to the future.

My great-grandmother was a seamstress by trade. One hundred years ago, people brought her clothes to mend; she sewed designs for Indigenous communities, toggled the border between Mexico and Texas, and hand-delivered her work. Working from home, heart, and by hand is my way of honoring her and the Mother of Invention. <https://www.karinapuentearts.com>



Natalie J. Graham
Poet

Natalie J. Graham, a native of Gainesville, Florida, is a full professor in the Department of African American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, where she leads the Institute of Black Intellectual Innovation. Dr. Graham has also coordinated art-centered community events, workshops, and readings for hundreds of participants as the Production Director of KayJo Creatives.

She is an award-winning author and performer who has toured nationally with her collection of poems, *Begin with a Failed Body*. In August 2021, Dr. Graham was appointed the inaugural Poet Laureate of Orange County. Find her on IG @NatalieJoGraham.



Dorothy Randall Gray
Poet

Dorothy Randall Gray is author of the bestseller, *Soul Between the Lines*, and a recent volume of poetry, *Sharing the Same Sky*. An LA Poet-in-Residence for two years, Dorothy's "When I Was A Tree" poetry video (filmed by Skye Ward) was awarded *Official Selection* status by the Film & Poetry Video Symposium. Dorothy's transformational workshops have inspired thousands of writers, incarcerated youth and adults, creative aging groups, business executives and post graduate students.

She has taught at Sias University in China, shared the dais with the Dalai Lama in New Delhi, performed spoken word poetry in Iceland, danced with tribal boys in India, and boogied with James Baldwin in NYC.

<http://www.dorothyrandallgray.com/home-1.html>



Tanya (Hyonhye) Ko Hong
Poet

Tanya (Hyonhye) Ko Hong is an internationally published poet, translator, and cultural curator who champions bilingual poetry and poets. She is the author of five books, including *The War Still Within* (KYSO Flash Press, 2019). Tanya's work has won the Dritëro Agolli award, at the International Korçare Poetry Festival, Yun Doon-ju Korean-American Literature Award, and Ko Won's 10th Literary Award.

Weaving together two cultures, Tanya's poetry gives voice to multiple generations of Korean and Korean-American women. Her poems have been translated into Albanian, Bosnian, Korean, Japanese, and Spanish. Find her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).



La Poeta Violeta
Poet

La Poeta Violeta is a 15-year-old LatinX spoken word artist. At just 10 years old, she became the youngest performer with Get Lit -Words Ignite. She is a published poet who uses her words to powerfully cope with stressors in her life and advocate for humanity. She speaks on climate change, LatinX-girl power, immigration reform, and gun violence.

Her poem on gun violence was one of three in the country chosen for publication by CNN. Her most recent performances include a primary role in the short *Crush*, which is screening at the 40th Anniversary Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ+ Film Festival 2022. Find her on IG at [@lapoetavioleta](#)

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