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BAC-5773

Board Name	Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs	Status	New
Salutation		Preferred Email	suzqsmith7@gmail.com
First Name	Suzi	Other Email	
Middle Name		Preferred Phone	7209857128
Last Name	Smith	Other Phone	
Contact Name	Suzi Smith	DOB	1/1/2020
MMAC Trans. Mode Group		SSN	000-00-00
Other boards or commissions served		Party Affiliation	

Work and Home Address

Work Address	2550 Ash Street	Home Address	3890 Adams Street
Work City	Denver	Home City	Denver
Work State	CO	Home State	CO
Work Zip	80207	Home Zip	80205
		County	Denver

Additional Information

Are you a registered voter?	Yes	Gender	Female
If so, what county?	Denver	Other Gender	
Denver City Council District No	9	Race/Ethnicity	African American
		Other Ethnicity	
		Objection to appointment?	No
		Special Information	

Employment Information

Employer	Artist, Activist, Educator
Position	
Business Phone #	

Education and General Qualifications

Name of High School	Name of Graduate School
Location of High School	Location of Graduate School
# of Years Attended High school	# of Years Attended Graduate School

Suzi Q. Smith

suzqsmith7@gmail.com

(720) 985-7128

Education

University of Colorado at Denver

B.A. English Writing, Summa Cum Laude, 2014

Professional Experience

Executive Teaching Artist. Youth On Record.

2011 – 2017, 2019 – Present

- Teach Creative Writing, Introduction to Poetry and Spoken Word in Denver area high schools
- Develop curriculum for the program that meets with applicable academic standards
- Create lesson plans, materials, activities, and worksheets for each class
- Teach students to work collaboratively and to respond to each other's writing
- Provide professional development and mentorship to incoming Teaching Artists
- Provide weekly reports on student progress

Performing Artist.

2008 – Present

- Perform original material including poetry, plays, and music, throughout the United States at literary festivals, colleges and universities, theatres, special events, nightclubs, and other performance venues
- Develop and perform original material, performing for 1 - 2 hours per event
- Lead critical dialogues in response to the work

Community Engagement Coordinator. Lighthouse Writers Workshop.

9/2018 – 12/2020

- Support the mission and strategic plans of the organization through work with internal and external partners
- Build, manage, and direct relationships with other local organizations and communities, explore and develop collaborative possibilities
- Work to ensure that organization is a place that is intentionally inclusive, equitable, and welcoming to all by developing and implementing necessary programming and relationships
- Design, implement, promote, run, and evaluate workshops and gatherings in the community
- Occasionally lead these writing workshops, as mutually agreed upon
- Serve as editor for an annual anthology containing writing from community engagement programs
- Envision and lead a reading series that celebrates the diversity of local literary culture
- Support visiting authors programs, and other special events as needed
- Coordinate and implement state-wide Poetry Out Loud programming
- Work to connect the larger literary community through a shared calendar of events, gatherings, and celebration of the vibrancy and richness of Colorado's literary community and culture

Executive Director. Poetry Slam, Inc.

8/2014 – 8/2018

- Oversee design, marketing, promotion, delivery and quality of programs, products and services. Provide leadership in developing program, organizational and financial plans with the Executive Council and staff, and carry out plans and policies authorized by the Executive Council.
- Manage organization's resources within budget guidelines according to current laws and regulations.
- Maintain official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations to maintain 501(c)3 status. Work with the staff, Finance Committee, and the Executive Council in preparing a budget; see that the organization operates within budget guidelines. Ensure that all contractual obligations are met, and maintain all required insurances and licenses for the business operations.
- Manage the personnel (contract, employee, and volunteer staff) of the organization according to authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current laws and regulations. Responsible for the recruitment, employment, and release of all personnel including contract, employee, and volunteer staff. Maintain a climate that attracts, keeps, and motivates a diverse staff.

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- Ensure that the organization and its mission, programs, products and services are consistently presented in a strong, positive image to relevant stakeholders. Publicize the activities of the organization, its programs and goals. Establish sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with community groups and organizations, agencies, and the general public.
- Oversee fundraising planning and implementation, including identifying resource requirements, researching funding sources, establishing strategies to approach funders, submitting proposals and administering fundraising records and documentation. Assess, create and implement an annual development plan. Convey the mission and work of Poetry Slam, Inc. through a cohesive public relations and marketing strategy.

Account Executive. Dawn Food Products.

2006 – 2008

- Consulted customers on products and business operations
- Built customer base and generate sales through presentations, product demonstrations, and “cold” calls to build and maintain business
- Compiled lists of prospective customers for use as sales leads, develop solid customer relationships
- Prepared and executed sales contracts

Account Executive. Shamrock Foods Company.

2003 – 2006

- Consulted customers on products and business operations
- Built customer base and generate sales through presentations, product demonstrations, and “cold” calls to build and maintain business
- Compiled lists of prospective customers for use as sales leads, develop solid customer relationships
- Prepared and executed sales contracts

Marketing Specialist. Shamrock Foods Company.

2000 – 2003

- Developed and implemented marketing strategies and direct marketing services for customers
- Provided market research, demographic information, and territory maps to support marketing plan development and implementation
- Developed content, edited, and published print and electronic newsletters and other promotional materials
- Coordinated special events including vendor fairs, trade shows, and customer receptions

Director, Membership and Special Events. Urban League of Metropolitan Denver.

1997 – 2000

- Planned and supervised special events, ranging from membership meetings and job fairs to public events including up to 30,000 people
- Developed and managed departmental budget
- Researched grants, wrote grant proposals and reports
- Planned and implemented fundraisers and fundraising strategies
- Created and executed marketing plan, including creating and distributing agency and program brochures, press releases, program visual aids and newsletters, and developing web content
- Assisted Senior Vice President with media and community relations
- Created membership drives, member-oriented activities
- Managed auxiliary organizations, supervised volunteer activities
- Formed and maintained partnerships with related community organizations and activists

Community Service

Co-Chair, Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs. 2016 – Present.

Vice President. Executive Council – Poetry Slam. Inc. 2012 – 2014

Guest Artist. Art from Ashes. 2008 – 2014

Organizer. Slam Nuba Poetry Collective. 2006–2014

Volunteer Mentor Artist. The Children's Hospital. 2009 – 2012

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Volunteer. Pan African Arts Society. 2006 – 2009

Board Member. Denver Center for Crime Victims. 2003 – 2005

Volunteer. Food Bank of the Rockies. 2002 – 2004

Academic Honors

Member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Member, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Reisher Scholarship recipient

Publishing credits and references available upon request.

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References

Kenneth C. Arkind

Minor Disturbance Youth Poetry, Slam Nuba, Youth On Record
2007 – 2015
kenarkind@gmail.com
(currently resides in New Zealand, so e-mail contact is best)

Danielle Brooks

National Poetry Slam 2017, Women of the World Poetry Slam 2012
brooksdanielle87@gmail.com
(720) 323-7589

Bianca Mikahn

Slam Nuba, Youth On Record, multiple creative projects
2007 – Present
biancamikahn@gmail.com
(303) 887-0454

Jami Duffy

Youth On Record, Livingston Fellow, Denver Cultural Affairs Commission
2010 – Present
jami@youthonrecord.org
(303) 717-1027

Maureen Benson

National Poetry Slam 2014 – 2018
yesmsbenson@gmail.com
(510) 938-8237

Publications

Chapbook:

Thirteen Descansos. Penmanship Publishing. January 2015.

Journals:

"We Pay Cash for Houses" *Suspect Press*. Winter 2018.
"Bones". *Suspect Press*. September 2016.
"Until the End of Time". *Yellow Chair Review*. May 2016.
"Sweetback". *No Dear Magazine*. February 2016.
"Game". *Union Station Magazine*. March 2014.
"Wet". *Suspect Press*. January 2014.
"Twelve" and "Thirteen". *La Palabra*. January 2014.
"My Father's Hands" *Muzzle Magazine*. November 2013.
"I Do Not Know How to Love You in English" *Malpais Review*. June 2012.
"Tattoo" and "Lazarus" *The Pedestal Magazine*. January 2010.
"Ripe" *The Los Angeles Journal*. April 2006.
"Emancipation" *Word is Bond*. April 2005.
"Forge" *The Peralta Press*. Spring ed. 2002.

Anthologies:

"Bones" and "Mustangs". *Mutiny Info Reader*. November 2016.
"My Stepfather is Not the Kind of Man Who Weeps" *Diverse-City Anthology*. April 2013.
"Blue" *World of Women Poetry Anthology*. March 2008.
"Infidelity" *His Rib: Anthology of Women*. July 2007.
"Jalat Khan" In *Our Own Words Anthology*. March 2003.

Productions

"How I Got Over". Writer & Performer. March 2017.
Produced by Off-Center Theatre Company at the Denver Center for Performing Arts.

Awards/Titles

Swanee Hunt Individual Leadership Award, 2018
Champion, Individual Competition, Southwest Shootout 2016
100 Colorado Creatives, Westword 2015
Finalist, Women of the World Poetry Slam 2011, 2013
Champion, Team Competition, Southwest Shootout 2012
Finalist, Individual Competition, Southwest Shootout 2011
Semi-Finalist, National Poetry Slam 2011 and 2012
Champion, Silver Tongue Champion, Verse/Converse Festival 2011, 2012, 2013
Finalist, Individual World Poetry Slam 2011
Finalist, Pablo Neruda Poetry Festival Barrio Slam, 2009, 2011, 2013

Press

Colorado Public Radio – August 2017
Associated Press – March 2014
Denver Post – September 2016, November 2012
Westword – August 2016, February 2013, February 2012, August 2011
Creative Loafing – August 2012

Short/Medium Bio:

Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning artist, activist, and educator who lives in Denver, Colorado. Performing across the U.S. for over a decade, she has shared stages with Nikki Giovanni, the late Gil Scott Heron, and many more. Her poems have appeared in *Union Station Magazine*, *Suspect Press*, *La Palabra*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Malpais Review*, *The Pedestal*, *The Los Angeles Journal*, *Denver Syntax*, *Word is Bond*, *The Peralta Press*, *Yellow Chair Review*, and in the anthologies *The Mutiny Info Reader*, *Diverse-City*, *His Rib: Anthology of Women*, and *In Our Own Words*, and her chapbook collection of poems, *Thirteen Descansos*, was published by Penmanship Books. She co-wrote the dramatic productions *How I Got Over: Journeys in Verse* and *Where We Are From: Freedom is a Constant Struggle*.

As a community organizer, Suzi was the first Slammaster of Denver's Slam Nuba, and she spent 12 years in the poetry slam arena as a coach, organizer, and performer, earning her way to dozens of local, regional, national, and international finals and championships. In addition, she has worked extensively with youth, serving as a Teaching Artist with Youth On Record, and as a coach of Denver Minor Disturbance Youth Poetry Slam, resulting in two international championships. Currently, Suzi Q. is at work on her next collection while she continues to teach Creative Writing, and she serves as the co-Chair of the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs.

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Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning artist, activist, and educator who lives in Denver, Colorado. Her forthcoming collection *A Gospel of Bones* will be published by Alternating Current Press in Spring 2020. Her poems have also appeared in *Union Station Magazine*, *Suspect Press*, *La Palabra*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Malpais Review*, no dear magazine, *The Pedestal*, *The Los Angeles Journal*, *Denver Syntax*, *Word is Bond*, *The Peralta Press*, *Yellow Chair Review*, and in the anthologies *Diverse-City*, *His Rib: Anthology of Women*, and *In Our Own Words*, and her chapbook collection of poems, *Thirteen Descansos*, was published by Penmanship Books. Currently, Suzi Q. Smith performs throughout the U.S., in addition to leading workshops on writing and performance. She continues her work with civil rights organizations, victims advocate organizations, arts organizations, peace organizations, hospitals, prisons, and more. She also serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator at Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and she is the co-Chair of the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs.

Suzi Q. Smith graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Colorado at Denver with a BA in English Writing, and works as a teaching and performing artist. Suzi Q. spent over a decade in the poetry slam arena as a competing poet, coach, and organizer locally, nationally, and Internationally. She earned her place as a finalist multiple times in the Women of the World Poetry Slam as well the Individual World Poetry Slam, in addition to winning multiple regional championship titles. Further, she served as a co-coach of Denver Minor Disturbance Youth Poetry Slam, working with teams who earned Brave New Voices championships in 2012 and 2013.

Currently, Suzi Q. Smith performs throughout the U.S., in addition to leading workshops on writing and performance. She continues her work with civil rights organizations, victims advocate organizations, arts organizations, peace organizations, hospitals, prisons, and more. She also serves as the co-Chair of the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs.

Suzi Q. Smith is an artist, activist, and educator who hails from Denver, Colorado. She holds a degree in English Writing from the University of Colorado at Denver, and she has been performing poetry throughout the United States for over a decade. Her poems have appeared in Union Station Magazine, Suspect Press, La Palabra, Muzzle Magazine, Malpais Review, The Pedestal, The Los Angeles Journal, Denver Syntax, Word is Bond, The Peralta Press, Yellow Chair Review, and in the anthologies *Diverse-City*, *His Rib: Anthology of Women*, and *In Our Own Words*, and her chapbook collection of poems, *Thirteen Descansos*, is available from Penmanship Books and her forthcoming collection, *A Gospel of Bones*, will be released by Alternating Current Press in Spring 2020.

In addition to working as a teaching artist in Denver, she was the founding Slammaster of Slam Nuba, and spent 12 years in the poetry slam arena as a competing poet, coach, organizer, board member, eventually serving as the Executive Director of Poetry Slam, Inc. from 2014-2018. She placed as a finalist in the Women of the World Poetry Slam in 2011 and 2013 as well the Individual World Poetry Slam in 2011, she is a Southwest Shootout champion, and she has earned the champion (or co-champion) title at the Taos Poetry Festival: Versing in Converse three times since 2009. In addition, she has worked extensively with youth, serving as a Partner Artist with Youth On Record, and as co-coach of Denver Minor Disturbance Youth Poetry Slam, resulting in two championship teams between 2011-2014.

Long Bio:

Suzi Q. Smith is a poet who lives with her brilliant daughter in Denver, Colorado.

The author of *Thirteen Descansos*, she is also a powerful performer, commanding stages nationwide for years. She has shared stages with the late Gil Scott Heron, Nikki Giovanni, Talib Kweli, and many more. Her passionate performance style and fearless approach to challenging content have lead her to be consistently among the most well-known performing poets in the country.

In addition to working as a teaching artist in Denver, Suzi Q. performs throughout the United States. She was the founding Slammaster of Slam Nuba, and she served as the Executive Director of Poetry Slam, Inc. from 2014-18. In addition, she was co-coach of two Denver Minor Disturbance Youth Poetry Slam championship teams between 2011-2014, and a partner artist with Youth On Record (formerly known as Flobots.org) for 7 years. While most of her current work in the poetry slam arena is

organizational (rather than competitive), she placed as a finalist in the Women of the World Poetry Slam in 2011 and 2013 as well the Individual World Poetry Slam in 2011, she is a Southwest Shootout champion, and she has earned the champion (or co-champion) title at the Taos Poetry Festival: Versing in Converse three times since 2009.

Her work has appeared in Union Station Magazine, Suspect Press, La Palabra, Muzzle Magazine, Malpais Review, The Pedestal, The Los Angeles Journal, Denver Syntax, Word is Bond, The Peralta Press, and in the anthologies *Diverse-City*, *His Rib: Anthology of Women*, and *In Our Own Words*.

Suzi Q. has been featured on numerous television and radio programs, and her poetry has been sampled and remixed all over the world, earning both high acclaim and controversy. Her single 'Moments', in collaboration with Psy'Aviah, received International attention after being a finalist in the BBC's 'Next Big Thing' contest. She has appeared on FreeSpeech TV, ManiaTV, Poets on the Loose, and many other live television broadcasts. Her work has also been featured on countless radio stations throughout the world. Suzi Q. was also a founding member of one of Denver's most popular musical acts, the Lady Wu-Tang Clan, from its launch in January 2011 until May 2013, performing as Method Man alongside her fellow Lady Wu members to sold-out audiences around the region, and sharing stages with Raekwon and Ghostface Killah of the Wu-Tang Clan.

Academically, Suzi Q. Smith is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Societies, graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Colorado at Denver. Suzi Q. has also worked extensively as an activist with civil rights organizations, victims advocate organizations, arts organizations, peace organizations, hospitals, prisons, and more. Currently, Suzi Q. Smith performs and teaches poetry and music throughout the U.S., in addition to leading workshops on writing and performance.