

AIMEE SUZARA

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EDUCATION

- Master of Fine Arts degree, English: Creative Writing (Poetry), Mills College (2006)
- B.A. with Honors in Religious Studies; minors: Women's Studies, Creative Writing, University of California, Berkeley (1999)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Mary Baty Gossage Graduate Fellowship (04-05)
- Mills Reading fund (2005-6)
- Mills Alumnae Scholarship (04-05, 05-06)
- UC Berkeley Alumnae Scholarship (94-99)

**WRITING AWARDS, GRANTS,
RESIDENCIES**

- Artist-in-Residence with Loco Bloco, San Francisco (2018)
- Guest Artist Instructor with Kearny Street Workshop's Interdisciplinary Writer's Lab, San Francisco (2018)
- Guest Artist Instructor with Hociconx performance project, Oakland (2018)
- Artist-in-Residence at Unpack Studio in Havana, Cuba (2017)
- NYFA Mentor (New York Foundation for the Arts) for program based in Oakland, CA with the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland Public Library (2018, 2019)
- Creative team, co-writer and performer for "Breaking Through Concrete," and "Water/Walls" performance projects sponsored by STAND (2016-2018) – culminating event in Oakland, and culminating video produced by TownFuturist Media with Ashel Eldridge (Earth Amplified) on location in Oakland, CA and the California coast.
- Selected as Artist-Investigator by CalShakes as guest instructor in performance with AYPAL in Oakland (2016) – worked with Oakland-based Southeast Asian students to produce their May Arts Festival spoken word /theatrical show in San Antonio Park.
- "In This Skin" workshop and performance with the Poetry Club of Las Positas College (2016)
- Finalist, Playwright's Foundation, Bay Area Playwright's Festival 2016 for *Tiny Fires*
- Guest playwright and instructor, "Instant Plays Festival" at Whitman College, 2016
- WILLA 2015 Award Finalist for book of poetry, SOUVENIR (Word Tech Editions 2014)
- Finalist, Playwright's Foundation, Bay Area Playwrights Festival 2015 for *A History of the Body*
- Artist resident with University Dance Theater for poem-dance collaboration "Tiny Fires," (Spring 2015)
- Guest playwright in Theater, Dance, Performance Studies, UC Berkeley (Spring 2015)
- *Spirited Woman Fellow* Awardee and Accepted Contributor, A Room of Her Own Foundation (Summer 2015)
- *YBCAway Award*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2013-2014 season)
- Resident Writing Pool, Playground, Seasons 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2016-2017
- Semifinalist, Bay Area Playwrights Festival for *A History of the Body*, 2013 and 2014
- *A History of the Body* selected for United States of Asian America Festival; supported by an East Bay Community Foundation Commission, City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, National Endowment for the Arts, Zellerbach Foundation (2009-2012)
- Associate Artist in Residence, Atlantic Center for the Arts (2011); and Hedgebrook (2009 and 2013)
- *Pagbabalik (Return)*, Awarded Zellerbach Community Arts Grant, Gerbode Foundation in 2006 and 2007, selected for APature Asian Arts Festival and CounterPULSE's Emerging Performance Festival (2006); Artist-in-Residence w/ Kularts, Inc (2010); selected for *Second Sundays*, CounterPULSE (2009)
- Artist-in-Residence w/Deep Waters Dance Theater (2008-2011); Frances Sedayao; CounterPULSE (2008)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND LITERARY CREDITS:

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS - Selected

- Workshops for Queer Cultural Center (Oakland, San Francisco), Artist Statements and Bios (for QCC artists and the public), 2020, 2021
- "National Monuments: Poetry in Contested Spaces" Presenter, AWP (2017)

- Guest Artist/Speaker, A/PA Institute, NYU, “America & Its Unfit: Eugenics Then & Now” (2015)
- Guest Lecturer, Center for Women Writers, Salem College, North Carolina (Fall 2014)
- Featured Workshop Facilitator, *Northwest Filipino American Student Association Conference* (2014)
- Featured Workshop Instructor and Reader for *Writer’s Week*, UC Riverside (2014)
- “Race, History and the Body: Social Acts of Writing” – Moderator and Presenter, AWP (2015)
- “Social Action Writing: Our Words in the World” – Moderator and Presenter, AWP (2014)
- “Be/aring Anger: Race in the Creative Writing Classroom” - Moderator and Presenter, AWP (2013)
- “Meeting in the Margin: Discourses on Reading and Writing” (ECCTYC) Brunch Speaker, CA (2011)
- *Mills College Annual Professional Development Conference* Presenter, CA (2008, 2011, and 2013)
- *Marin Academy Literary Festival* - Presenter/performer, San Rafael, CA (2011 and 2009)
- *Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month* - Featured presenter/Performer, CSU Monterey Bay (2009)
- “Immigration Politics and the Body” - Panelist, Counterpulse, San Francisco, CA (2009)
- *Pilipino Cultural Night* - Keynote speaker/performer, Kaibigan at Portland State University (2008)
- *Queer Pin@y Conference* at UC Berkeley - Keynote Speaker and Performer (2008)

PUBLICATIONS - selected

- *SOUVENIR*, Poetry Book (WordTech Editions 2014) finalist for Willa Award 2015
- Poem, "Amphibious" published by Academy of American Poets' as Poem-A-Day (November 13, 2020)
- Poem, "We Come Swimming" in Locked Horn Press' Anthology, *Read Water* (2019); Finalist for Locked Horn award; selected by Split This Rock Foundation in 2020 for *Poems of Persistence, Solidarity and Refuge*
- Poems "Night Waking" and "Fragments on Motherhood" published in *Raising Mothers* magazine (2020)
- Articles, "How to be a Single Mother and a Long Distance Wife" and "Cosleeping and Nursing Helped My Toddler and Me during the Shelter-in-Place", “How the Pandemic Made Single Motherhood More Single” and “How Queerness Helped me Become a Single Mother” published at Popsugar.com Family Vertical (2020-2021)
- “Because Water is Life” published by Split This Rock, for *Poems of Persistence, Solidarity and Refuge* (2017)
- Article "This is American History" - *Positively Filipino* magazine (2015)
- “On Solidarity after Ferguson,” (essay) and “On the Night of the Verdict” (short story) published in *College Language Association Journal* “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot!” special issue (2015)
- *Finding the Bones*, and *the space between*, poetry chapbooks, (Finishing Line Press 2008 and 2013)
- Finalist in Ian McMillan Award, *Hawaii Pacific Review* and publication in journal (Feb 2014)
- Poems in: *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, Vol. 2* (2017); *Poemeleon* (2017); *Enizagam* (2013), *Hanggang Sa Muli: Homecoming Stories for the Filipino Soul* (2011), *Conversations at a Wartime Café* (2010), *Lantern Review* (2010), *Walang Hiya (No Shame): Literature Taking Risks Towards Liberatory Practice*, anthology (2009), *Kartika Review* (2010), *580 Split* (2010), NAACP Image Award-nominated *Check the Rhyme Anthology of Women Poets and Emcees* (2006), *The Walrus* (2006), *CRUX magazine* (2006), *The Womanist* (2004, 2005), *Konch Magazine* (2009, 2005)
- Fiction in: *Mission and Tenth* (2016)
- Non-fiction articles in: *Tea Party Magazine* (2006), *Filipinas Magazine* (2001), *San Francisco Chronicle* (2001), *Philippine News* (2001), *Mabuhay News* (2001), *Ang Peryodiko* (2001), *Race, Poverty and the Environment* (2001)

LITERARY READINGS AND PERFORMANCES - selected

- Featured Poet, Thou Art Woman (based in Fort Lauderdale, FL), May 2021
- Featured Poetry reading and workshop hosted by UC Merced Department of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures (September 2020)
- Collaborative performance/Spoken Word Opera “Echoes” with Kronos Quartet, Living Earth, Campo Santo, Youth Speaks at Herbst Theater and ODC (2017 and 2020)
- Featured poet at Jingletown Open Mic, Oakland (online) (October 2020) and live in 2018
- Featured poet for the "Celebrating the Impossible" as part of the Impossible Summit (May 2020)
- Featured poet at Speaking Axolotl Poetry reading focused on Filipino and Latinx and bilingual poets, Oakland, CA (2018)
- Featured headlining poet at East Bay Soul Café, three times (2016-2018), CSU Hayward
- Featured playwright/convocation speaker, Bridgwater College (May 2017)
- Featured headlining poet, TownBiz Art Gallery, Oakland (March 2017)
- Featured poet, Transformative Visions, Oakland (April 2017)
- Featured Poet for Asian American and Pacific Heritage Month at Skyline College (May 2016)

- Featured poet at "America & Its Unfit: Eugenics Then and Now," A/P/A Institute, New York University (2015)
- Featured Poet Featured Poet, Litquake at Yerba Buena Gardens Festival (May 2014)
- Featured Performer, SFJazz Poetry Festival, curated by Ishmael Reed;
- "Inside the Mind of Aimee Suzara," Guest Presenter, Fresno City College (April 2014)
- UVerse, University of Miami, FL - Featured Performer (2013)
- Utah Literary Arts Festival, Salt Lake City, UT - Featured Performer (2013)
- Featured poet sponsored by Atlanta Queer Literary Festival at Charis Books, Atlanta, GA (2012).
- Featured poet at Scuppernong Books, Greensboro, NC (2013)
- Women's History Month Festival - Featured Performer, City College of San Francisco, CA (2009)
- APIQWTC (API Queer Women / Transgender Community) Banquet, Feature, San Francisco, CA (2008);
- APAture Festival –Featured Performer, Kearny Street Workshop, San Francisco (2008)

THEATER and CROSS-GENRE DEVELOPMENT and PRODUCTIONS

- Commission for multi-year writing, development process and production of play *The Real Sappho* to be premiered in 2022 by Cutting Ball Theater, 2020-2022
- *TINY FIRES* selected for 2022 World Premiere – Custom Made Theater
- *TINY FIRES* selected and developed by Custom Made Theater for Undiscovered Works Festival (2021)
- *TINY FIRES* public table reading by Ubuntu Theater (2018)
- *TINY FIRES* full-length script development and staged reading presented by Planet Earth Arts (2015-2017)
- "TINY FIRES" 10-minute-play staged reading at Stanford University, Planet Earth Arts New Play Festival (2018)
- A History of the Body (multidisciplinary theater) production at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center (see Awards for list of sponsors and commissioners below) (2013). A History of the Body presented by CSUMB's World Theater, sponsored by Humanities and Communication Department, Otter Cross-Cultural Center (2013)
- Short Plays selected and staged by Playground: "Gabriela Silang: Woman Warrior" (2017), "The Last Bedtime Story" (2017) "The Bedtime Story" - picked for People's Choice (2016), "Designer Babies" (2014), "Simmering Tomatoes" (2013) premiered at the Berkeley Repertory Theater
- "Hands Up," "Making Noise/Making Joy," "Where are You From?" and "Have You Heard About That Show?" selected for and premiered at the FlashPlays Festival by Playwright's Foundation (2013-2016)
- "New Oakland" and "No One's Here," premiered at the One Minute Play Festival (2013); "Connect" selected for and premiered at the One Minute Play Festival (2012)
- *Pagbabalik (Return)* (multidisciplinary theater) production presented by Las Positas College Department of Arts and Communication and Theatre Department (2007), presented by La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley (2006), presented by Bindlestiff Studios, San Francisco (2006), featured at Kularts' "Pinay Stories," Somarts, San Francisco (2007), presented by La Pena Cultural Center (2006), selected for APAture festival (Kearny Street Workshop), Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco (2006), selected for STREAMfest: Emerging Performance Festival, COUNTERpulse, SF (2006)
- Theatre and Dance Collaborations: with Deep Waters Dance Theater for "Our Daily Bread" (2008-2011), with Kreatibo for "Dalagas and Tomboys: A Family Affair" (2004) and Dancers Without Borders (2001-2003)

PROFESSIONAL RESUME

TEACHING AND ADVISING: FACULTY

Lecturer

Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University (2018-current)

- Taught 1 section AAS 218 "Introduction to Asian American Studies: Asian American Culture" focusing on popular media, arts and cultural expression, with creative presentation modes, culminating in a public performance
- Taught 3 sections AAS 216, "Introduction to Asian American Literature" focused on literatures by Asian American authors

Metro Program for College Success in Health Education Department and Ethnic Studies (2019-current)

- Participate as member of Faculty Learning Community of Metro
- Teaching ETHS 241 and 221, History and Social Movements and Health and Social Justice within the Metro program
- Participated in Metro Collaborative and trainings

- Completed CEETL certificate for online teaching
- Completed Anti-Racism trainings through CEETL (JEDI, Justice, Equity and Diversity Institute)

Lecturer

Oakes College, University of California at Santa Cruz (Fall 2015)

- Taught two sections of Oakes Core Class to Freshman: “Communicating Diversity for a Just Society”
- Supervised Course Assistant

Instructor, Creative Writing

Alameda County Office of Education – Integrated Learning Specialist Program (Fall 2014)

- Developed curriculum and led course, “Our Stories” in Creativity and Storytelling addressing Common Core Standards and ethical, cultural and moral dimensions of professional teacher practice
- Provided instruction to educators (K-12, Higher Education) completing the ILSP certificate

Instructor in Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco (2007-2018)

- Taught several sections of *IDST 36: Poetry for the People*: a survey of multicultural literature paired with creative writing, on the CCSF Main Ocean Campus, Evans Campus; two collaborative classes with June Jordan High School
- Co-taught Philippine Studies course, *Philippine Literature in Translation* which combined literature study with creative writing

English Instructor

City College of San Francisco (Spring 2007-2016)

- Teach multiple Basic Skills English courses: English 92, 93, freshman composition English 1A
- Taught in conjunction with retention programs APASS (Asian Pacific Islander Services) and Tulay (Bridge)
- Utilized Instructional Technology to enhance student learning
- Participated in a Reading Skills Study Group to improve Basic Skills curriculum
- Completed Reading Apprenticeship Training for strategies in reading instruction at all levels

English Instructor

De Anza College (Fall 2016-2018)

- Teach Basic Skills English course: EWRT 211, EWRT 2 (Critical Thinking), EWRT 30 (Intro to Creative Writing)
- Use knowledge of contemporary methodologies of teaching composition and critical thinking
- Work successfully and collaboratively in an innovative English program with other instructors and colleagues
- Participate and teach in learning community through courses integrated with LEAD (Latino/as for Empowerment at DA), VIDA (Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action)
- Collaborated to produce and curated college-wide poetry and social justice events

English Instructor, Full-Time Sabbatical Replacement

Las Positas College (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)

- Taught basic skills English courses (100, 104) and composition English 1A (Critical Thinking and Composition)
- Taught transfer-level courses focused on critical reading, literature and composition (poetry, drama, fiction)
- Taught Creative Writing Eng 12: Craft of Fiction
- Used knowledge of contemporary methodologies of teaching composition and critical thinking
- Worked successfully and collaboratively in an innovative English program with other instructors and colleagues
- Participated in campus professional activities, including development of curriculum and new instructional approaches, staff meetings, and community outreach

English Instructor

Las Positas College (Fall 2006- ongoing)

- Teach Basic Skills English courses: English 100A and Freshman composition English 1A
- Teach English 11 (Introduction to Creative Writing) and English 12 (Craft of Fiction)
- Use knowledge of contemporary methodologies of teaching composition and critical thinking
- Work successfully and collaboratively in an innovative English program with other instructors and colleagues
- Utilize Instructional Technology to enhance student learning

English Instructor

Laney College (Spring 2007-ongoing)

- Taught freshman composition English 1A and transfer-level critical thinking: English 5, and Basic Skills English
- Advised on Committee for Community Voices Project, Laney College, a oral history, theater and literacy course

Lecturer, Creative Writing

CA State University at Monterey Bay (Fall 2011-Spring 2014)

Creative Writing and Social Action Program (Humanities and Communications Department)

- Use knowledge of contemporary methodologies of teaching composition, critical thinking and creative writing
- Work successfully and collaboratively in a team with other instructors and colleagues
- Teach and develop curricula for courses Creative Writing and Social Action (HCOM 330), Multicultural Poetry (HCOM 227), Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Resolution (214), Cooperative Argumentation (312).
- Curated and led panels at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Boston, MA on *Social Action Writing, Race and Identity (2013)*, *Social Action Writing: Our Words in the World (2014)* and forthcoming, *Race, History and the Body: Social Acts of Writing (2015)*
- Supported Writers on the Edge series of writers through meetings and consultations with HCOM Faculty
- Participated as a guest writer for the Special Events, HCOM and OC3-supported theater event, *A History of the Body*
- Advised students in office hours and provide support for academic careers

Course Coordinator, Summer Arts (Social Action Writing)

CA State University at Monterey Bay (2013-2014)

- Created syllabus, proposed led course in *Social Action Writing: Personal to Political, Words at Work*
- Curated four guest artists to lead instruction in Creative Writing under her supervision
- Oversaw program including supervision of teaching assistant and student host
- Gave instruction in Creative Writing and provided office hours and consultation to students
- Led outreach and recruitment presentations for enrollment throughout CA and beyond, managed applications and enrollment of students and provided final assessments of students for course credit in Graduate and Undergraduate university programs.

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL WORK: YOUTH and COMMUNITY

Instructor, Creative Writing, Grubstreet (Boston, MA) and Hugo House (Seattle, WA)

- Developed and taught *Introduction to Poetry* and sections of *Poetry for Social Justice* and *Writing the Body, Writing Motherhood* (original classes developed by Suzara) online; *Movements and Moments*, and more

Teacher, Able2Shine (2018 and by contract)

- Taught youth ages 5-11 in Drama/Theater, Dance and Public Speaking
- Engaged with parents at final culminating performances

Course Coordinator, CSU Summer Arts – Social Action Writing

CSU Monterey Bay (2013-2014 for Summer 2014)

- Successfully proposed, recruited for, developed and executed course
- Gave recruitment and informational presentations throughout California colleges
- Hired and oversaw artists Kwame Dawes, Evelina Galang, Sharon Bridgforth and Luis Javier Rodriguez
- Supervised a teaching assistant and student host
- Admitted, oversaw and evaluated students

Site Director and Master Teacher

Aim High Academy (June 19 2006-2008) – Oakland, CA site (based at Bishop O’Dowd campus)

- Trained and supervised Master Teachers, TAs and Interns; managed site of 6th-9th graders
- Developed curriculum for sixth grade Humanities classes with focus on Reading and Writing
- Advised Central Office for curriculum development
- Taught classes in Humanities for sixth and seventh grades
- Directed school-wide assemblies and cultural days including lectures, field trips and demonstrations

Arts-in-Education Associate Director and Arts Educator

Youth Speaks, San Francisco (2003-2005)

- Directed Chapter O.N.E. (Oral Narrative Experience) writing residency program in over 21 schools
- Trained and supervised “poet-mentors” and mentored youth board members as teaching assistants
- Conducted ongoing and end-of-year evaluations of program
- Supervised Arts-in-Education Associates and intern(s)
- Led “A Woman’s Word” workshop and performance series
- Managed budgets and timelines
- Initiated and maintained relationships with schools, teachers and administrative staff, Education Board
- Developed and facilitated in-school and after-school writing workshops for youth ages 13-21
- Developed curriculum and led process of curriculum-building for residency program

Teacher and Curriculum Developer

Art in Action, Santa Cruz (2004-2006)

- Planned curriculum for group of young adults from diverse economic and racial backgrounds
- Taught writing and performance workshops and co-choreographed/directed theatre performance
- Part of core team to develop and facilitate professional development program and curriculum handbook

Independent Arts Educator and Trainer

- Founder/instructor of “Writing to Remember” writing workshop, Kearny Street Workshop, SF (2009)
- Consultant trainer, Center for Contemplative Mind in Society and Spirit in Motion, NY (2006)

SERVICE AND OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Mentor to Emerging Artist through Immigrant Mentoring Program

New York Foundation for the Arts (2018 and 2019) – Oakland-based program

Selection Committee Reader

Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program (2014) and Hedgebrook (2013)

- Read submissions from applicants to the competitive programs for youth and women writers

Development Associate and Rape Crisis Counselor

San Francisco Women Against Rape, San Francisco (2003-2004)

- Administered fundraising programs including special event, “Poets Against Rape”
- Served as rape crisis counselor for regular phone and overnight shifts

Project Coordinator, Media Coordinator and Founding National Board Member

Filipino/American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity (FACES) (2000-2004)

- Conceptualized, coordinated planning meetings, work plan, installation of art exhibit
- Advocacy, networking, educational presentations at schools, universities, and organizations
- Created curriculum for and led educational presentations at schools, universities, and organizations
- Coordinated Media including Press relations and materials

Advisory Boards

Arts program, *Next Generation Summit* (2005); FACES (Filipino/American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity)