

2024

WRITER/ PERFORMER/
INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST/
CULTURAL STRATEGIST

BASED IN
CHICAGO, IL

FAYLITA HICKS

faylita.hicks@gmail.com

512.787.5885

ABOUT

Throughout their career, Faylita Hicks (she/they) has used their intersectional experiences to advocate for the rights of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ people by interpreting policy's impact on the individual via various arts mediums.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2020-CURRENT

→ GRANT WRITER

ICL Ltd. Co.

Contracted for grant writing support for between \$7 million- \$5 million in total funds for nonprofits including The Center for Art and Advocacy, Mano Amiga, The National Poetry Slam, Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review, Black Femme Collective, Austin Interfaces, and Justice Arts Coalition.

2017-CURRENT

→ CREATIVE DIRECTOR

ICL Ltd. Co.

Develop monthly programming for 15-30 visual artists, musicians, poets and comedians; identify and mentor selected artists for the Artist-In-Residence program; curate monthly events open to the general community; develop proposals and budgets for grant applications; develop social media campaigns; brand development for participating artists.

2021-2022

→ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Black Femme Collective

Managed the general operations of a start-up for-profit queer Black femme digital magazine with an annual readership of 100+ subscribers and an operating budget under \$50,000 as the second Editor-in-Chief.

2020-2021

→ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review

Managed the general operations of a 501(c) 3 nonprofit with a budget under \$50,000 as the first queer Black director; a finalist for the Whiting Award's annual Magazine contest.

2019-2020

→ PROGRAM COORDINATOR & LEAD ORGANIZER

Mano Amiga

Develop monthly community programming with the intentions of base building and encouraging people who have been directly impacted by detention and incarceration to share their stories in an effort to mobilize with the organizations grass efforts for policy change.



EDUCATION

2016-2018

SIERRA NEVADA UNIVERSITY, NV

MFA-Creative Writing, Poetry

2003-2010

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, TX

BACHELORS-Creative Writing and Anthropology

EXPERTISE

Copywriting

Poetry

Marketing

Nonfiction-Memoir

Publishing

Photography

Project Management

Spoken Word

Campaign Strategy

Grant Writing

NOTABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

2022

ART FOR JUSTICE GRANTEE

2022

COVER FEATURE ON AMERICAN POETRY REVIEW

2021-Current

VOTING MEMBER OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

2020 / 2021

STATEWIDE POET LAUREATE FINALIST

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SELECT HONORS & AWARDS

2023

SPECIAL MENTION IN RE: TOUCH
SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Kultur & Media Management and Kultur Projekte Berlin

2021

PUSHCART NOMINEE
Multiple Publications

2020

SAPPHO AWARD WINNER
Palette Poetry

LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD FINALIST
Bisexual Poetry Category

JULIE SUK AWARD SHORTLIST FINALIST
Poetry Category

BALCONES POETRY PRIZE SHORTLIST FINALIST
Poetry Category

BEST OF NET AWARD WINNER
Sundress Publications

PUSHCART NOMINEE
Multiple Publications

2019

SPOTLIGHT AWARD SHORTLISTED FINALIST
Palette Poetry

ICL-BRANDED WORKSHOPS

MONEY TREES: A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES
Grant writing for individual artists at every phase of their career.

PREPARE THE ALTAR: A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
Daily practices, methods, and guides for creatives.

PLAYING IN THE ARCHIVES: A CRAFT DEVELOPMENT SERIES
Craft development courses for writers and performers.

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

2022

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE
Texas After Violence Project

2021

POET-IN-RESIDENCE
Civil Rights Corps

SHEARING FELLOW
Black Mountain Institute

ARTIVISM FELLOW
Broadway Advocacy Coalition

FELLOW
The Dots Between

2020

RESIDENT WORKING ON A SECOND POETRY
COLLECTION
Tin House

RIGHT OF RETURN FELLOW
The Center for Art and Advocacy

2019

NONFICTION FELLOW
Lambda Literary Annual Writing Retreat

GENDER/ SEXUALITY CULTURAL CRITIC FELLOW
Jack Jones Literary Arts "Culture, Too" Conference



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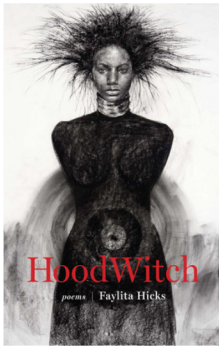
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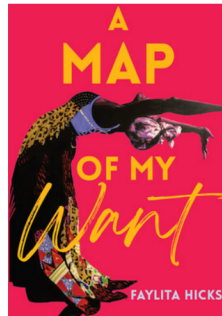
BOOKS



Poetry
→ HOODWITCH
Acre Books, 2019

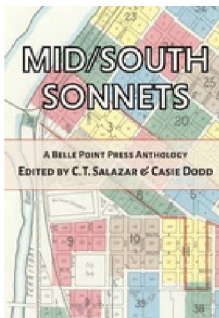
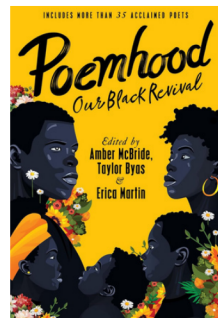
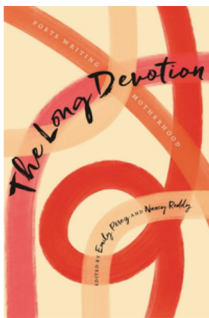
- Shortlist Finalist for 2020 **Lambda Literary Award in Bisexual Poetry**
- Shortlist Finalist for 2019 **Julie Suk Award**
- Shortlist Finalist for 2019 **Balcones Poetry Prize**

Poetry
→ A MAP OF MY WANT
Haymarket Books, 2024



Nonfiction-Memoir/Essays
→ A BODY OF WILD LIGHT
Haymarket Books, 2025

ANTHOLOGY



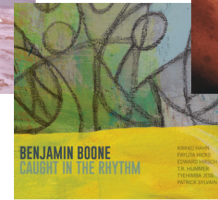
Poetry
→ POEMHOOD: OUR BLACK REVIVAL
Harper Collins, 2024

Poetry
→ MID/SOUTH SONNETS ANTHOLOGY
Belle Pointe Press, 2023

Poetry
→ THE LONG DEVOTION: POETS
WRITING MOTHERHOOD
UGA Press, 2022

ALBUMS

Registered Member of ASCAP.



Spoken Word / Jazz
CAUGHT IN THE RHYTHM (2023)
Benjamin Boone / Origin Records

- "HoodWitches (Redux)"-Featured Spoken Word Artist
- "We Bring the Soul To It"-Featured Spoken Word Artist
- "ASMR Sleepcast: The Night After Being Released from the Rural County Jail"-Featured Spoken Word Artist
- "Dawg, What The Fuck Ima Do With A \$20"-Featured Spoken Word Artist

Spoken Word
A NEW NAME FOR MY LOVE (2021)
Infinite Creative Literary Ltd. Co.

Spoken Word
ONYX (2019)
Arrondi Creative Productions

Alternative Hip-Hop
COLLISION CITY (2015)
Grid Squid Entertainment

Spoken Word
ROUGH PATCH: 1985-2012 (2012)
Grid Squid Entertainment

Spoken Word
RIP DA MIC (2011)
Grid Squid Entertainment

Spoken Word
THE EXPERIENCE V. 2
A Poet's Tribe Collective

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"We're All Serving Time," Original Photography, Digital Collage, August 2020.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

→ RE: TOUCH SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Kultur & Media Management and Kultur Projekte Berlin, Juried Show

- Special Mention for "Flowers in a Field of Terror" series.

2023

→ 8 X 5 BILLBOARD EXHIBIT (HOUSTON, TX)

Art At A Time Like This and Save Art Space, Juried Show

2023

→ NO JUSTICE WITHOUT LOVE (NEW YORK, NY)

Ford Foundation Gallery, Curated Show.

2022

→ 8 X 5 BILLBOARD EXHIBIT (MIAMI, FL)

Art At A Time Like This, Curated Show.

2021

→ SEEING/SEEN (LAS VEGAS, NV)

University of Nevada Las Vegas, Curated Show.

2020

→ HIGH SIGNS AND BEACONS (AUSTIN, TX)

George Washington Carver Museum, Curated Show.

2017

→ ARS POETICA & WINE: ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY (SAN MARCOS, TX)

Patio Dolcetto, Curated Show.

2017

→ BLACK GIRL MAGIC: ART SHOW & MARKET (HOUSTON, TX)

Insomnia Art Gallery, Juried Show.

2017

→ REFORMATIONS: AN EXHIBIT ON JUSTICE

Texas State University, Juried Show.

CURATOR

2019

OUR STORIES, OUR FUTURE (SAN MARCOS, TX)

Curator of Solo Exhibit for artist Dayann Pazmino

2018

IT STARTS WITH YOUTH (SAN MARCOS, TX)

Curator of Solo Exhibit for artist Evan Ferguson

SELECT PUBLICATIONS: POETRY

2023

CHIRON'S BREACH *Hayden's Ferry Review*

SELF-CARE *Academy of American Poet's Poem-A-Day*

2022

FOUR POEMS: COVER FEATURE *American Poetry Review*

A TALE AS OLD AS TIME *Scalawag*

2021

A TALE AS OLD AS TIME *Scalawag*

ASMR SLEEPCAST: THE NIGHT AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM THE RURAL COUNTY JAIL *Yale Review*

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SELECT PUBLICATIONS: ESSAY

2023

SLASH/ BURN *Massachusetts Review*

2022

THREE ESSAYS *Texas After Violence Project*

2021

A CENTURY OF DIS(G)RACE *Living Cities' Reckoning With Race Project*

2020

THE DANGER OF DESIRE *Longreads*

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Spoken Word

→ ANN4ML: THE LIVE SHOW

A live performance and recording of the spoken word album A New Name for My Love at Haymarket House in Chicago, IL. May 2024.

Spoken Word/ Jazz

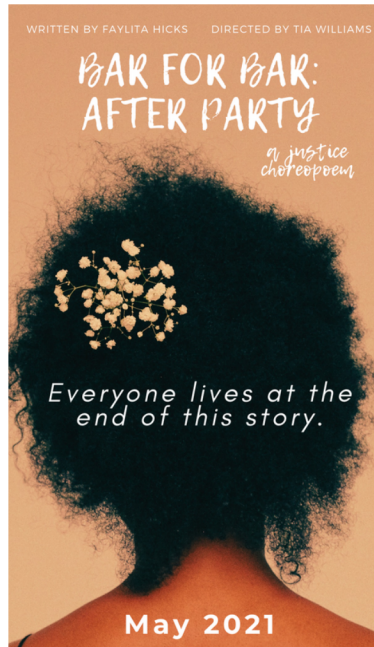
→ THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES

A spoken word album co-written with celebrated saxophonist Benjamin Boone. Summer 2024.

Choreopoem

→ BAR FOR BAR

A choreopoem featuring original spoken word, music, and oral history. Filmed via Zoom and previewed with the Tony Award-winning Broadway Advocacy Coalition during their first annual digital Fellowship Hall film festival. May 2021.



SELECT PERFORMANCES & TALKS

2023

Acting

→ YOUR HEALING IS KILLING ME

Actor in one-person 80-minute show of Virginia Grise's **Your Healing Is Killing Me**, produced by Cara Mia Theatre at the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas, Texas. October 2023.

Public Speaking

→ A MAP OF MY WANT: HOW DESIRE PLAYS A ROLE IN LEGISLATION

Selected speaker for the **2023 FRANK Gathering** at the University of Florida's Center for Public Interest Communications.

2022

Panelist

→ ART & KRIMES BY KRIMES MOVIE PREMIERE

Panelist at Art and Crimes by Crimes film premiere at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago with Art for Justice Grantee and Co-founder of Right of Return USA Jesse Krimes and Emmy-Award winning Director Alysa Nahmias. November 2022.

2021

Panelist

→ RACIALLY CHARGED: AMERICA'S MISDEMEANOR PROBLEM

Panelist with Congressional Black Caucus Chair Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Director Emeritus of the Schomburg Center Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Color of Change CEO Rashad Robinson, MoveOn CEO Rahna Epting, Filmmaker Robert Greenwald, Brave New Films' Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem Screening, May 2021.

