Shakeema Smalls
Background and Selected Works

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Clinical Counseling, *Goddard College*

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, *Howard University*
Minor in English

BOOKS

Sweetwater Mass — January 2027, Inaugural Winner of the *Polaris Poetry Series*, Blair Publisher
Finalist, CAAPP Book Prize (2025)
Finalist, The Megaphone Prize (2025)

EDITORIAL & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Acquiring Editor, Poetry — FIYAH Magazine *Winter 2025 – Present*
Evaluate and acquire poetry for one of the premier speculative fiction magazines centering Black writers. Manage the full submission pipeline from open calls through final selection.

Guest Editor — FIYAH Magazine *October 2025*
Curated and edited the themed issue *Sinners, Saints, and Haints*, overseeing contributor selection, editorial correspondence, and final manuscript preparation.

Developmental Editor
Sara Makeba Daise, Sankofa Shadow Work: Diaries of a Diasporic Diviner

Volunteer Reader
Tidal Basin Review; Exposition Review; Tinderbox

PUBLICATIONS & HONORS (SELECTED)

"The Ways in Which Water Speaks," *Tidal Basin Review,* Fall/Winter, 2010
"calcium," *Vinyl Poetry & Prose*, 2017
" I Asked My Mother What Will I Be," and "Cornelia Street," published in *Rootwork Journal*, 'Summoning Flight' Issue, July 2022
"Morning Conjure 1" and "Evening Conjure 3," published in *A Gathering of Tribes*, Summer 2022 issue
"Tymbal," published in *voicemail poems,* Summer 2022
"Petition," published in *Honey Literary Journal,* Summer 2022
2022 Frontier OPEN Finalist, "Watermelon Woman"
"Kitchen Conjure," Hayden's Ferry Review, Winter 2022.
"Tarrying," "Dying Planets," "Kindling," *Emergent Literary*, Issue 3, Winter 2023
Session One, *Session Three, Foglifter,* Spring 2024
Reparations," *Ocean State Review*, Vol. 13, NO. 1 2024 - Pushcart Nomination
"If I should dance," *Fruit Journal*, Issue 7, Summer 2024

"Summer Conjure," *MQR Mixtape*, Issue 14, Summer 2024
"I know I been changed," The Indianapolis Review, Spring 2024 - Best of the Net 2024 nomination
"Elegy Where One Must Have An Acre," and "Self-Portrait As the Living," Diode Poetry, Summer 2024
2025 CAAPP Book Prize Finalist, *Sweetwater Mass*
Finalist, The Megaphone Prize 2025*, Sweetwater Mass*
SouthArts 2025 South Carolina Literary Arts Fellow

FELLOWSHIPS, RESIDENCIES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mutha Made Media Inaugural Retreat, *Fall 2026*

Ellis-Beauregard Residency, *August-September 2026*

SouthArts — South Carolina Literary Arts Fellow, *2025*

Monson Arts Residency, *Fall 2025*

Jaipur Literature Festival — Speaker, *Fall 2025*

South Porch Artists Residency, Summerville, SC, *Spring 2025*

Markus D. Manley Fellow & Poet-in-Residence — The Poetry Lab, *2024*

Brooklyn Poets Fellow, *Summer 2023*

Voices of Our Nation Arts (VONA), *Summer 2023*

PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow, *2022*

Tin House Winter Workshop Scholarship Participant, *2022*

Office Hours Workshop Fellow, *Spring 2022 – Present*

The Watering Hole Retreat, *Winter 2014*

Additional workshops with Jericho Brown, Marita Golden, Angel Nafis, Ajanae Dawkins, Keith S. Wilson, Rosebud Ben-Oni, and Kai Coggin (2011–2022).