


Stuti Sharma



Contact

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 Chicago, IL

About Me

I specialize in the intersection of arts and community organizing. I have a sustained art practice along with eight years of youth education, mentorship, and development and nonprofit experience. I have library and edtech experience. I'm a stand up comedian, and I released my live 30 min taping available on all audio streaming platforms. My focus is on the study and community building of poetry, as well as textile art and music.

Awards & Funding

- **Tin House 2023-2024 inaugural Reading Fellow & Residency**
- **WeareOTV's Rising Storyteller / OpenTV Fellowship Finalist**

Education

- **Associate's of Science in Chemistry / Associate's of Arts in English** 2013-2015
South Suburban College 2013-2015
Outstanding Achievement in **Chemistry**
English Department **Student of the Year**
Graduated with Honors' Phi Theta Kappa
GPA: 4.0
- **Actively seeking opportunities to finish my degree and pursue an MFA**
Currently applying to Low-res MFA programs with references **Kaveh Akbar** and **Felix Lecocq**

Workshops Led

- **Embracing Form in Spoken Word/Slam Traditions** April 2025
Chicago Public Library
Workshop for the CPL Poetry Month Programming series, with workshop inspired by Patricia Smith and Paula Tran.
- **Youth Joke Writing & Music Journalism Zine Creation**
Forest Park Public Library
- **Comedy Writing and Content Creation for 7th -12th grade**
StoryStudio Workshop

Teaching Artist & Performer

Chicago Poetry Center

Yearlong residency during 2018-2019 school year at Darwin Elementary teaching bilingual English & Spanish poetry to 2nd grade class. Performed at various high schools and one-day workshops in CPS and surrounding suburbs.

Playmakers Laboratory Theater

Facilitator on South Asian Arts & Community Organizing

Oakton Community College

Facilitator for 2023 Creating Justice Conference.

Audio Projects

- **Vocalo Spring Storytelling Workshop - Audio Producer for Radio, Spring 2023. wrote, recorded, and edited radio story, [I Ran An Afterschool Program on Devon.](#)**
- **Produced and independently released Stand Up Comedy album, [FUNNY GIRL.](#)**
- **Recorded and edited after producing and hosting interview with [Hanif Abdurraqib for Commonplace Podcast.](#)**
- **Was a guest host on Lupita Nyong'o project, [Mind Your Own, with Odinaka Ezeokoli.](#)**

Social Media Management

- run a **comedy Tiktok account** with 576 followers and 37.1k likes.
- produced content for **826CHI social media** platforms.
- social media content as librarian for **Crete Public Library**

Event Management

- Screening for **Fatimah Asghar's short film *Retrieval*** with Q&A and community reflection. Sold out.
- Produced **solo show, STUT! Stand Up 30 Minutes** at The Neofuturist Theater. Sold out.
- Produced **Happy Feelings Open Mic**, a workshop/open mic with Stepping Stone Theater in Rogers Park, 2022.
- Booked, hosted, and produced **Indo-American Center comedy fundraiser** at Lagunita's. 2017.

Workshops Attended

- Tin House 2020 Workshop with Hanif Abdurraqib
- Fatimah Asghar South Asian Writer's Worksho
- StoryStudio Summer Workshop with Kaveh Akbar
- Winter Tangerine 2019 Feathered We Remember magic realism workshop

Software

- Adobe Lightroom
- Reaper
- Audacity
- Salesforce
- Tessitura

Languages

- Spanish
- Hindi
- Gujarati
- Swahili

• STEAM Librarian

Crete Public Library

2019-2021

- Recruited and trained volunteers Managed library tasks, improving cataloging and shelving efficiency. Analyzed program through surveys and attendance data. Engaged community, representing library at local events especially during pandemic.
- Developed and implemented engaging STEAM programs, fostering curiosity and learning among diverse age groups.
- Collaborated with local schools to expand outreach.

• Youth Program Coordinator

Indo American Center

2017-2018

- Performed database management and grant reporting, serving a diverse group of immigrants and refugees.Led youth programs, fostering academic growth and social skills. Expanded community partnerships, enhancing program reach and impact. Streamlined database management for efficient reporting.
- Orchestrated engaging after-school activities, promoting holistic child development. Cultivated strong community ties, securing valuable resources. Ensured accurate grant reporting for program sustainability.

Work Experience

• Field Trips & Program Coordinator

826CHI

Feb 23 - Dec 23

- Coordinated free field trips for Chicago Public School students, conducting literacy and writing activities.
- Promoted to After School Writing Lab Coordinator, leading daily programs for K - 7th grade students focused on literacy and writing.
- Produced and published a zine with students, organizing a celebratory performance involving students, parents, and caregivers.
- Mentored young writers, nurturing their unique voices and building confidence through personalized feedback and encouragement.

• Reading Fellow

Tin House

2023-2024

- Selected as part of the inaugural team of fellows to review and assess submissions for Tin House's Winter Workshop, Autumn Residencies, Summer Workshop, and Summer Residencies.
- Evaluated submissions with a focus on equity and craft, helping curate workshops and residencies that champion diverse voices in literature.
- Attended and participated in craft seminars, lectures, and networking opportunities as part of the fellowship.

• Museum Educator

Wrightwood 659

Feb 23- Apr 23

- Artist focus was Patric McCoy, Shahidul Alam, and Kongkee.
- Engaged visitors with compelling narratives about social justice exhibits, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation for diverse artistic perspectives.

• Produce Support Specialist & Usability Reporting

CommonLit

Nov 21-Jan 23

- Analyzed user feedback to identify usability issues, authored reports to enhance product experience, and provided educator support via multiple channels.
- Empowered educators through live chat, email, and webinars, fostering effective use of CommonLit app and contributing to improved user experience.
- Invented strategies to streamline support processes, enhancing educator onboarding and reducing time-to-proficiency with the CommonLit platform.
- Partnered with cross-functional teams to implement user-centric solutions, bridging the gap between educator needs and product development.

• Education Lead & Guest Operations

Museum of Science and Industry

Apr 16 - Jun 20

- Led engaging science programs, enhancing student participation and learning outcomes.
- Managed field trip logistics, ensuring smooth operations and positive visitor experiences with over 4,000 students a day.
- Supported educators with efficient check in processes, improving workflow and satisfaction.
- Spearheaded engaging science programs for diverse youth groups, fostering curiosity and hands-on learning across Chicago's educational landscape
- represented museum in the park districts through Park Voyagers program.

Service Industry

- **PREP CATERING COOK**

Oct 23-present

Supported private chef, Sabrina Beydoun, in catering events up to 200 people, private dinners, and custom orders.

- **SUPERKHANA:** Front of House: Server, busser, Food Runner. Back of House: Prep Cook

Dec 23-Apr 24

Whiskey and rum training

Food Handler Certification

Prep cook

- **APER0** - Line Cook

Apr 24-Jun 24

Worked the line in a small kitchen for French cuisine to match wines.

- **GAIJIN** - Food Runner

Nov 24 - present

Publication

Poetry

- UndocuPoet's UNDOCUPOETICS, 2024 with Harper Perennial, Poem published: "Where Does Your Joy Live?"
- Chicago Reader Poetry Corner, curated by Raych Jackson & Shawnee Dez & curator for May 2024: [Boy, Grandmother said](#)
- South Side Weekly's The Exchange, curated by Chima "Naira" Ikoro: [Ode to my Water Bottles](#)
- self-published chapbook, *Syrup* (2021)

Music & Culture Journalism

- [WBEZ RESET with Sasha-Ann Collins: Celebrating AAPI Musicians](#)
- [Chicago Reader: In conversation with music manager Tenzin Deyki](#)
- [Hooligan Magazine: Kayo's Prayer as an Artist](#)
- [Hooligan Magazine: Niles Abston interview](#)
- [Belt Magazine: The Nature of Chicago Music](#)
- [68to05.com: 2000, Coldplay's Parachutes](#)
- [Chicago Reader: "Best of" 2023](#)

Fiction

- Mason Jar Press, Jarnal 2. Short story published: "My Swan"

Community Organizing Collectives

Marimacha Monarca Press

Collective Member

2023-present

Marimacha Monarca Press is an artist and educator collective of, by and for queer & trans familia based on the southside of Chicago since 2001. MMP provides workshops in printmaking, seed paper making, piñata making, and zine-making. Working alongside themes of queerness, race, language, migration, accessibility, and visual storytelling, we hope our conversations allow us to see the power in illustrating our own histories. Our pedagogy utilizes anti-racist and trauma informed approaches and our practice is centered on rasquachismo, the act of overcoming material and professional limitations within our home and public practices. Our studio is located at the Industrial Clocktower Park in McKinley Park.

Chicago Desi Youth Rising

Collective Member

2019-2023

- Provided community space and programming for education to South Asian youth in the Chicago area around racial, social, and economic justice.
- Collaborated to raise \$25,000 in COVID-19 relief funds and wrote multiple grants to support affected service workers.
- Organized and facilitated an annual 4-day summer retreat for youth leaders, managing logistics, promotion, and community building.
- Planned donor appreciation events and managed communications for the collective.

Starlight Arts Pop Up on Devon

Collective Volunteer

Oct 2022

- supported an arts pop up funded by Northwestern's center for Caste, Race, and Colorism Project in Chicago's that established a storefront third space on the historic Devon avenue.
- coordinated and facilitated multiple programming free for the community, as well as helped organize logistics for community members to attend and facilitate programming about local South Asian Chicago culture.

Chicago Art Department

Curator

Oct 24-Jan 25

- curated 2024 Seeds in My Pocket cohort to represent 8 artists from McKinley Park and Englewood
- hosted six sessions that ended in a gallery exhibit featuring all the artists from the exhibit, hosted open mic.