



# Poet. **Vocalist.** Event Host. **Teacher**

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**Andrea Vocab Sanderson**

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## Bio

Andrea Sanderson (poet, singer, hip hop artist) known on stage as 'Vocab' has been a spoken word artist since 2001. Andrea was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. She was a slam poet from 2004-2008 and was member 4 teams that competed at National Poetry Slam. She has featured at: DePauw University, Morehouse College, Cameron University, Rice University, Texas Lutheran University, University of Incarnate Word, Texas A & M, St. Mary's and Trinity University. In December of 2016 she was a guest teacher for the groundbreaking course: *Black Women Beyonce & Popular Culture* at University of Texas at San Antonio this course gained international attention and is featured in various publications worldwide. She was featured on the KLRN show Arts which aired in February of 2017. She was the master of ceremonies for the 19th Annual International Women's Day March held in San Antonio, Texas. Currently Andrea is a WIC Writer for Gemini Ink and a member of Arte y Pasion, a performance art organization. Andrea also enjoys doing volunteer organizing with the Martinez St. Women's Center, Rape Crisis Center, and Haven for Hope. In October of 2011 she released a c.d. entitled Vocab Presents: **Sessions In Flight** and it is available on iTunes.

Andrea finds inspiration in the poetry of Dr. Maya Angelou, Robert Frost, and classic soul lyrics. She infuses complex rhyme schemes and inspirational text into her work that ring true to her gospel and hip hop roots. She is an advocate of community outreach and loves mentoring teen poets. She is a co-founder and on the Board of Directors member of the non-profit organization, **Write Art Out**. She was voted in the top three, Best R&B Band/Artist, by the **San Antonio Current** for 2012 & 2013. The poetry spot 2<sup>nd</sup> Verse that she co-hosts won, Best Open Mic in the Nation, in 2011 & 2012. She was nominated for **RAW Artist Award** in the category of Performance Art in 2013. In December of 2017, Andrea won the Influencer of the Year Award, from *The Creator Awards*. In 2019 She won *Performer of Year Award* presented by Project Forward. In 2018, she was presented with the Dream Voice Award at the Inaugural Mayor's Ball in San Antonio, Texas by Dream Voice/Dream Week. In 2014 she had the honor of opening up for Motionhouse dance theatre company from the UK. She was featured in *Fill Your Lungs with Fresh Air: Matisse and Writing*, at the San Antonio Museum of Art. She was featured in a documentary entitled, **Close to the Line**, which won *Best Short Documentary* in the **Capital City Black Film Festival**. In 2015 she traveled internationally to Abu Dhabi performing at, Al Dhafra Airbase. She serves as a creative Writer In the Community for *Gemini Ink & Barrio Writers*, co-hosts: *2nd Verse, Jazz & Poetry with a Purpose*, and *Fresh Ink Youth Slam*. In 2016, her writings were archived at Palto Alto College along with many other San Antonio poets. The ceremony for this event, *Pen to Paper: Celebrating Local Poets*, was endorsed and publicized by the office of the, Poet Laureate of San Antonio. Her poetry is published in **The Texas Observer**, January 2016

Issue, *Love Poems to San Antonio*, February 2016. *Pariah Anthology* SFA Press, March 2016, and *Sycorax's Daughters*, Cedar Groove Publishing, January 2017. In 2018, she debuted her theatre production, *The Bad Mama Jama Mixtape: A Woman's Soundtrack to Life*, to a sold out capacity crowd at The Little Carver Theatre, in her hometown of San Antonio, TX.

## Goals

1. Andrea provides original written and spoken word performances, engaging and dynamic hosting, amusing improvisational skills, euphonic vocalization, with a diverse and adaptable presence to bring vibrancy into any environment.
2. Andrea seeks to inspire, empower, educate, and inform students of all ages through teaching impactful curriculum that she has developed.

## Monthly/Ongoing Events

Sept 2009- Present Co-host of 2<sup>nd</sup> Verse Open Mic monthly open mic reading winner of 2011 & 2012 Best Open Mic in the Nation with Nat'l Poetry Awards.

Jan. 2011- August 2017 Co-host of Fresh Ink Under 21 Youth Slam & Open Mic.

April 2015-Present The Host of Jazz & Poetry with a Purpose.

August 2015- Present Vocalist in the band The Foreign Arm.

December 2018-Present Performance Artist in Arte y Pasion.

## Conferences, Speeches, & Panelist

April 14, 2011 University of Texas at San Antonio's 4th Annual African American Studies Symposium, *African American Femininities: The Michelle Obama Effect* performance art and discussion.

April 21, 2012 University of Texas at San Antonio *Musical Mestizaje Symposium* live musical performance and panel discussion.

July 25, 2013 *Sounds within the Margins* at the Institute of Texan Cultures hip hop performance and panel discussion.

July 22, 2016 *State of the Book* panelist for Gemini Ink Writer's Conference.

January 7, 2017 *keepHer Dream Alive Forum* all women panel discussion promoting advocacy for women of color held at, The San Antonio Public Library.

February 11, 2017 **Lemonade Day Celebration & Forum** presentation of Warsan Shire's poetry in Lemonade by Beyonce and panel discussion hosted by Dr. Kinitra Brooks, English Professor and Candice M. Benbow, Womanist Theologian.

July 22, 2017 Gemini Ink Writers Conference 2017 Writing for Change, **Spoken Word: Say it Like It Is**,

December 6, 2017 **Holiday Writers Convention 2017** Leadership Panel hosted by the Black Writers of San Antonio, Q & A regarding leadership in the writing community, Brick at the Blue Star.

## Poetic Resume

February 4, 2007 *Vivasections of Chaotic Unrest*, at Frontera Fest, poetry performance in Austin TX.

January 5, 2010 Domestic Abuse Awareness Poetry Competition hosting gig.

February 24, 2011 Pearson's Black History Month event poetic performance and hosting.

March 11, 2011 Luminaria Festival stage featured artist performance.

November 18, 2011 John Marshall High School poetry performance and workshop.

March 10, 2012 Luminaria Festival stage performance Lyricists in Lights and organizer.

March 9, 2013 Luminaria Festival stage featured performance

March 10-14, 2014 Ella Austin Community Center Spring Break Camp contracted through Gemini Ink poetry workshops.

April 3, 6, 10, 17, 2014 La Voz City Wide Poetry Competition judge contracted through Gemini Ink.

Nov 3, 2013 KinCity Reading featured poet at BookWoman, Austin

August 15, 2014 Fill Your Lungs with Fresh Air: Matisse and Writing at the San Antonio Museum of Arts poetry performance.

September 13, 2014 Una Noche En La Gloria Festival musical performance.

September 2014 - May 2015 Ella Austin Community Center afterschool program Writers in the Community program through Gemini Ink 25 teaching hours.

September 24, 2014 St. Mary's University poetry presentation with Professor Cyra Dumitru.

September 2015 Soul Sessions feature performance and workshops held in Al Dhafra, Airbase in Abu Dhabi, AUE.

February 6, 2016 *Love Poems to San Antonio*, poetry performance, published works signing, and art gallery viewing of art pieces centered around the poets' work held in Cultural Commons of The



Plaza de Armas.

March 16, 2016 Hip Hop 4 Flint, (San Antonio edition) musical and co-host performance for a fundraiser and live stream event held at The Co Lab.

March-April 2016 Barrio Writers Workshops facilitated a month long class that produced a published anthology of teen writings, classes were held at the San Antonio Public Library.

April 1, 2016 The Foreign Arm at The Palladium, musical and poetry performance with live band.

September 2016 Barrio Writers Workshops facilitated a month long class that produced a published anthology of teen writings.

January 18-20 Teaching the poetry and film documentary of *And Still I Rise...* about Poet Laureate Dr. Maya Angelou. This was a partnership with Gemini Ink, 2nd Verse, and KLRN.

February 2017 Appearance on the t.v. show *Arts* which airs on KLRN Thursday nights.

March 13, 2017 Prince Purple Rain Tribute with YOSA at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts a full band and orchestral performance of Prince covers.

March 19, 2017 *Thee Phantom & The Illharmonic Orchestra* at the Carlos Alvarez Studio Theater inside The Tobin Center for the Performing Arts an opening feature performance of music and poetry.

March 29, 2017 Texas Lutheran University hosting, poetry and musical performance at the event Feminist Slam! Poets & Painters

April 12, 2017 *Pen to Paper: Celebrating Local Poets*, performance art poetry and archived writings celebration held at Palo Alto College inside the Ozuna Library.

May 27, 2017 Plus Fest, musical and poetry performance 1st annual arts festival held in Esperson Gallery in Houston, TX.

June 30, 2017 *2nd Verse at the Tobin*, poetry and musical feature and promotion inside the Tobin at the Carlos Alvarez Theater.


July 22-23, 2017 Gemini Ink Writer's Conference, *Writing for Change*, panelist and youth workshop instructor held inside El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

July 28, 2017 *Finding Common Ground Through Cultural Expression*, featured poetry and musical performance at Beasley Brown Community Center.

July 29, 2017 Puro Slam Send-off Party and Showcase, featured performance at La Cantinita.

September 16, 2017 *Chingona Fest*, poetry performance held at La Botanica.

October 11, 2017 Go Live w/ Kinyo featured artist and performance at Alamo Ice House.



November - December of 2017 WIC Instructor at Advanced Learning Academy, *Everyday Stories* pilot program for Creative Writing contracted through Gemini Ink.

December 3, 2017 Released the single, *Waiting for Me*, available online.

December 4, 2017 Blah Poetry spot guest host and poetry performance at Jandro's.

January 16, 2018 *The San Antonio Current* publishes the cover story, *Expand Your Vocabulary: The Untold Story of Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson*, highlighting the ongoing accomplishments of Andrea

March 24, 2018 *The Bad Mama Jama Mixtape: A Woman's Soundtrack to Life*, first theater performance produced by Andrea Sanderson

May 1, 2018 San Antonio Magazine publishes the article, *Truth Teller: Andrea Sanderson*, an article written about Andrea

December 5, 2018 Write About Now featured poet at Houston slam poetry event that is live streamed on YouTube

January 26, 2019 The Mayor's Ball sponsored by Dream Week featured poetry in Arte y Pasion

February 23, 2019 The Creator Awards, featured with live performance and accepted an award for *Performer of the Year 2019*

March 11, 2019 *YOSA Presents: Thriller Live!* Musical performance with Youth Orchestra of San Antonio