

# JONATHAN MENDOZA

[www.Jonathan-Mendoza.com](http://www.Jonathan-Mendoza.com)

**PROFILE:** Spoken word poet, community organizer, educator, and musician fusing social and political organizing with arts and education to advance movements for social justice.

## EDUCATION:

2014 – 2017: Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA: B.A. Arts for Social Advocacy (self-designed)  
Minors in Political Science and Spoken Word Poetry, GPA 3.9

2013 – 2014: Emerson College, Boston, MA: Coursework in film production

## JOB SUMMARY:

**Community Organizer and Activist** (2014 - present): Building local and national campaigns around immigrant rights, police brutality, gentrification, economic justice and youth power with groups such as Mijente, Movimiento Cosecha, Agenda Project, and Pilsen Alliance, where served as the housing and youth community organizer. Served as assistant campaign director for the successful election of anti-gentrification activist Byron Sigcho-Lopez to Chicago City Council in 2019. Founder of the Berklee Activist Network (2016) and the Board Bucks for Boston Food Drive (2013).

**Teaching Artist & Social Justice Educator** (2013 - present): Working nationally and locally with mainly immigrant, Latinx, and BIPOC high school students, currently through Young Chicago Authors and I Learn America and previously with Changing Worlds Illinois, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, MassLEAP, The City School, 826 Boston, and Boston Mobilization.

## AWARDS:

- 2020 **Split This Rock**: *Top Poems of 2019 (Osmosis)*
- 2020 **Injustice Watch & Poetry Foundation**: *#SpreadTheWord Poetry Contest Winner*
- 2018 **Button Poetry**: *Chapbook Contest Finalist*
- 2018 **Split This Rock**: *Sonia Sanchez-Langston Hughes Poetry Contest Winner*
- 2018 **Button Poetry**: *Video Contest Honorable Mention*
- 2017 **Poetry Foundation**: *Poetry Incubator Fellow: Building Community Engagement through Poetry*
- 2017 **Berklee College of Music**: *Best of Berklee – Social Justice Award, Professional Music Achievement Award*
- 2015, '16, '17 **College Union Poetry Slam Invitational**: Three-time *Best Poem* award winner
- 2015 **Boston City Council, Massachusetts Statehouse**: *Outstanding Achievement* citations for House Slam successes
- 2015 **National Poetry Slam Champion** with The House Slam of Boston
- 2014 **Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción**: *Cacique Counts* award for “Excellence in Youth Leadership”
- 2013 **Emerson College**: *Honors Scholar, Pinnacle Scholar*

## TEXT PUBLICATIONS

- **Poetry Foundation & Economic Hardship Reporting Project**: [Lines of Work: Five poets on their day jobs](#) Sep. 2019
- **Haymarket Books & BreakBeat Poets LatiNext Anthology**: *Confessions on Gratitude, On Nationalism* Apr. 2020
- **Split This Rock – Poem of the Week**: [Onomástico](#) Oct. 2019
- **Here Magazine**: [Poet Jonathan Mendoza's Family Between Borders](#) Oct. 2017
- **Pizza Pi Press**: [When the Crows Come](#), original short-length poetry collection. May 2017

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## VIDEO AND AUDIO PUBLICATIONS

- **CAM Jazz Records:** *Blood Country (after Safia Elhillo)*, "[Lines in the Sand: I & II](#)"; original poem Jan. 2019  
recorded on Grammy-winning jazz composer Antonio Sanchez's album.
- **Write About Now:** "[Onomástico](#)" *Houston, TX*, Nov. 2018
- **Amplify Latinx:** "[Confessions on Gratitude](#)" *Boston, MA*, Sep. 2017
- **SlamFind:** "[Osmosis](#)" *Manchester, NH*, Oct. 2017
- **Button Poetry:** "[Brown Boy, White Boy](#)" *Oakland, CA*, Sep. 2015

## PRESS

- **National Public Radio:** "[Antonio Sanchez's 'Lines in the Sand' is Inspired by Migrants' Stories](#)" Jan. 2019
- **The Poetry Foundation:** *The VS Podcast*, "[Jonathan Mendoza vs. The Movement](#)" Nov. 2018
- **Inprint:** *Ink Well Podcast*, "[Season 2, Episode 1: Jonathan Mendoza](#)" Oct. 2018
- **Book Riot:** "[Must-Read Poetic Voices from Split This Rock 2018](#)" May 2018
- **The Tempest:** "[7 spoken-word poems that absolutely debunk racial stereotypes](#)" Sep. 2016
- **Flama:** "[7 Poems That'll Make You Proud to Be Latino](#)" Mar. 2016
- **MetroWest Daily News:** "[Say what matters: Local poetry slams with rap, rhyme, rhythm](#)" Feb. 2016
- **The Good Men Project:** "[Brown Boy, White Boy](#)" Oct. 2015
- **Hando Press:** "[The Complexity and Gifts of Jonathan Mendoza](#)" Sep. 2015

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES & ENGAGEMENTS:

### SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES

- University of Chicago Law School:** *Behind the Page, Chicago, IL* Jan. 2020
  - 30+ law students: Performance and panel on policing, race, and artistry.
- San Francisco State University:** *For Quiet Boys: Workshop with Jonathan Mendoza, San Francisco, CA* Apr. 2019
  - 15+ students and faculty: Poetry, gender, and mental health workshop visiting guest facilitator.
- American University:** *Latinx & American Student Organization, Washington, D.C.* Mar. 2019
  - 40+ students: Featured performer for 'Latinx Voices: A Night of Poetry.'
- Stanford University:** *MEChA de Stanford, Stanford, CA* Apr. 2018
  - 30+ students: Performance, keynote, and discussion on Latinx identity, art, and activism.
- University of Kansas:** *Latin American Student Union, Lawrence, KS* Apr. 2018
  - 20+ students and staff: Performance, workshop, and dinner discussion with student leaders.
- Harvard University:** *Harvard Alumni of Color Conference, "Art and Activism Panel," Cambridge, MA* Mar. 2017
  - 40+ graduate alumni and students: Performance and discussion on blending art and activism.
- Simmons College:** *Multiracial Advocacy and Relations at Simmons, Boston, MA* Mar. 2017
  - 30+ students: Performance and interview on multiracial identity formation.
- Harvard University:** *Harvard Latina Empowerment And Development (LEAD), Cambridge, MA* Feb. 2017
  - 150+ students, staff, and alumni: Spoken word duet performance on Latinx empowerment and activism.
- Boston University:** *First-Year Student Outreach Program, Boston, MA* Aug. 2016
  - 400+ students: Undergraduate orientation keynote performance and Q&A.

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## ARTS VENUES

- Bowery Poetry Club:** *Virtual, based in New York City* Mar. 2020
- 80+ viewers: Featured reader.
- Lincoln Hall:** *Chicago, IL* Dec. 2018
- 120+ attendees: Opening performer.
- Split This Rock Poetry Festival:** *Washington D.C.* Apr. 2018
- 250+ attendees: Featured performer and award recipient.
- Da Poetry Lounge:** *Los Angeles, CA* Apr. 2018
- 150+ attendees: Featured performer.
- Laredo Border Slam:** *Laredo, TX* Jan. 2018
- 40+ attendees: Featured performer.
- Nuyorican Poets Cafe:** *New York, NY* Aug. 2017
- 100+ attendees: Featured performer.
- National Poetry Slam:** *Oakland, CA* Aug. 2015
- 500+ attendees: Finalist contestant and 1st place winner.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVIST EVENTS

- Mijente LatiNext Poetry Salon:** Series organizer and host, *Virtual* Jun. - Oct. 2020
- 60+ viewers: Co-founded this virtual event series to amplify Latinx poets, fundraise for artists impacted by COVID-19, and support the social justice organizing efforts of Mijente.
- Never Again - Boston:** “Latinx & Jewish: Jonathan Mendoza on Immigrant Narratives & Activism” *Virtual* Aug. 2020
- 80+ viewers: Jewish holiday keynote hosted by Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western Massachusetts and Never Again Action - Boston, fundraising for migrant rights organizations.
- Writers for Migrant Justice:** The Nightingale Cinema, *Chicago, IL* Sep. 2019
- 60+ attendees: Part of national protest readings against family separation policies and fundraising for Immigrant Families Together.
- Chicago Poetry Block Party:** National Museum of Mexican Art, *Chicago, IL* Jul. 2019
- 100+ attendees: Featured workshop facilitator and poetry performer; annual festival organized by Poetry Foundation and Crescendo Literary, founded by Eve Ewing and Nate Marshall.
- SLAM Los Angeles:** Masterclass, *Los Angeles, CA* Dec. 2018
- 15+ participants: Workshop facilitator for emerging BIPOC performance poets.
- Victory Gardens Theater:** “Not My Chicago,” *Chicago, IL* Nov. 2018
- 80+ audience members: Pilsen Alliance representative on panel following Ike Taylor’s play “RIGHTLYND” to discuss social justice art, gentrification, politics, and corruption in Chicago.
- National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures:** Intercultural Leadership Institute, *San Antonio, TX* Mar. 2018
- 30+ institute fellows: Opening performer at an arts and social justice leadership assembly.
- Institute for Policy Studies:** “Class Consciousness: Talking to Kids, Schools and Parents,” *Boston, MA* Oct. 2017
- 80+ community members: Panelist on teaching classism through youth social justice education.
- Temple Hillel B’nai Torah:** “Jewish & Latinx: Immigrant Identity & Activism in the New Year,” *Boston, MA* Sep. 2017
- 35+ attendees: Keynote presentation and performance following Yom Kippur services.
- Homes for Families:** Visioning Day, *Worcester, MA* Aug. 2017
- 100+ participants: Performance and workshop on psychotherapeutic uses of spoken word poetry for housing advocates and people directly impacted by homelessness.
- Amplify Latinx:** Advancing Latino Power & Impact, *Boston, MA* Jun. 2017
- 150+ attendees: Opening performer before Maria Hinojosa at a Latinx political leadership conference.
- May 1st Rally:** “Día Sin Inmigrantes,” *Boston, MA* May 2017
- 400+ attendees: Performer and speaker at a rally for immigrant rights in Downtown Boston.