



Dr. S. Renee Mitchell
A Visionary HeARTivist

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CAREER SUMMARY

An award-winning writer, curriculum designer, project manager, youth voice advocate and Creative Revolutionist™. Has decades of community-based, resiliency-affirming activism, and experience delivering culturally relevant programming, projects and facilitation. An out-of-the-box, savvy and visionary thinker with exceptional communication, analytical research and fundraising skills. A creative, heART-centered, social-justice visionary.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Program & Initiative Development
- Graphic Design & Video/Photo Editing
- Grant Writing & Fund Development
- Trauma-Informed Facilitation
- Advocate for Youth Voice/Belonging
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education	2021
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR	
Certified Community Health Worker	2013
Multnomah County, Portland, OR	
Master of Business Administration	2001
George Fox University, Newberg, OR	
Bachelor of Science, Journalism	1985
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL	

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2018-present** **I Am M.O.R.E (Making Ourselves Resilient Everyday)**, Portland, OR
Chief Visionary Officer / Youth Voice Champion / Policy Advocate
- Transformational programming in youth development, leadership and creativity
 - Only Oregon agency to receive two SEL Awards (NYC-based Novo Foundation)
 - Only agency to create Educator Practice Community on SEL for Black students
- 2015-2019** **Roosevelt High School**, Portland, OR
Teacher of Journalism, Storytelling, Digital Communications / Advisor, BSU
- 2008-present** **Renee Mitchell Speaks LLC**, Portland, OR
Keynote Speaker / Creative Consultant / Facilitator / Curriculum Designer
- Developed community healing initiative, "Spreading the Black Joy Virus"
- 1998-2008** **The Oregonian** newspaper, Portland, OR
Metro Columnist / Team Leader / Diversity Advocate
- Nominee for Pulitzer Prize (2005/2008)
 - No. 1 West Coast Newspaper Commentator, regional SPJ (2008)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Community Visionary** (2007-present). Organizes community-building and arts-based empowerment events, including a multi-project Spreading the Black Joy Virus campaign; producer of annual Resiliency in Rhythm showcase of youth creativity; Executive producer of “Reviving the Black Nod film; Produced “My Black Sons & Daughters Are Worthy” poetry writing and family photo campaign; Developed Community Healing Ceremonies to address domestic violence in Black community.
- **Curriculum Designer** (2008-present). Designed I Am M.O.R.E. 3-step Guide to Empowered Resilience™; Wrote curriculum for White Bird’s annual dance presentation for 2,500 public school children at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall; Designed programming for GEAR UP’s tour of Historically Black Colleges & Universities (2017); Designed multiple Regional Arts & Culture Council professional development workshops (2012-15).
- **Poet/Author/Librettist/Lyricist** (2004-present). Published/ illustrated children’s book, novel and seven poetry books; Poet in Residence for several Portland arts groups. Wrote libretto/executive producer of Portland’s first jazz opera, “Sherman” (2012).
- **Community Advocate/Grant Writer** (2010-present). Wrote over \$3 million in grants to support community-based, empowerment and arts programming in the Portland area, including \$300,000 grant from the federal Office on Violence Against Women.
- **Actress/Playwright/Performer** (2005-16). Playwright, “*Ophelia in Oblivion*”, one of top five plays in Fertile Ground festival (2016); Actress, “*Cottonwood in the Flood*” (2015/16); Actress, *Bourbon at the Border* (2011); Visionary, “*Tangoing With Tornadoes*,” a DV women’s empowerment project, featuring theater performance, workshops, lectures; in Portland, New Orleans, Tallahassee, Saipan, Orlando (2005-2011)
- **Co-founder/Creative Consultant** (2006-present). Co-founder Vanport Mosaic Festival, a community history project. Founder, Spit/WRITE, a youth poetry training & performance initiative; Founder of Portland Youth Poet Laureate competition; Co-founder of Healing Roots, drop-in resource program serving Black DV violence survivors.
- **Co-investigator/culturally relevant researcher** (2005-present). Published articles include:
 - Bridgeman-Bunyoli, A., Mitchell, S. R., Bin Abdullah, A. M., Schwoeffermann, T., Phoenix, T., Goughnour, C., Hines-Norwood, R., Wiggins, N. (2015). It’s in my veins: Exploring the role of an afrocentric, popular education-based training program in the empowerment of African American and African community health workers in Oregon. *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*, 38, 297-308.
 - Nicolaidis, C., Wahab, S., Trimble, J., Mejia, A., Mitchell, S. R., Raymaker, D., Thomas, M. J., Williams, V., Waters, S. (2013). The interconnections project: Development and evaluation of a community-based depression program for African-American violence survivors. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 28, 530-538.
 - Wahab, S., Trimble, J., Mejia, A., Mitchell, S. R., Thomas, M. J., Waters, S., Williams, V., Raymaker, D., & Nicolaidis, C. (2014). Motivational interviewing at the intersections of depression and intimate partner violence among African American women. *Journal of Evidenced Based Social Work*, 1, 291-303.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Liberty & Hope Award, League of Minority Voters (2021)
- Gladys McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award, Multnomah County (2021)
- Community Weaver, social fabric project of The Aspen Foundation (2020-current)
- Spirit of Portland Award, City of Portland (2019-2020)
- Social Emotional Learning Innovation Award, NoVo Foundation (2019/2020-22)
- Community Engagement Award, White Bird dance presentation company (2018)
- Sweet Taste of the Arts Award, PassinArt: A Theatre Company (2018)
- Yolanda D. King Drum Major Award, tribute to community service, Portland (2015)
- Community Freedom Fighter, Roosevelt High School, social justice advocacy (2014)
- One of 21 Leaders of the 21st Century, NYC-based Women’s eNews (2006)