

# Sheri Purpose Hall

Spoken Word Artist | Author | Actress

Phone 816 309 2296 | [purpose@spokenpurpose.com](mailto:purpose@spokenpurpose.com)

@purposespoken | [www.spokenpurpose.com](http://www.spokenpurpose.com)

<b>Height</b>	5'8"	<b>Build</b>	Plus Size 20/22
<b>Eyes</b>	Brown	<b>Hair</b>	Black
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Black	<b>Playing Age</b>	24 – 40



## Education Awards and Affiliations

Charlotte Street Foundation Generative Performing Artist - 2019  
Kansas City Poetry Awards – Poet of the Year /  
Poet and Activist Award - Apr 2018  
Charlotte Street Foundation Residency – Sep 2017-19  
Woman of the World Poetry Slam – Indie Competitor 2017/18  
National Poetry Slam – Team Competitor - 2015/16/17/18  
Toastmasters Advanced Communicator Bronze 2010  
University of MO @ KC BA of Urban Affairs (-7cr)

## Professional Work

Movie - <i>An Urban Dream</i>	Filmed 2018, to be released 2019	Role of "Gifted"
Poetry Vid - WAN Poetry (Write About Now)	June '18 - <i>Deer in Headlights</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYk8Mts515o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYk8Mts515o</a>
Featured Artist	Jan '18 - <i>Irregular Rape Poem</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP9-cjZf18&amp;t=154s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP9-cjZf18&amp;t=154s</a>
	Oct '17 - <i>My Buddy</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo08aIM5i8s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo08aIM5i8s</a>
	Aug '16 – <i>Uncomfortable</i> (Original work)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-W1rYqBV-k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-W1rYqBV-k</a>
Poetry Vid - <i>Missing You</i> Tribute	November 2017 (Original work)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTUAXFhSwOo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTUAXFhSwOo</a>
Poetry Vid - KCPT <i>Black in America Since MLK</i> by Henry Louis Gates	November 2016 <i>Black on Black Crime</i> (Original work)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhdZDUtR5X0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhdZDUtR5X0</a>
Documentary - <i>Bout It</i>	Oct 2016 (Original Work)	Expert Testimony and Poetry
Music Vid - <i>Ahhhhh</i>	Dec 2015 (Original work)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFcPT5AqjNk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFcPT5AqjNk</a>
Young Fatha ft. Purpose	October 2014 <i>My Boy</i> (Original work)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li8zUtat-oQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li8zUtat-oQ</a>

## Special Skills

**Artist:** Writer/Editor/Author/Poet, Professional Speaker, Educator, Radio Personality, Voiceover Talent  
**Management:** Network Engineering Background with User Acceptance Testing, Arts Administration, Project/Program Management, Grant Writing and Fulfillment (NEA, SAMSHA, PCORI, etc), Tech Literate  
**Mental Health:** Certified Peer Support Specialists, Trauma Informed/Mental Health First Aid, Ordained Minister with Pastoral Counseling Experience  
**Activism/Community:** Organizer, Strategic Planning

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## Press and Publications

Story Bank – Feb – 2020 <https://ybca.org/culturebank-storybank-sheri-purpose-hall/>  
KC Studio Magazine – Feb 2020 [http://kcstudio.org/newear-contemporary-chamber-ensemble-challenges-apathy-with-dislocation-defiance/?fbclid=IwAR14Jt1NJa\\_6lKgYS2Zt-U79jeMR8be0uqMgLG6aC5\\_G5oweTtb-ECEka1CU](http://kcstudio.org/newear-contemporary-chamber-ensemble-challenges-apathy-with-dislocation-defiance/?fbclid=IwAR14Jt1NJa_6lKgYS2Zt-U79jeMR8be0uqMgLG6aC5_G5oweTtb-ECEka1CU) May 2019 - <http://kcstudio.org/honors-sheri-purpose-hall/>  
KCUR – August 2019 – In Kansas, Peer Mentors Tackle A Side Of Mental Health That Pros Can't Touch <https://www.kcur.org/post/kansas-peer-mentors-tackle-side-mental-health-pros-can-t-touch#stream/0>  
KSHB 41KC - April 17 2018: Sheri 'Purpose' Hall heals through words <https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/kcpoets/april-17-sheri-purpose-hall>  
KCUR Central Standard Show – January 2018 - <http://kcur.org/post/sheri-purpose-hall>  
ArtsKC 2017 Inspiration Breakfast Video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRyOOOufzVA> – Oct 2017  
Chocolate Ink Poetry Magazine - Featured Poet April 2016 <http://www.thechocolateink.com/#!We-Celebrated-National-Poetry-Month-with-Purpose/qyppn/3>  
Dispatch Post USA – Featured Poet December 2015  
Demencha Magazine -Review Article Sep 2015 <http://demencha.com/review-kc-poet-tree-go-to-lansing-state-prison-for-a-rap-concert/>  
Kansas City Star (Print publication and online) March 2015 <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article16865993.html>  
Dream Big Ministries Blog (multiple entries) 2015  
KC Twelve Magazine - Poetry April 2013/April 2015  
Khorage Magazine - (1 poem “The Undead”) - February 2015

## Selected Projects and Works

Poetry Book titled “Melange Du Femme Noir” – March 2019  
Publisher – Pot Luck by John Lewis – February 2019  
Book “Ekphrasis” (Published by Yocto Arts LLC) Included poems, *Delusional Activism: Instructions (pg38)*, *A Clean Land (pg19)* – December 2018  
FTW Slam Team Chapbook Titled “Black Slamily Values” (Editor and Publisher) – Included poems, *Fatherless Woman (pg29/30)*, *Turned Tables (pg31/32)*, *Bean (pg33-36)* – July 2018  
Book “Filter” – (Published by Charlotte Street) - Included poems, *Control (pg14)*, *Fatherless Woman (pg15/16)*, *Recorders of Deeds (pg17)* – April 2018  
Duncan Burnett – Black Boy Joy CD project – (1 poem – intro) – Oct 2017  
Editor and Contributor – The Voice: Kansas City Renaissance Art compilation – September 2017  
Editor – War and Peace by Regina “Serenity” Wagner – June 2017  
Editor – Little Girl Listen (the re-release) by Teianna Cooper – May 2017  
Poetry Book titled “Black Girl Shattered” – February 2017  
Royce “Sauce” Handy - Soul Food 3 Project - (1 poem – To Be: A Guide to Existing in This Skin) -2016  
Prompts Anthology – Published by 39 west Press included poem, *#LaughingWhileBlack – October 2016*  
Little Girl Listen (Book and Poem Anthology) Published by Teianna Cooper -  
(2 poems She is not her virginity and Whip My hair) May 2016  
Workbook titled “Writing Wrongs: Writing to Heal” (Self-Published) - March 2016  
Chapbook titled “Chosen for Both” (Self-Published) - Dec 2015  
Royce “Sauce” Handy - Soul Food 2 Project - (1 poem - My Boy) -2014  
Gee Watts - 199x CD project (2poems) - 2014  
Spoken Word/Poetry CD Titled D'lilah's Deliverance: The Makeover Aug-2008  
Christmas Benefit Project Kansas City Gospel Compilation (1 poem) Nov-2007

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## Selected Productions and Workshops

Kansas City Poet Conference – March 2021 – Creator and Producer  
Midwest Poetry YouTube – Launches September 2019 – Creator and Producer  
Community Writing and Performance Workshop – Monthly starting September 2017  
Princess Pick Your Crown Empowerment Workshop - March 2017 – Speaker/Teacher  
Black Girl Shattered Book Release – Feb 2017 – Creator/Producer/Featured Artist  
Writing Wrongs - Writing to Heal Workshops (workbook self-published) – 2016  
The Gospel of Poets Radio Show – June 2013 – Current Host/Poet  
Bold.Young.Poets - in-school program Teacher/Mentor 2011-Current  
MoDézir:The Word Jones Experience at the KC Fringe Festival – July 2012 - Producer/Poetry  
V.E.R.V.E. Ministry Launch at Temple of Truth – Founder - Feb-2011 - Current  
Operation Promise Land Board Member Workshop Facilitator Aug-2010 - May 2013  
Toastmasters "Teach me How To Speak" Workshop Facilitator/Host Apr-2009  
ABWA Public Speaking Workshop Facilitator/Host Dec-2008

## Selected Speaking Appearances

UNESCO Reading of *For Colored Girls* – Lady in Yellow – Dec 2018  
FTW Slam KC (formerly Slam ULIT) 2015/16/17/18 Team Member/Competitor  
(first Slam Team to Compete at the PSI National Poetry slam from Kansas City, MO)  
2015 - Oakland CA / 2016 - Decatur GA / 2017 – Denver CO / 2018 - Chicago IL  
PSI Women of the World Individual Slam in Dallas TX – March 2017 and March 2018 – Competitor  
ArtKC Inspiration Breakfast – The Gallery – October 2017 Poetry  
Borderland Regional Poetry Slam – The Black Squad – October 2017 Poetry  
An Inheritance of Rain – M'Yvonne Payne Book Release – The Writer's Place – May 2017 Emcee/Poetry  
Sound and Soul – InterUrban ArtHouse – May -2017 - Poetry  
The Sanctuary: A Night of Love Jones – University of Missouri Kansas City - May 2017 – Poetry  
Kansas City Poetry Slam – Uptown Arts Bar – April 2017 – Poetry Slam / Winner  
Face Off! FTW Slam vs Omaha Slam – Appollon Art Space Omaha NE – March 2017 – Poetry Slam/Winner  
Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series - The Black Archives – March 2017 – Featured Artist  
Poets vs Comedians – Uptown Arts Bar – December/January NYE 2017 – Competition/ Poetry /Winner  
Annual Malcolm X Birthday Celebration - Jefferson City Capitol Rotunda – May 2013/14/15/16- Poetry  
Annual Martin Luther King Celebration - Jefferson City Capitol Rotunda – Jan 2016 – Poetry  
NAACP Harlem Book Fair Midwest Slam Winner - Oct 2015 - Poetry Slam  
Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals Exhibition - Nelson Atkins Museum of Art - Oct 2015 - Ekphrastic Poetry  
Poets In Autumn Tour – Sept 2015  
Tangled Roots Presentation - Jewish Life Center - Dec 2014 - Poetry/Visual Art  
Women of Poetry – Nelson Atkins Museum – Sept 2014 – Host/Poet  
Estrogen Rush – Maya Angelou Tribute July 2014 - Poetry  
The Gathering – American Jazz Museum/Blue Room - March 2014 - Poetry  
TEDx Wyandotte Featured Speaker April 2013 – Motivational Speaking/Poetry  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFp3wZN1mGA>  
Washburn University "Sista Speak" – Feb 2012 Poetry  
ArtsKc Awards Luncheon – Jan 2012 - Poetry  
Bold.New.Poets – Nelson Atkins Art Museum– Jan-2012/Aug 2012/2013/2014/2015 - Poetry/Host

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## Artist Statement

I am Black. I am Christian. I am woman. I exist in America.

These four conditions have shaped the way I view the world. This intersectionality causes internal battles, clashing, confusion, and struggles with faith. The problem in this society is that various people groups want you to put this in a hierarchical order. Which comes first Black or Christian? Woman or Black? Christian or woman? Am I truly American first or was I just indoctrinated this way through my formative years? If the answer is American, then maybe I should attach my African lineage and be African American. Maybe not. I have never seen Africa, and other parts of my ancestry are French and indigenous so how will I claim those as well?

Those 4 things only describe part of what I am. Knowing who I am and establishing a personal identity is a separate hurdle. I have used my writing to work through the afore mentioned questions and feelings while also being a mother, daughter, friend, employee, sexual being, entrepreneur, innovator, dreamer, educator, minister. I also have issues: physical issues, trauma issues, class issues. I have issues within relationships, family, and business. And though some may not believe it, I also suffer the occasional pimple, have bad hair days, and my breath stinks from time to time. I exist in this world outside of all of my labels. Some days I wish Black, Christian, American, woman could all take a backseat. Some days I wish I could just strip down to human and deal with the core of my mortality and pain outside of roles, position, beliefs, ideologies, and culture.

My performance art and literature explores these internal struggles allowing me to isolate and focus on various parts of my being. I use art to restore joy, humor, and dignity to other humans through performance. It is the vehicle of performance that allows humans of different classifications to identify with one another. The performance space is not a safe space but a space where it is okay to not be safe. It is a sacred sanctuary for the gathering of believers of all kinds to listen to sermonettes of discovery, information, and faith. My performances are conversations, intimate heart-to-hearts that bring revelation, relatability, discourse, community, and critical thinking.

## Bio

Sheri Purpose Hall is a spoken word artist, author, radio personality, educator, and minister who uses her work to provide perspective and engage conversational empathy. She has Four books: a book of poetry, epistles, and essays titled "Black Girl Shattered"(2017); two poetry chapbooks "Mélange du Femme Noir" (2019) and "Chosen for Both" (2015); and a workbook/workshop "Writing Wrongs: Writing to Heal" (2016) which won an award from Bike for the Brain, a non-profit organization that works to reduce mental health stigma.

She is the founder of Arsyn Spit Fire, East of Red ArtHouse, and PenFire Publishing; Interim CEO for Poetry for Personal Power; and provides consulting and assistance for many other non-profit, community-based, and arts organizations.

Sheri Purpose Hall is a 2019 Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Awardee and Studios Resident Artist in her 2nd year, 2019 Art in the loop grant recipient, 2019 and 2017 Arts KC Inspiration Grant recipient, and the 2017 ArtsKC Inspiration Breakfast featured artist. She won the Poet and Activist award at the Music and More Foundation Poetry Awards 2 years in a row and was nominated for best-spoken word artist in the KC People's Choice awards, Pitch Best KC, and the National Spoken Word Awards. She has also earned the opportunity to represent Kansas City Nationally as an individual competitor at the Women of the World Poetry slam 2 years in a row (2017/18) and as a team competitor at the National Poetry Slam 4 years in a row.