

# 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

Ranked as the #2 Woman poet in the world WOWPS Virtual 2022  
Ranked #1 - Word Play Battle League 2022 Champion  
2020 National Spoken Word Awards Female Spoken Word Artist of the Year  
Charlotte Street Foundation Generative Performing Artist - 2019  
Kansas City Poetry Awards - Poet of the Year/Poet and Activist Award 2018  
Charlotte Street Foundation Residency – Sep 2017-19  
Woman of the World Poetry Slam – Indie Competitor 2017/18/21/22  
Southern Fried Competitor 2021 & 2022  
National Poetry Slam – Team Competitor - 2015/16/17/18  
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> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo08alM5i8s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo08alM5i8s</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-W1rYqBV-k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-W1rYqBV-k</a>
	Oct '17 - <i>My Buddy</i>	
	Aug '16 – <i>Uncomfortable</i> (Original work)	
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 - <i>KCPT Black in America Since MLK by Henry Louis Gates</i>	November 2016 (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>
Poetry Vid - <i>What's Up</i>		
KC Featured Poet		

## 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 Specialist, Certified Recovery Coach, WRAP Level II Facilitator, Cultural Competency Instructor, Trauma Informed/Actionable, Ordained Minister w/Counseling Experience  
**Activism/Community:** Organizer, Strategic Planning

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## Press and Publications

VoyageKC – April 2022 [https://voyagekc.com/interview/meet-sheri-hall-of-kansas-city/?fbclid=IwAR0kh4mZ6rEomNU0C4s8IUqeaDLQKaSzPGOkRggQhY\\_c3epAoWdBW0-77F4](https://voyagekc.com/interview/meet-sheri-hall-of-kansas-city/?fbclid=IwAR0kh4mZ6rEomNU0C4s8IUqeaDLQKaSzPGOkRggQhY_c3epAoWdBW0-77F4)

Story Bank – Feb – 2020 <https://ybc.com/culturebank-storybank-sheri-purpose-hall/>

KC Studio Magazine – Feb 2020 [http://kcstudio.org/newear-contemporary-chamber-ensemble-challenges-apathy-with-dislocation-defiance/?fbclid=IwAR14Jt1NJa\\_6lKgYSZt-U79jeMR8be0uqMgL6aC5\\_G5oweTtb-ECEka1CU](http://kcstudio.org/newear-contemporary-chamber-ensemble-challenges-apathy-with-dislocation-defiance/?fbclid=IwAR14Jt1NJa_6lKgYSZt-U79jeMR8be0uqMgL6aC5_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

Editor/Publisher – "Book of Truths" – Author Brandon Amayzn Nelson May 2022

Editor/Publisher – "Tell My Son, Thank You" – Author Tiara Nicole Patterson – January 2022

Editor/Publisher – "Grateful for the Gifts" – Author Comfy Stennis October 2021

Editor/Publisher – "Conversions of a Colored Girl" – Author Briana Minor May 2021

Anthology "Curating Home"- Poetry – April 2021

Editor/Publisher – "I've Been Having Dreams" – Author TigerLilyStar December 2020

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 Slamly 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 and Deluxe Edition Released November 2020

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

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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 – Republished November 2020

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

## **Selected Productions and Workshops**

Rite of Joy Conference – October 2021, 2022 Creator and Producer

KC Rep Ghost Light – October 2022 – Playwright and Story Teller

Arrow Rock Theater - Voices of Arrow Rock #3 – October 2022 – Playwright and Actress

Midwest Poetry YouTube – Launches September 2022 – Creator and Producer

Community Writing and Performance Workshop – Monthly September 2017 - 2019

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

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 2017/2018/21/22 – Competitor

ArtKC Inspiration Breakfast – The Gallery – October 2017 Poetry

Brick City/Borderland Regional Poetry Slam – The Black Squad – October 2017 Poetry

An Inheritance of Rain – M'Vyonne Payne Book Release – The Writer's Place – May 2017 Emcee/Poetry

Sound and Soul – InterUrban ArtHouse – May -2017 - Poetry

Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series - The Black Archives – March 2017 – Featured Artist

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

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 American first, or was I 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 four 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 aforementioned questions and feelings while being a mother, daughter, friend, employee, sexual being, entrepreneur, innovator, dreamer, educator, and minister. I also have issues: physical issues, trauma issues, and class issues. I have issues with 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, and 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, positions, 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. Through performance, I use art to restore joy, humor, and dignity to other humans. The vehicle of performance 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 gathering 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 an award-winning spoken word artist and author, radio personality, actress, 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; Executive Director of Poetry for Personal Power; and provides consulting and assistance for many other non-profit, community-based, and arts organizations.

Sheri Purpose Hall is currently ranked as the #2 woman poet in the world WOWPS Virtual 2022 competition, #8 Southern Fried Indie 2021, #1 Word Play Battle League 2022 Champion, 2020 National Spoken Word Awards Female Spoken Word artist of the year, a 2019 Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Awardee and Previous two-year Studios Resident, 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 (years 2017/18/21) and as a team competitor at the National Poetry Slam 4 years in a row.