

Glenis Redmond is Greenville, South Carolina's Inaugural Poet Laureate and a 2025 recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor. A 2023 Poet Laureate Fellow of the Academy of American Poets, Baldwin Fellow (2024–2025), and Cave Canem alumna, she has built a distinguished career as a performance poet, teaching artist, and literary citizen for more than three decades, firmly rooted in both page and stage. She is a recipient of the Inspire Scholarship at the Highlights Foundation and is the Inaugural Resident Poet of the Camden Literary Festival in Camden, Maine, where she will reside at the Millay House, home of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Redmond has served as Poet-in-Residence at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts and the New Jersey State Theatre. At the Peace Center, she founded and curated *Peace Voices*, mentoring students to become Poetic Ambassadors. She has performed at universities, festivals, and cultural institutions across the United States and internationally.

She is the author of eight books of poetry, including *The Listening Skin* (Four Way Books), shortlisted for the PEN Open Book Award and the Julie Suk Award, and *Praise Songs for Dave the Potter* (University of Georgia Press), created in collaboration with artist Jonathan Green. Her place-based collections include *The Song of Everything: A Poet's Exploration of South Carolina State Parks* and *Over Yonder: A Poet's Exploration of South Carolina State Parks, Part II*. Her work explores lineage, place, cultural memory, and the landscapes of the American South, centering Black Southern history and intergenerational resilience.

For eleven years, she has served as a Mentor Poet for the National Student Poets Program—the nation's highest honor for youth poets—guiding and championing emerging voices. Through workshops, residencies, and public performances, she has mentored hundreds of students and artists, affirming poetry as both craft and calling.

In 1994, she founded Greenville's first poetry slam, helping to cultivate a vibrant and enduring literary community in the region. As Poet Laureate, she continues to foster literary engagement locally and nationally. She co-curates *Visual & Verse*, an annual ekphrastic project in collaboration with the Metropolitan Arts Council, and leads initiatives such as Poetry in the Parks and community projects with Greenlink. She serves as an Upstate liaison for the Poetry Society of South Carolina, hosting workshops at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts and bringing in poets such as J. Drew Lanham, Jaki Shelton Green, and Nickole Brown.

Through her teaching, performances, archival work, and community initiatives—including Glenis Redmond Outreach with Words (GROWW)—she preserves cultural memory while knitting generations together. Her work gathers elders, youth, artists, and neighbors into shared space, where poetry becomes bridge, record, and offering. Whether honoring community leaders, documenting local history, or amplifying the voices of young writers, she connects past to present and ensures that the stories of her people are not only remembered, but carried forward as living legacy.