



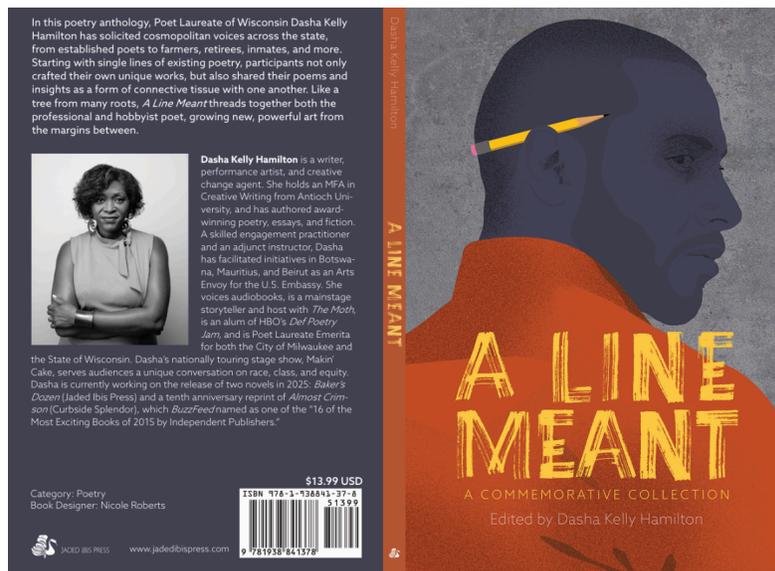
A Line Meant

Creativity + Conversation + Community

Overview

The A Line Meant Project is a uniquely-impactful outreach initiative for building community and deepening intentional collaboration. This engagement protocol was created by Dasha Kelly Hamilton, a seasoned facilitator, sought-after speaker and dynamic engagement strategist. As a Creative Change Agent, Dasha is also a published novelist, writing coach and Poet Laureate Emerita for the State of Wisconsin and City of Milwaukee. A Line Meant (ALM) was initially launched as the signature project of her statewide laureateship. The ALM project can be replicated for classrooms, creative cooperatives or human service collectives

[Order copies of A Line Meant](#)



A LINE MEANT || In this poetry anthology, Poet Laureate of Wisconsin Dasha Kelly Hamilton has solicited cosmopolitan voices across the state, from established poets to farmers, retirees, inmates, and more. Starting with single lines of existing poetry, participants not only crafted their own unique works, but also shared their poems and insights as a form of

connective tissue with one another. Like a tree from many roots, *A Line Meant* threads together both the professional and hobbyist poet, growing new, powerful art from the margins between.

ALM POETRY



LINE PROMPT	POETRY	SOURCE
<i>And holy hot damn, the world is suddenly something different</i>	How does the poet use detail?	"Blue Bird" Nick Demske
<i>Now tilted in prayer, humbled by the river</i>	What gives the poem its rhythm?	"Water Writing its Own Story for Aurora" Philomena Kebee
<i>Unfurl, like petals longing to bloom</i>	What are your favorite color descriptions in the poem?	"New Dimensions" Cristina M R Norcross
<i>We tell measured stories morning to afternoon</i>	How does the poet use repetition?	"Rising Sun" Margaret Noodin
<i>The cool water is hard to gulp down</i>	What does each list do to the poem?	"Quit Running In & Out" Karen Middleton
<i>Every distance seemed like an opening</i>	How might the poem change with "you" "I" or "they" instead of "we"?	"Pandemic I" Dana Maya
<i>In the bough of an anxious frenzy</i>	Why does the ending work?	"American Happiness" Nikki Wallschlaeger

<i>Until the moon tapped on her window, calling her name</i>	Is the title of the poem its true first line?	"She Did Not Know" Ethel Mortenson Davis
<i>Once sweet with aging pears and autumn breezes</i>	Observe how each stanza is one sentence; each one relays a story.	"Still Life" Dawn Hogue
<i>Angels and gods slow to mention who they might be</i>	What do these name references do for the poem?	"Remember When" Ken Graber
<i>A canvas full of ocean and song</i>	How does the poet use personification?	"From a Door Worth Opening" Destinny Fletcher
<i>Our pulses are the waves, humanity the moon</i>	How does the poem feel read aloud?	"We the Firefly" Nathan J. Reid

ALM CONVERSATION + STORY BUILDING



LINE PROMPT	CONVERSATION / STORY	SOURCE
<i>Even with the right key in the keyhole, no entrance</i>	Describe a time when something seemed like an opportunity, but wasn't.	"Untitled" Alfonzo Washington
<i>You are strongest at the best and worst of times</i>	Watching yourself, could you voiceover narrate one of your "best and worst" moments?	"Freedom's Lament" Donnie Gilchrist
<i>Not rushing the process. I once heard patience builds progress</i>	What do you ask yourself when a relationship stalls?	"Untitled" Joseph Cook
<i>pouring out lies disguised as patriotism, as if I ain't got my own set of eyes</i>	What's an American truth you want more people to understand?	"Untitled" Samuel White
<i>he heard his shoes squishing</i>	Tell me about a time you were caught in water	"Like Yesterday's Rain" Gorden V. Pemrich
<i>From hopeless to hopeful and dark to light, yesterday's rain brought forth new life</i>	What's a hard time that became a gift?	"Somehow, Seems Like Yesterday's Rain" David Kilgore
<i>I want your messiest messes, Your greatest core essence.</i>	What would be your ad? Your warning label?	"On So Many Levels" Fontaine Baker

<i>The trees allied first Naked in their scene and sagging down</i>	When was nature your medicine?	"Silhouettes" Matthew McDowell
<i>My world view is complex. A duality in singular form.</i>	What is a contradiction in your life that you manage?	"Misunderstood" Robert Patterson
<i>Whispering winds lick my ears remnants of your voice sing happily</i>	How do you imagine or remember ancestors?	"Untitled" Terran Kess
<i>i was just sitting in a dark cloud and now it's got light in it</i>	Share a memory when you lifted someone's mood.	"My Poem" NJ
<i>your presence that was gifted to us a present</i>	How have you experienced your presence as a gift?	"Dedicated to Ms. Dasha" LT
<i>The more I think, the more I need peace</i>	Do your thoughts invite or interrupt peace?	"Roots" AW
<i>The days of ignorance we shall remember fondly</i>	What were things -small and big- that surprised you about the adult world?	"When We Were" Darius Ali Williams
<i>tart ways and stagnant air keeping me from being exactly who I always dreamt to be</i>	Which old programs or stories have become limitations to your growth?	"Once Sweet with Aging Pears" Anthony J. Machioté



DASHA'S 3-2-1 POEM STARTER

Dasha Kelly Hamilton is Poet Laureate Emerita for the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee. She is also a National Laureate Fellow of the American Academy of Poets.

She conceived and launched the A Line Meant initiative in 2021.

The first A Line Meant anthology was published through Jaded Ibis Press in 2025. New poems are currently welcome for a second anthology edition.

Describe **3** images that come to mind.

What are **2** things the visual makes you imagine or wonder?

Explain **1** feeling or wish.

Technically, your poem is complete!

Artistically, you can tinker with language and add or rearrange the lines.

The poem will let you know when it's ready (they are never, ever "finished").

PLEASE UPLOAD YOUR POEM TO

ALineMeant.org

OR

SEND BY POSTAL MAIL TO

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