

## **Kellie Richardson**

Kellie Richardson is a writer, artist, and educator born and raised in Tacoma, WA. Her work explores the intersection of race, class, and gender with specific emphasis on themes of love, loss, and longing. She employs both classical poetic forms as well as contemporary mediums such as spoken word. Her work is provocative yet accessible, powerful yet vulnerable. In addition to publishing original work, Kellie created the blog, *Brown Betty*, in 2012. *Brown Betty* exists to provide armor and inspiration for real life; a place where commerce and community intersect to cultivate healing. The blog explores the complexities of navigating the human experience, and calls its readers to continue to be inspired to endure and overcome barriers to their happiness.



Kellie is particularly inspired and called to explore the experiences of women of color, and the intersectionality of identities. In addition to teaching courses at PLU, Kellie has provided poetry and writing workshops to students from Bryant Montessori to Tacoma Community College. She has performed pieces for the Tacoma Art Museum, The People's Assembly, UW Tacoma, Drunken Telegraph, The Tacoma Round, COLORED2017, and many others.

Kellie's relationship with Tacoma is defined by transitions and metamorphosis as she has moved from student to professor, child to parent, and, the most critical progression, from onlooker to loving actor. She entered this position as a loving actor looking to continue to give to Tacoma through poetry and the gift of storytelling. As Poet Laureate, Kellie persisted in her desire to ensure literary arts are both accessible to, and representative of, the diversity in Tacoma.

*What Us Is* is the debut collection of poetry from Kellie Richardson. The book dives deep into themes of love, loss, and longing, with specific attention to the nuances of identity. Richardson also explores the deep violence, pain, and impacts of racism by communicating the very real and urgent demonstrations of police brutality, gender violence, and her complicated journey with faith. Find out more about [\*What Us Is\*](#).

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