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## Creatives

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## **Creatives**

*Dasha Kelly Hamilton<sup>i</sup>*

The fathers have been wrong  
Neither wits nor years have  
been wasted  
Loosely spent, perhaps. Scattered  
and prayed over  
Rejoice the harvest

Turns out, the mothers  
were right about rainy days, though  
About positioning barrels under the sky  
About dreams plummeting and evaporating  
Curse the drought

Never mind the second cousins, supervisors  
In-laws, pew mates, classmates, the warm-hearted ex  
Unconvinced and unimpressed  
Ever- concerned, under the breath  
Condescension is a learned language, ill-fitted  
for the expanse of their genuine affections  
Cherish the village

Gather the creatives, muscles taut  
from bending humanity into  
open windows and carpet rides  
Harness our wattage of will  
Carrying narratives from the perimeter  
into conversation centers  
We vibrate with imagination  
With abandon, reverence and  
arduous hope

Honor our breath

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<sup>i</sup> **Dasha Kelly Hamilton** is a writer, performance artist, curator, and facilitator. Ultimately, she's a creative change agent, leveraging the creative process toward human and social wellness. She has written for national, regional

and local magazines; produced three collections of poetry; recorded four spoken word CDs; published two novels; been included in several anthologies; and performed in the last season of HBO's Def Poetry Jam. Her nonprofit, Still Waters Collective, initiated literary arts programming for 20 years, creating platforms for thousands of voices to be honored and heard. Through the organization, she still partners on impact projects and manages a creative leadership fellowship.

Dasha served as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy to teach, perform, and facilitate community building initiatives in Botswana and the island of Mauritius. She was also an artist in residence in Beirut. Dasha has been an adjunct professor at Mount Mary University, Alverno College, Bryant & Stratton, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University and an MA in Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University.

A collection of her micro stories, *DashNettes: Life, in Short*, will release Fall 2020. Her stage production, *Makin' Cake*, will tour nationally beginning in 2021. A former Artist of the Year for the City of Milwaukee, Dasha is the city's 11<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate.