

Makin' Cake Layers of Justice - A Creative Expression of Race, Class, Equity and Law in America



In Dasha Kelly's session, *Makin' Cake Layers of Justice - A Creative Expression of Race, Class, Equity and Law in America*, she slices into American history exploring race, culture, and class in a refreshing and fun way. It is storytelling in layers and filled with aha-moments and poignant vignettes, digital media, and a supporting cast of two on-stage bakers. The session serves up an experience and a conversation about equity in America. Part history lesson, part social science revelation, *Makin' Cake* is a short story about America's sweet tooth and pathway to salvation and leaves room for dessert and dialogue with a cake reception immediately following the session.

Learning objectives:

1. To educate and inform about the "baked in" architecture of structural inequities in America
2. To create an opportunity for expression, curiosity and dialogue
3. To facilitate a conversation on race and class and an exchange of ideas towards healthy and just communities.

Speaker:



Dasha Kelly

Dasha Kelly is a writer, performance artist and creative change agent. She has authored award-winning poetry, essays and fiction. She is a mainstage storyteller and host with The Moth, an alum of HBO's Def Poetry Jam, Poet Laureate Emerita for both the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin and a National Laureate Fellow with the American Academy of Poets. In 2024, Dasha was named a Living Legacy Honoree by the licensing agency for the legendary poet Gwendolyn Brooks. A skilled engagement practitioner and instructor, Dasha has facilitated initiatives in Botswana, Mauritius and Beirut as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy. Her nationally-touring stage show, *Makin' Cake*, serves audiences a unique conversation on race, class and equity. Her documentary film of the same title premiered in Spring 2026. Her nonprofit literary arts organization, Still Waters Collective, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Dasha's recent releases are a poetry anthology, *A Line Meant* (Jaded Ibis Press), a 10th anniversary edition of *Almost Crimson* (Traitmarker Books), and a new novel, *Baker's Dozen* (Jaded Ibis).