



Jireh Deng is an award-winning multimedia journalist born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles. They previously were a breaking news fellow at the Los Angeles Times. Most recently, they finished a fellowship at Business Insider's economics team. Currently, they are a local reporter at LA Public Press through UC Berkeley's California Local News Fellowship.

Their bylines appear in The Washington Post, The Guardian, NPR, Teen Vogue, Inside Climate News, the Sierra Club and HuffPo. Their writing received first place in gender and society reporting at the 2025 LA Press Club Awards and excellence in transgender coverage from the Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists.

They directed the short film, "Mia's Mission," about a transgender Asian American elder and survivor of Japanese incarceration, which screened at the

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival in 2023.

Their creative writing has been supported by the Key West Literary Workshop, Kundiman, Brooklyn Poets, and published by Haymarket Books, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Rumpus, and The Asian American Writers' Workshop.

They co-founded and currently co-direct the Asian American Journalists Association's LGBTQIA+ affinity group.

If they're not ideating story ideas, they're probably surfing or on their way to the beach.



Shamikah Christina Martinez is a Los Angeles-based actor, writer, and poet. On screen, she recurred on CBS's *Superior Donuts* and co-starred on the *Murphy Brown* revival. She has written on television shows for Apple TV+ and Nickelodeon, developed original pilots for FOX, Paramount+, and TruTV, and co-created the pilot *Jazzy's World* for Nickelodeon. She is currently in development on an animated series

for Daddy Yankee with Campanario and Cartuna. Early in her career, Shamikah performed and directed sketch comedy at The Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre and produced music videos for Atlantic Records. Outside of the industry, she teaches screenwriting and poetic filmmaking workshops for Los Angeles youth and co-founded [Poetic Film Club](#), whose inaugural cohort performed original work in the galleries of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.



Bay Davis, a South Central native
Rooted in liberation abolition and love
Explores communal disparities, structural racism, and gender identity

Through the lens of her own experiences and ancestrally informed wordsmanship
From organizing and street corners to classrooms and slam stages
An internationally recognized trans advocate and powerhouse
Bay ultimately utilizes her work to weave the tools of her own survival as offerings
to challenge, heal, and question the systems and climate we exist in today