



*Second District Honoree*

**Robin Coste Lewis**

*Poet*

Robin Coste Lewis is the poet laureate for the City of Los Angeles. Ms. Lewis is the author of *Voyage of the Sable Venus* (2015), winner of the National Book Award for Poetry, and the first poetry debut to win the award since 1974.

Ms. Lewis is also the author, with Kevin Young, of a series of commissioned poems that accompany Robert Rauschenberg's drawings in *Thirty-Four Illustrations for Dante's Inferno* (MoMA), as well as *Prosthetic* (forthcoming from Knopf). Her writing has also appeared in journals and anthologies, including *The New Yorker*, *The Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review*, *Best American Poetry*, *Callaloo*, *Transition*, and *Vida*.

Ms. Lewis earned her Masters of Fine Arts from New York University, where she was a Goldwater Fellow in poetry. She also earned a Masters of Theological Studies in Sanskrit and comparative religious literature from Harvard University's Divinity School, and a Doctorate from the creative writing and literature program at the University of Southern California (USC), where she was a provost fellow in poetry and visual studies. There, Ms. Lewis researched the intersecting production histories of early African American poetry and photography, for which she received the Anne Friedberg memorial grant from USC's Visual Studies Research Institute.

Ms. Lewis has taught on the faculty of Wheaton College, Hunter College, and Hampshire College. Currently, she teaches in the New York University low-residency Masters of Fine Arts Workshop in Paris, and is a writer-in-residence at USC. She was born in Compton, California and currently resides in Los Angeles. Her family is from New Orleans.

