

LAURA MCDERMOTT MATHERIC
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Laura McDermott Matheric, a native Floridian, studied creative writing, business, and education as an undergraduate at Florida State University and received her Masters of Fine Arts in poetry from Florida International University.

She is co-founder of the Orange Island Arts Foundation, has worked with many nonprofit organizations including the Miami Book Fair International and the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, and currently serves as president of the Women's Club of Coconut Creek.

Laura began her teaching career at Broward College in 2007 and has been a tenured Professor of English since 2010. She serves as the Dual Enrollment Faculty Coordinator for Broward County.

In 2008, she received a Conference on College Composition and Communication Professional Equity Project grant and in 2012, was presented with the Paragon Award by the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

She was the 2014/2015 Writer-in-Residence at Girls' Club, a private foundation and alternative space that inspires cultural growth in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Her first book of poetry, *Visions on Alligator Alley*, published by Lominy Books in 2015, is an ekphrastic story in verse inspired by that residency.

Accolades continued with the 2014/2015 Wells Fargo Endowed Teaching Chair of Broward College and the 2022/2023 Robert Elmore Family Endowed Teaching Chair. Teaching Chair awards acknowledge the contribution of outstanding educators.

In May of 2021, Laura graduated from the President's Leadership Academy, which is part of the Leadership Broward Foundation. She

is an Association of College and University Educators scholar, and a certified facilitator of the Entrepreneurship Leadership Institute.

Laura regularly teaches writing workshops and literature courses at Broward College and throughout the community.

As a native of Broward County, Laura lives in Coconut Creek, Florida with her husband Walter, their two daughters, Jordan and Lena, a dog named Farley, and a cat named Hazel.