



Luis J. Rodriguez, author, activist, co-founder Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore

Luis J. Rodriguez is author of the 1993 memoir, "Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A." He has 14 other books in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature. His latest books are a memoir, "It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing," and a book of poems, "Borrowed Bones." For 45 years Luis has dedicated himself to urban peace, gang truces, and healing work among the most traumatized and troubled communities. He has 38 years of working in prisons, juvenile lockups, and jails. His work has also taken him to Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Japan. He's founding editor of Tia Chucha Press and co-founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore in

Los Angeles, which recently received an Arts for Justice Fund grant to help change the narrative and reality of mass incarceration through the arts. From 2014-2016, Luis was Los Angeles' official Poet Laureate. He is presently script consultant for the FX TV show "Snowfall," co-created by John Singleton, and teaches creative writing in two maximum-security yards at a California state prison.



D. Fox Harrell is Professor of Digital Media and Artificial Intelligence at MIT.

D. Fox Harrell is appointed in both the Comparative Media Studies Program and the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL). His research focuses on the relationship between imagination and computation. He founded and directs the MIT Imagination, Computation, and Expression Laboratory (ICE Lab) to develop new forms of computational narrative, gaming, social media, and related digital media based in computer science, cognitive science, and digital media arts. Professor Harrell has worked as an interactive television producer and as a game designer. He is the author of *Phantasmal Media: An Approach to Imagination, Computation, and Expression* (MIT Press) and numerous articles and book chapters.

Professor Harrell's research has been supported by grants from organizations including the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2010, Harrell received an NSF CAREER Award for his project "Computing for Advanced Identity Representation." In 2013, he was featured in the ARTFORUM Top Ten list. In 2014-2015, he was awarded a Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University and was recipient of the Lenore Annenberg and Wallis Annenberg Fellowship in Communication. Professor Harrell holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Cognitive Science from the University of California, San Diego. His other degrees include a Master's degree in Interactive Telecommunication from New York University (Tisch School of the Arts), and a B.S. in Logic and Computation, B.F.A. in Art, and minor in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University (each with highest honors). He founded the company Blues Identity Systems, LLC, to consult on and develop videogames, VR, social media, and emerging technologies that enable us to reimagine who we are.