Aaron P. Dworkin
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Named a 2005 MacArthur Fellow, Aaron P. Dworkin is former dean and current Professor of Arts Leadership & Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance. A distinguished advocate for the arts, he is the longest-serving member of the National Council on the Arts, having advised five presidential administrations. Aaron is a successful game designer having created ChatterArt which was awarded Best New Word Game App in the US for 2025. He is also a best-selling author and poetjournalist with his poetry collection, *The Poetjournalist*, along with other books including two memoirs, a children's book, science-fiction novel, *Entangleism: The Small Science and Big Art of Loving Your Life* and *The Entrepreneurial Artist: Lessons from Highly Successful Creatives*. Aaron serves as Poetjournalist-in-Residence of the City of Ann Arbor's Bicentennial, the Rodham Institute, Fisher Foundation, Wright Museum of African-American History, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Grantmakers in the Arts, Ovation TV and Shar Music. Hailed by critics as "powerful," "stirring," "passionate and heroic," and "a tour de force," Aaron has performed his poetry as a prominent spoken-word artist including Carnegie Hall, Galapagos Theater in New York, Harvard University, Chautauqua, University of Michigan, Minneapolis Orchestra Hall, NJPAC and the Wright Museum and Orchestra Hall in Detroit amongst others and is a member of the Academy of American Poets. He has been featured on The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, CNN, Jet Magazine and named one of *Newsweek's* "15 People Who Make America Great." His Emmy award-winning film *An American Prophecy* was honored by numerous festivals, while his digital art project, *Fractured History*, has exhibited to rave reviews.

Aaron is also a leading social entrepreneur having founded the globally-recognized Sphinx Organization, the leading arts organization with the mission of transforming lives through the power of inclusion in the arts. He also serves as host of the nationally-broadcast Arts Engines show with a weekly viewership of over 100,000. Aaron is a member of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of honors including the National Governors Association Distinguished Service to State Government Award, BET's History Makers in the Making Award and Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Lifetime Achievement Award and been named Detroit News's Michiganian of the Year and the National Black MBA's Entrepreneur of the Year.

A sought-after global thought leader and passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, excellence in arts education, entrepreneurship, and leadership, as well as inclusion in the performing arts, Aaron is a frequent keynote speaker and lecturer at numerous universities and global arts, creativity, and technology conferences and is on the roster of the prestigious APB speakers bureau. He is a member of the Recording Academy (GRAMMYs) and has served on the Board of Directors or Advisory Boards for numerous influential arts organizations including the National Council on the Arts, Knight Foundation, Motown Museum, National Association of Performing Arts Professionals, Avery Fisher Artist Program, Independent Sector, League of American Orchestras, Ann Arbor Area Foundation, Michigan Theater and Chamber Music America. Having raised over $50 million for philanthropic causes, Aaron personifies creative leadership, entrepreneurship, and community service with an unwavering passion for the arts, diversity, and their role in society.

Aaron has a myriad of life interests including innovation, creativity, human pair bonding and is passionate about social impact having founded a homeless organization and a literary magazine. He is an avid kayaker, poker aficionado and boater, having captained multiple crossings of the Gulfstream. He is an explorer of the culinary arts and a consummate movie enthusiast watching over 150 films every year. He is married to Afa Sadykhly Dworkin, a prominent international arts leader who serves as President and Artistic Director of the Sphinx Organization and has two awesome sons, Noah Still and Amani Jaise. Aaron welcomes everyone to join his community at Patreon.com/Poetjournalist to shape the narrative of tomorrow, one verse at a time.