

“TOGETHER
WE ARE ALIVE
IN A CITY OF
DESTINY.

I AM STILL
ALIVE IN LOS
ANGELES!”

The poems and essays in *Letters to My City* combine two decades of field experience, research, personal observations, and stories told to the author, a third-generation Los Angeles native, by his grandfather and other family members, to interrogate all sides of Los Angeles, its streets, its people, its neighborhoods, as a means to examine the postmodern metropolis.

The warm winds blow sometimes / making me feel like I / am one with the city. I feel / connected to the landscape like / the Santa Monica Mountains are my / spinal cord—my backbone that only / can be seen from an airplane. I see my friend / in every intersection—my destiny is to uncover the stories—to incite others to the / other side of reality—the beauty in the city

“

Letters to My City rescues Los Angeles from history—rescues those who are Los Angeles and were Los Angeles... Add this book to your **quintessential Los Angeles reading list.**
—NATASHIA DEÓN, author of *Grace*, a novel

A genuine people’s poet and historian, as well as tour guide nonpareil, he focuses our attention on the grassroots experiences that keep the un-embalmed arts militantly alive in the city’s diverse neighborhoods... What Whitman was to Brooklyn, Poet Mike is to contemporary LA.
—MIKE DAVIS, author of *City of Quartz*

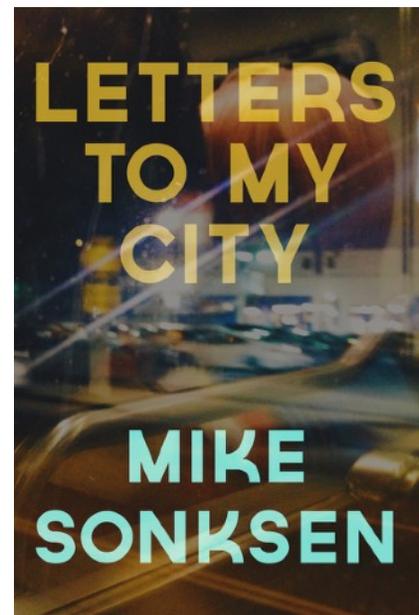
Mike the Poet sings the history, people, dreams, and even shadows of LA city, one of the most seen and filmed cities of the world, yet little known or understood. His poems are instant pop-and-crackle chronicles, more news than the 11 PM news hour, yet they are also jack-hammer words crashing onto concrete walkways, the palm-drenched horizon through smog-laden sky, the truth that dares to include everyone. **What everyone forgets, Mike the Poet remembers.**
—LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ, author of *Always Running*

Letters to My City

by Mike Sonksen

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Equally a scholar and performer, **MIKE SONKSEN**, also known as, Mike the Poet, is a 3rd-generation L.A. native acclaimed for poetry performances, published articles and mentoring teen writers. He has published over 500 essays and poems. His prose and poetry have been included in programs with the Mayor’s Office, the Los Angeles Public Library’s “Made in LA,” series, Grand Park, the Music Center and the Friends of the Los Angeles River. Mike has taught at Cal State L.A., Southwest College and Woodbury University.