

Vera Starbard Biography

Vera Starbard, T'set Kwei, is a Tlingit and Dena'ina writer and editor. She is Playwright-in-Residence at Perseverance Theatre through the Andrew W. Mellon National Playwright Residency Program, and Editor of *First Alaskans* Magazine. Vera is also a writer for the PBS Kids children's program "Molly of Denali," which won a Peabody Award in 2020.

She has won numerous local, statewide and national individual writing and editing awards, including the Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award and Alaska Literary Award. Vera currently serves on the HowlRound Advisory Council, and Kachemak Bay Writer's Conference Board, as well as serving as a founding member of Alaska Native playwright group Dark Winter Productions.

Her full-length play "Our Voices Will Be Heard" premiered at Perseverance Theatre in 2016. It was then published in the textbook "Contemporary Plays by Women of Color" in 2017, and turned into a one-hour radio adaptation that aired nationwide in 2018.

Vera lives with her husband Joe Bedard (Inupiaq/Yup'ik/Cree) on Dena'ina land - now called Anchorage, Alaska.