Adrian Matejka was born in Nuremberg, Germany and grew up in California and Indiana. He is a graduate of Indiana University and the MFA program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is the author of *The Devil’s Garden* (Alice James Books, 2003) which won the New York / New England Award and *Mixology* (Penguin, 2009), a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. *Mixology* was also a finalist for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature. His third collection, *The Big Smoke*(Penguin, 2013), focuses on Jack Johnson, the first African American heavyweight champion of the world. *The Big Smoke* was awarded the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was also a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, 2014 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and 2014 Pulitzer Prize in poetry. His most recent book, *Map to the Stars*, was published by Penguin in 2017. Among Matejka’s other honors are the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, the Julia Peterkin Award, a Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He teaches in the MFA program at Indiana University in Bloomington and is the Poet Laureate of Indiana.