Shawn Walker born and raised in Harlem, has a BFA from Empire State College and was a founding member of The Kamoinge Workshop. He has exhibited throughout the world, including: The Smithsonian, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The Brooklyn Museum, Rockland Center for the Arts, PS 1 (Long Island City), Trenton State Museum (NJ), Moscow (the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students), The State Museum (Albany), Danbury Academy of Fine Arts, Kamoinge Workshop Gallery, The Whitney Museum, The International Center of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, The San Francisco Museum of Art, the Studio Museum in Harlem, Harvard University School of Art and Design and Vassar College. His photographs were exhibited with Edward Steichen's at The Danbury Academy of Fine Arts.

Shawn Walker's works are included in the permanent collections at the Museum of Modern Art, James Van de Zee Institute, Charles Perry Rand Foundation, The Schomburg Center, The (Main Branch) NY Public Library, the Museum of Natural History and The Brooklyn Museum. His work has been published in Black and White, Nueva Luz, New York: A History in Images, A History of African-American Photographers, The Afro-American Encyclopedia , Culture front, Hommes & Migrations(Paris), The Black Photographers' Annual, Light Work, Essence and An Illustrated Biography of Black Photographers and have been used in the PBS production Fires in the Mirror.

He has taught photography for almost 40 years, including at: The International Center of Photography, City College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Queensborough Community College, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CW Post and Columbia University.

He is a Soros' Fellowship recipient in conjunction with Kamoinge. Grants have been won from the NY Foundation for the Arts (2), Light Work, CAPS (2), and Columbia University Film Board. He has lived/traveled in Senegal, Nigeria, Cuba, Mexico and Guyana.