



**CALLING ALL POETS,
SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS,
EMCEES & WRITERS**

WIN A CHANCE TO REPRESENT SEATTLE AS THE 2018 SEATTLE YOUTH POET LAUREATE



**WIN A BOOK DEAL TO PUBLISH
YOUR FIRST BOOK, PERFORM &
TOUR THE CITY**

The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Program aims to identify young writers and leaders who are committed to poetry and performance, civic and community engagement, education and equity across the Puget Sound Region.

Eight Finalists will be selected to perform and be honored at the Youth Poet Laureate Showcase at the 2018 Folklife Festival at the Seattle Center in May over Memorial Day Weekend at the Seattle Center. Free Admission.

The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate is a program of Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools program (SAL/WITS) with support from Urban Word NYC, Northwest Folklife Festival, Poetry Northwest, the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America and Cave Canem. The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Program aims to identify young writers and leaders who are committed to poetry and performance, civic and community engagement, education and equity across the Puget Sound Region.

From March 23 through April 23, 2018, WITS will accept submissions from young poets, rappers, leaders and activists ages 14-19 from across Seattle who are interested in representing the city as the 2018 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. A group of esteemed judges will choose eight finalists, and will select one teen to be honored with the title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate and a runner up Youth Poet Ambassador at the Commencement Performance, **Saturday May 26th, on Memorial Day Weekend at the Northwest Folklife Festival at The Seattle Center. Winners and finalists will be notified in early May.** All finalists will be invited to join a year-long cohort of youth poets with workshop and additional performance opportunities.

Along with the prestigious title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, the winning poet will also get a book deal from a local publisher to publish their first collection of poems with Poetry Northwest. The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will have numerous opportunities and platforms to share their powerful voice, leadership, and love for the city at events throughout the region over the course of the following year. Seattle Arts & Lectures and our other partners recognize that youth voice and community engagement are vital for empowering young people to effect positive changes in their communities and beyond.



CONTEST RULES/HOW to APPLY

2018 Seattle Submission Guidelines:

1. Applicants must be current residents of the Seattle region, and between the ages of 14-19 years old. (Applicants living outside the technical Seattle city borders welcome to apply, knowing many events during the year take place in Seattle, so regular access to Seattle is requested)

2. Starting **Friday, March 23, 2018**, please submit 5 original poems / raps / performances (and / or YouTube links to your poems) to: **seattleypl@gmail.com**

More info at: <http://lectures.org/youth-programs/youth-poet-laureate/>

3. Include a RESUME that has your name, address, phone # and email, AS WELL AS a detailed list of all of your accomplishments, community service, after school programs, volunteer experiences and awards.

4. Your entire application is due by **Monday April 23, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** The 2018 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will win a book deal with Poetry Northwest, work closely with published local writer mentor team to assemble and edit their work, and make special appearances and readings throughout Seattle for one year.



APPLICATION

Note: This RESUME Template is to help you in the process; however, if you want to use your own, feel free to email that (+ your 5 poems or YouTube links) to SEATTLEYPL@GMAIL.COM. This resume is an opportunity to share everything you have done, so put it all in there. Feel free to BRAG about yourself and your accomplishments!

Please write CLEARLY or Type All Information

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

IF APPLICANT IS UNDER 18, PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ EMAIL: _____

APPLICANT EMAIL, IF APPLICABLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE:

CLUBS/SPORTS/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ANYTHING ELSE?

**PLEASE EMAIL this form (or use your own Resume/CV) as an ATTACHMENT
+5 poems and/or YouTube links to seattleypl@gmail.com.**

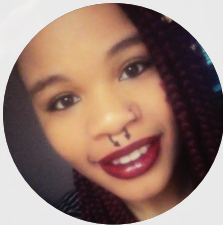
Good Luck!

ESTEEMED JUDGES



Aaron Counts has written and read with professors, prisoners, dropouts & scholars. He is the co-author of the non-fiction text, *Reclaiming Black Manhood*, and is a social justice speaker and educator. Aaron is an artist-in-residence with the Writers In The Schools program, and the lead artist with King County's Creative Justice Program, which uses art to reduce the number of kids locked away in detention. He earned an MFA from the University of British Columbia, and his writing has recently appeared in *Specter Magazine*, *Bestiary*, *Aldebaran Review* and *Rufous City Review*, though his first publication was on an old Kenmore refrigerator on 7th Street in Yakima. His book of poetry, *Strange-Tongued Names*, was published in 2016 with Backbone Press.

Matt Gano is author of *Suits for the Swarm*, a poetry collection from MoonPath Press (2013) and has been writing and teaching professionally since 2004. In addition to his work as the program manager at Abbey Arts, Matt's dynamic work has led to recent invitations as a panelist and instructor for the Skagit Valley Poetry Festival (2012, 2014) and as a faculty member for the LiTFUSE writer's conference (2014). He has worked international residencies teaching creative writing at the Hong Kong School of Creativity, and in Seoul Korea for the Youth Creativity Summit. Matt is the founder of Youth Speaks Seattle's famed program, "The Writing Circle." He has represented Seattle at the National Poetry Slam multiple years and is the 2008 Seattle Grand-Slam champion. Matt's poetry has appeared in *City Arts Magazine*, *Bestiary Magazine*, *The Operating System Vol. 3* and Skagit River Poetry Project anthologies: *Drawn to The Light*, and *At the Water's Edge*.



Maven Gardner was the 2016-17 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate and they believe that the best creative writing is the kind without barriers that makes you shift and sweat. Their community advocacy includes work with the Mockingbird Society and New Horizon Ministries, organizations that support youth experiencing homelessness through advocacy and working towards systemic change. Their first book of poetry, *Blood Melody*, was published in 2017 with Penmanship Books.

Bryanna Sanchez is a former WITS student and that hippie child that brags about wild imaginations and that woman that keeps on keeping on. Poetry was the reason she didn't sleep in class—The reason math homework and margins of notebook paper were littered with quotes and the definitions of random words. She has always been passionately in love with language, and her goal is to help people find their way back to it.



Leija Farr was the first ever youth poet laureate in Seattle history in 2015-16. Everything the world gives her is up for interpretation. She became more serious with poetry after winning a contest at 12 years old. Since then, she has expressed herself growing mentally and physically through open mics across the city. She is an aspiring author, travel writer and journalist, and her first book of poetry, *Escape the Gravity*, was published in 2016 with Penmanship Books.

Jeanine Walker is a poet who holds a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature from the University of Houston. Her poems and reviews have appeared in *Cimarron Review*, *Cream City Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Narrative*, *PageBoy*, and *Web Conjunctions*. She has performed at many venues around town and is the co-host of the popular reading series Cheap Wine & Poetry.



For more information or to support this work, email: SeattleYPL@gmail.com
or visit: <http://lectures.org/youth-programs/youth-poet-laureate/>

SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES' & URBAN WORD would like to thank our partners:

