



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

WIN A CHANCE

**TO REPRESENT SEATTLE AS THE
2020 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 youth writers and leaders who are committed to poetry and performance, civic and community engagement, education and equity across the Puget Sound Region.

Finalists will be selected to perform and be honored at the Youth Poet Laureate Showcase at the 2020 Folklife Festival May 23rd at the Seattle Center, or at another celebration dependent on public health advisories.



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, the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America, Cave Canem and Poetry Northwest Books. 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 24th through April 24th, 2020, 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 2020 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. A group of esteemed judges will choose up to eight finalists, and will select one teen to be honored with the title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate and one teen to be a runner up Youth Poet Ambassador at the Commencement Performance on **May 23rd at the Northwest Folklife Festival at the Seattle Center**. **Winners and finalists will be notified in early May.**

Along with the prestigious title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, the winning poet will also get a book deal from Poetry Northwest Books to publish their first collection of poems. The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will have numerous opportunities and platforms to share their powerful voice, their 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

2020 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 required)
2. Starting **Tuesday, March 24th, 2020**, please submit 5 original poems (Including links to videos of readings, raps, performances, YouTube links if applicable as well. For videos, please attach the text of the piece performed.)
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 **Friday, April 24th, 2020**. The 2020 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will win a book deal with Poetry Northwest Books, 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.



Please submit all materials by April 24th, 2020 Submission materials can be EMAILED: seattleypl@gmail.com or MAILED to: Seattle Youth Poet Laureate C/O Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools (SAL/WITS) 340 15th Ave E, Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98112

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 (YouTube/video links welcome in addition to the typed poems as well) 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: _____
APPLICANT EMAIL: _____
IF APPLICANT IS UNDER 18, PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL: _____
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 typed poems (YouTube/video links welcome in addition to typed poems) to seattleypl@gmail.com by **Friday, April 24th, 2020**.



Esteemed Judges:

Laura Da' (Youth Poet Laureate Mentor) is a poet and teacher. A lifetime resident of the Pacific Northwest, Da' studied creative writing at the University of Washington and The Institute of American Indian Arts. Da' is Eastern Shawnee. Her first book, *Tributaries*, won the American Book Award. Da' lives near Seattle with her husband and son. Her newest book is *Instruments of the True Measure*.

Arianne True (Youth Poet Laureate Mentor) is a poet, teacher, and excitable human from right here in Seattle. Arianne has more than a decade of experience working with youth, and has taught and performed everywhere from the temperate rainforest canopy to under Seattle's streets; from the intertidal zone to the deck of a tall ship. Arianne is Choctaw and Chickasaw, and is a proud alum of Hedgebrook and of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

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 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 the author of *Suits for the Swarm*, a poetry collection from MoonPath Press (2013) and has been writing and teaching professionally since 2004. Matt's dynamic work has led to recent invitations as a panelist and instructor for the Skagit Valley Poetry Festival and as a faculty member for the LiTFUSE writer's conference. 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*.

Wei-Wei Lee is eighteen years old and attends Nathan Hale High School. She grew up in Taiwan, but was born in the States, and Seattle is the first city in the States she has ever known and loved. As of the 2019-2020 Youth Poet Laureate, she hopes to pay tribute to both Taiwan and American in her writing, and she hopes to do them proud. Her book will be published in Spring of 2020 with Poetry Northwest Books.

Azura Mizan Tiyabji is the 2018-19 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, and the author of *Stepwell*, a poetry collection from Poetry Northwest Books (2019). Born and raised in Seattle, Azura is writer, spoken word performer, facilitator, and educator. Love for community, justice, and healing motivate every aspect of her artistic practice. If her words leave you feeling hopeful, empowered, or thinking deeper, she has achieved her goal as a poet. She hopes to continue challenging and expanding her craft and giving back to the city that inspires her. She is 18 years old and a graduate from Nova High School.

Lily Baumgart was the 2017-18 Youth Poet Laureate whose book, *Admitted to the Personal Ads*, was published in May of 2018 with Penmanship Press. They have been writing ever since they could spell. Before being the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, they were a part of the inaugural 2015/16 Jack Straw Young Writers Program, and a member of the 2016/17 YPL finalist cohort. They believe that writing is forever changing the lives of writers and readers. Their favorite part of writing is being able to teach poetry to people and learn from those they work with. For Lily, poetry is in a constant state of growth. They have read and taught around the Seattle area.

Maven Gardner was the 2016-17 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate and their first book of poetry, *Blood Melody*, was published in 2017 with Penmanship Books. 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.

Leija Farr was the first ever youth poet laureate in Seattle history in 2015-16. Her first book of poetry, *Escape the Gravity*, was published in 2016 with Penmanship Books. 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.

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: lectures.org/ypl.