



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

**REPRESENT SEATTLE AS THE  
2021 SEATTLE YOUTH POET LAUREATE**

**AND FOR ONE STUDENT:  
WIN A BOOK DEAL  
TO PUBLISH YOUR FIRST BOOK,  
PERFORM & TOUR THE CITY**

The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Program aims to identify a cohort of young writers and leaders who are committed to poetry and performance, civic and community engagement, education and equity across the Puget Sound Region. Within the cohort, one student is selected for the title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate which comes with a book deal in the 2021-22 academic year.

All applicants selected for the cohort will have their work featured in a digital showcase of poetry via the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Online Release with Seattle Arts & Lectures, in collaboration with the 2021 Folklife Festival in May over Memorial Day Weekend.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate program** is part of Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL) with support from Urban Word NYC, Northwest Folklife Festival, the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America, Cave Canem and Poetry NW Editions.

### The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Cohort Program Offers:

- A year-long writing cohort led by two distinguished mentors
- Workshops on the generation, refining, and publication of work
- Seasonal readings and opportunities for performances throughout the city
- Free access to all Seattle Arts & Lectures events (<https://lectures.org/>) with visiting writers throughout SAL's 2021-22 season, and the chance to read on SAL stages as opening reader for visiting writers

From March 23rd through April 23rd, 2021, SAL will accept submissions from young poets, rappers, leaders and activists ages 14-19 from across the Puget Sound Region who are interested in representing the City of Seattle as a member of the 2021 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Cohort. A group of esteemed community judges including past Youth Poet Laureates, will choose a group of up to ten cohort members, and will select one poet to be honored with the title of the 2021 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate role, an honor that comes with a book deal with Poetry NW Editions, and one or more poets for additional leadership roles in the group.

**Note:** *All applicants are welcome to opt-in to be considered for the leadership positions, but that is not necessary for applicants interested in cohort participation.*

## 2021 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Position

Along with the prestigious title of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, the selected poet will also get a book deal from local publisher, Poetry NW Editions, to publish their first collection of poems in May of 2022. The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will have numerous opportunities and platforms to share their powerful voice, their leadership, a love for the city at events throughout the region over the course of the following year. This person is expected to be an active, supportive member of the cohort program, supporting and encouraging fellow writers in the group.

### How to Apply: 2021 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 are welcome to apply, knowing many events during the year will take place in Seattle should public health guidelines allow for it).
2. Starting Tuesday, March 23rd, please submit **five (5) original poems** (links to videos of readings, raps, and performances are welcome as well!). Please include at least **one (1) video recording**, no more than three minutes in length, of you reading a piece of your original work.
3. Include a **RESUME** that has your name, address, phone number and email, AS WELL AS a detailed list of all of your accomplishments, community service, after school programs, volunteer experiences and awards. (See template, if helpful, on next page)
4. Your entire application is due by **Friday, April 23rd, 2021**. Each applicant will be considered for the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Cohort, and can opt-in to be considered for the title of the 2021 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. The 2021 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate will win a book deal with a local publisher, work closely with published local writer mentor team to assemble and edit their work, and make special appearances and readings through Seattle for one year (May 2021-May 2022).



Please submit all materials by April 23th, 2021 Submission materials can be  
EMAILED: [seattleyp@gmail.com](mailto:seattleyp@gmail.com) or  
MAILED to: Seattle Arts & Lectures  
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, please do so! Send all application materials (YouTube/video links welcome in addition to the typed poems as well) to **SEATTLEYP@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

**NOTE:** If you would prefer to fill this portion out as a Google form, Go to our website, for a link to a digital version: <https://lectures.org/youth-programs/youth-poet-laureate/>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM APPLYING FOR: (check one)

YPL Cohort only: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider me for the Youth Poet Laureate and/or other leadership positions within the Cohort: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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 YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

**PLEASE EMAIL this form (or use your own Resume/CV) as an ATTACHMENT (with a title that includes your name) +5 typed poems (One of which is read in video form) to [seattleyp@gmail.com](mailto:seattleyp@gmail.com) by **Friday, April 23rd, 2021.****





## 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.

**Bre'Anna Girdy** (Seattle Arts & Lectures) is the Writers in the Schools (WITS) Program Coordinator at SAL. She studied English Language & Literature at the University of Washington, and has since been working to bring poetry and fiction-writing to young writers.

**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 Penman-ship 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.

**Bitaniya Giday** is a first-gen Ethiopian American residing in Seattle, and the 2020-21 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. Her writing explores the nuances of womanhood and blackness, as she reflects upon her family's path of immigration across the world. She hopes to restore and safeguard the past, present, and future histories of her people through traditional storytelling and poetry.

**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](mailto:SeattleYPL@gmail.com) or visit: [lectures.org/yp1](http://lectures.org/yp1)**