



Oakland Youth Poet Laureate 2017



JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will use the following criteria to evaluate applicants to the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program.

Categories

Content

The poet's ability to examine his/her/their personal truths and make connections to larger community.

Craft

The poet's command of poetic craft and purposeful breaks with convention.

Voice

The poet's ability to write both honestly and authentically.

Leadership (final round only)

The poet's potential for leading, inspiring, mentoring and representing the city of Oakland and its youth.

Performance (final round only)

How the poet breathes life into the poem.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Cannot Be Determined	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
5	4	3	2	1

Use the above scale to respond to the criteria sections below.



Oakland Youth Poet Laureate 2017



JUDGING CRITERIA

Content

The poet's ability to examine his/her/their personal truths and make connections to larger community.

Content Qualities

- The poem engages in the process of sharing the poet's personal truths and resonates a sincere expression of his/her/their ambitions and beliefs.
- The poet critically investigates the status quo, societal norms, assumptions, and/or dominant beliefs.
- The poet is able to recognize him/her/themselves as a valuable member of their community and brings up issues or questions that concern that community, particularly other young people.
- The poet reflects an awareness of his/her/their ongoing responsibilities as a citizen of the world.
- The poet's work serves as a call to action for an issue(s) impacting Oakland and/or Oakland youth today.

CONTENT Score (for each poem)	
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Craft

The poet's command of aspects of poetic craft and purposeful break with convention.

Craft Qualities

- The poet shows a command of language, rhythm, symbolism, metaphor, form and other poetic devices as creative tools.
- The poet intentionally plays with or manipulates traditional literary convention (i.e. spelling, grammar, verb tense) to highlight lines or ideas.
- The poet's voice is consistent throughout the poem.

CRAFT Score (for each poem)	
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JUDGING CRITERIA

Voice

The poet's ability to write both honestly and authentically.

Voice Qualities

- The poet's work evokes emotion.
- The poet conveys a strong viewpoint or a deep consideration of the subject matter.
- The poem could inspire young people across boundaries of race, class, gender, orientation, religion, geography, etc.
- The poet risks something; tackles a personally difficult or controversial subject with boldness and insight.
- The poet conveys his/her/their experience in an honest, original way.
- The poet gives proper credit to the source if another artist's work is sampled in a poem and/or uses quotation marks to indicate borrowed text.

VOICE Score (for each poem)	
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POEM TOTAL (Content + Craft + Voice)	
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FIRST ROUND TOTAL (Total of all three applicant's poems)	
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JUDGING CRITERIA

Final Round

Leadership (final round only)

The poet's potential for leading, inspiring, mentoring and representing the City of Oakland and its youth.

Leadership Qualities

- The poet has experience or potential to inspire others to write, read, and listen to poetry.
- The poet uses his/her/their art to foster a culture that celebrates voice and empowers creative expression.
- The poet has the ability or the potential to speak for and about the City of Oakland and its youth in front of a variety of audiences.
- The poet has an interest in community service, education and improvement, and an ability to represent a collective and speak beyond their own self interest to include the interests, struggles, and concerns of their community and the world.

LEADERSHIP Score	
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Performance (final round only)

How the poet breathes life into the poem.

Performance Qualities

- The performance of the poem elicits an emotional response.
- The poet's presence is made strong by his/her/their use of eye contact, confidence, and ability to engage with the audience.
- The poet's voice is clear and easy to understand. The poet utilizes the microphone adequately to project their voice.
- The poet uses their body and movement to fortify the poem.
- The poet's language is fluid and fluent.

PERFORMANCE Score	
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FINAL ROUND TOTAL (Performance + Voice)	
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FINALIST'S TOTAL (First round total + Final Round Total)	
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