



EMERGING POET MENTORS

What is an Emerging Poet Mentor?

Emerging Poet Mentors will receive 12 months of comprehensive training and practice in Youth Speaks' pedagogy in order to effectively represent Youth Speaks as writing and performance workshop facilitators in schools and community organizations throughout the Greater Bay Area.

Emerging Poet Mentors will support and advance the mission of Youth Speaks by supporting and engaging with young people who represent various Bay Area communities, as well as increasing awareness of Youth Speaks' programs for local networks. The program is an excellent point of entry for burgeoning teaching artists interested in learning Youth Speaks pedagogy, and learning how to facilitate youth-centered spaces. These artists will also be part of Youth Speaks' network of local poets who are given opportunities to refine and advance their artistry through performances for various communities throughout the Bay Area.

How do you become an Emerging Poet Mentor?

Applications to become an Emerging Poet Mentor for the following school year will be open every March. The cohort will be selected by early May, will begin their term in June, at our First Sound Pedagogical Institute and will be engaged for one year, through the following June. Mandatory trainings begin in August and continue until May.

We are looking for artists who:

1. Can attend all of the mandatory training and professional development dates and times;
2. Have availability to facilitate workshops during and/or after school;
3. Are familiar with the Youth Speaks Mission and Pedagogical approach (see www.youthspeaks.org);
4. Have a driving interest in engaging and mentoring middle and high school aged participants;
5. Work well in a team setting;
6. Have clear and consistent communication skills;
7. Are responsive and reliable;
8. Reflect the demographics of the youth we serve;
9. Are 18 years of age and older; and
10. Have roots in the Bay Area community (preferably).

Youth Speaks will invest in the Emerging Poet Mentors by providing opportunities for professional development as well as experiential learning around workshop facilitation. Upon completion of the program, each EPM will receive a certification as a Youth Speaks facilitator.

Mandatory Training and Professional Development:

Each EPM selected will be expected to attend the following training:

- Youth Speaks' First Sound Pedagogical Institute: June 13 - 15, 2018
- Fall Training: September 15, 2018 (10 am - 5 pm)
- Winter Training: December 1, 2018 (10 am - 5 pm)
- Spring Training: February 23, 2019 (10 am - 5 pm)
- Spring Training: April 27, 2019 (10 am - 5 pm)



In addition, each Emerging Poet Mentor will participate in a 1:1 meeting with one of Youth Speaks' Poet Mentors in the fall, winter and spring to review and discuss progress towards personal objectives, Youth Speaks' expectations and upcoming opportunities.

Workshop Facilitation:

To observe Youth Speaks' pedagogy in practice, each EPM will shadow Youth Speaks' Poet Mentors in a workshop setting (either in a school or in a community space) through the fall semester. In the spring semester, each Poet Mentor will facilitate their own workshops, where they will be observed by and receive feedback from one of Youth Speaks' Poet Mentors. Ultimately, each Emerging Poet Mentor will be prepared to hold down their own 4-week residency module in a school or community space during the spring of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Each EPM will be responsible for creating one 8-week curriculum model, that includes one 4-week Youth Speaks standard model as well as one 4-week original model.

The cohort will facilitate a workshop as part of Youth Speaks' First Sound Pedagogical Institute upon completion of their year-long term.

Bookings & Performance Opportunities:

As part of Youth Speaks' local network of poets, each EPM will be offered opportunities to fill requests for performances, school visits, and workshops throughout the community. These requests are fielded by Youth Speaks Program and Development staff and are shared with the poet network on an ongoing basis.

It is the responsibility of each EPM to stay up to date on available booking opportunities and to communicate their interest and availability for any opportunity by email to the appropriate staff member. In general, these bookings are filled on a first come, first served basis; however, Youth Speaks' staff will also invite specific poets to fill specific bookings based on the needs and interests of the community being served.

About Youth Speaks:

Through the intersection of arts education and youth development practices, civic engagement strategies, and high quality artistic presentation, Youth Speaks creates safe spaces that challenge young people to find, develop, publicly present, and apply their voices as creators of societal change.

Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is acclaimed as one of the world's leading presenters of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs. For over 20 years, Youth Speaks has produced local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, and reading series, alongside a comprehensive slate of arts-in-education programs during the school day, in the after-school hours and on weekends. In addition, the organization creates internationally-recognized theater and digital programming, and has helped launch a national network of over 150 programs who believe in the power of young people.

To Apply:

[Apply here](#) by Friday April 20th

If you have specific questions about the program, please contact Gabriel Cortez at gcortez@youthspeaks.org.