



FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

Position: Poetry Coalition Fellowship

Department: Creative Youth Development & Arts in Education (CYDAIE)

Status: Part-time, Temporary

Hours per week: 20 hours/week (1-hour unpaid lunch included)

Duration: 40 weeks, starting September 2, 2025 through June 30, 2026

POSITION OVERVIEW

The PoCo Fellow is a vital part of the Youth Speaks team, supporting youth voice through programming, outreach, and administrative coordination. This fellowship is designed to offer hands-on experience in arts education, youth development, and community engagement, while collaborating across department initiatives.

Primary Responsibilities:

Department-Wide (CYDAIE)

- Attend weekly CYDAIE team meetings.
- Attend bi-weekly all-staff meetings (schedule-permitting).
- Support monthly department-wide outreach efforts:
- 1 tabling event, assembly, or audience survey collection per month.
- Assist with weekly administrative tasks as assigned by the Director of Creative Youth Development & Arts in Education.

Arts in Education (AIE)

- Assist with reviving the Bay Area Educators for Youth Voice initiative (name TBD).
- Support residency site assemblies and culminating events:
- May include roles like featured performer, MC, or DJ.
- Participate in curriculum development meetings.
- Creative Youth Development (CYD)
- Co-facilitate After School Workshop (ASW) sessions alongside lead teaching artists.

Co-develop curriculum and programming for:

- San Francisco Youth Poet Laureate (SFYPL) program (in partnership with 826 Valencia).
- SFYPL application process, judging criteria, and selection.



- Facilitate monthly ASW workshops (either through SFYPL or Oakland-based ASWs).
- Help coordinate culminating projects for:
 - SF Youth Literary Laureate Fellows or
 - Oakland ASW participants (dependent on fellow's focus and strengths).
- Serve on the SF Youth Literary Laureate Selection Committee.
- Provide administrative support for SPOKES program:
 - Assist with contracts, W9s, and post-program survey collection.

Qualifications:

- Strong interest in youth arts education, community engagement, and creative development.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines.
- Comfort with facilitation and public speaking (or willingness to learn).
- Collaborative, proactive, and detail-oriented.
- Familiarity with Youth Speaks' mission and values is a plus.

Application Timeline:

- Tue, May 6 – Tue, July 1: Fellowship applications accepted by Youth Speaks
- Wed, July 2 – Tue, August 12: Youth Speaks reviews applications and conducts interviews

To apply, contact Darius Parker, Creative Youth Development and Arts In Education Director at dparker@youthspeaks.org

ABOUT YOUTH SPEAKS

Mission and Vision

Youth Speaks creates spaces that challenge young people to develop and amplify their voices as creators of societal change.

Youth Speaks envisions a world in which young people are heard, honored, and connected through creative ecosystems of interdependence and care.

History



Founded in 1996 in San Francisco by James Kass, Youth Speaks has long championed a local, national, and increasingly global movement of young people using their voices to shift culture in the creation of a more just and liberatory world for themselves and their people.

Program and Results

One of the world's leading presenters of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs, Youth Speaks produces local, national, and international programs supporting young people and their voices including poetry slams, festivals, anthologies, 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, Youth Speaks creates internationally-recognized theater and digital programming and has helped launch an international network of over 70 programs who believe in the power of young people.

Youth Speaks serves approximately 200,000 13-24 year-olds nationally, 81% of which are eligible for free or reduced school lunch programs, and breaks down to 34% African-American, 22% Latino, and 23% Asian-American, with the remainder Pacific Islander or White/non-Hispanic.

Organization Profile

Youth Speaks is a multi-faceted, BIPOC-led organization that understands that the power, insight, creativity, and passion of young people changes the world. Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is the leading nonprofit presenter of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs in the world.

Presenters of local and international youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series, and more, Youth Speaks also offers a comprehensive slate of literary arts education programs during the school day, in the after-school hours, on weekends and evenings. All told, Youth Speaks provides free arts education to thousands of teens per year in the San Francisco Bay Area alone, has helped create partner programs in over 60 cities across the United States, and has worked with young people globally.

For 29 years, Youth Speaks has been at the forefront of defining what it means to empower the voices of young people and is currently focused on the following key areas as we continue to grow and build as an organization:

- Increasing intergenerational engagement by creating more intentional pathways for youth and alum leadership within our programs, expanding partnerships and reach, and developing novel ways of engaging community, audience, and alumni.



- Delivering responsive programming by developing timely campaigns in response to current community events and delivering integrated digital and/or live programming to engage local and global audiences.
- Making data-driven decisions by developing metrics to inform decision-making across the organization that will allow us to better understand the impact of programs and integrate intentionality and responsiveness.
- Sustaining and growing the field by strategically growing partnerships with international networks of spoken word individuals, organizations and collectives, and other creative youth development programs.
- Securing long-term sustainability by implementing a development strategy that continues to support the programmatic vision of the organization, invests in our staff, and secures our future in our new office space.