



# Oakland Youth Poet Laureate 2020

<http://oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets>



## 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 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 a poem.

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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.

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## JUDGING CRITERIA



### Content

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

#### *Content Qualities*

- The poems engage in the process of sharing the poet's personal truths and resonate a sincere expression of their ambitions and beliefs.
- The poet critically investigates the status quo, societal norms, assumptions, and/or dominant beliefs.
- The poet is able to recognize 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 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.

<b>CONTENT Score</b>	
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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 each individual poem.

<b>CRAFT Score</b>	
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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 poems could inspire young people across boundaries of race, class, gender, orientation, religion, geography, etc.
- The poet risks something; tackles personally difficult or controversial subjects with boldness and insight.
- The poet conveys 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.

<b>VOICE Score</b>	
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<b>FIRST ROUND TOTAL (Content + Craft + Voice)</b>	
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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 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 a poem.

#### Performance Qualities

- The performance of the poem elicits an emotional response.
- The poet's presence is made strong by 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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