The Poetry Out Loud State Final is presented by the Washington State Arts Commission, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation.

Special thanks to the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts for their sponsorship of this event.
**Welcome to Poetry Out Loud!**

When we started in 2005, we worked with just eight schools in one county. This year, 66 schools from 22 counties in Washington State participated in *Poetry Out Loud*.

After classroom-level competitions and school-wide competitions, these schools sent their top students to one of seven regional finals, held in Northwest Washington, Southwest Washington, Central Washington, Eastern Washington, Southeast Washington and the Puget Sound region.

**Students from each of these seven regional finals have advanced to the state final.**

**These thirteen students are competing for the title of Washington State *Poetry Out Loud* Champion for 2017.**

The winner of the state final will receive $200, and the winner's school will receive a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive $100, with $200 for his or her school library. The state champion will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the National Finals in Washington, DC, April 24-26, 2017.

The *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals will award a total of $50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a $20,000 college scholarship for the National Champion.

**…and the Thirteen Washington State Regional Champions are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhys Chapman</td>
<td>Bickleton High School</td>
<td>Klickitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella Daltoso</td>
<td>Vancouver School of Arts &amp; Academics</td>
<td>Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elise Divens</td>
<td>Mt. Spokane High School</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Dow</td>
<td>Naches Valley High School</td>
<td>Yakima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addi Garner</td>
<td>Anacortes High School</td>
<td>Skagit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lizette Harris</td>
<td>Life Christian Academy</td>
<td>Pierce</td>
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<td>Kelton Hedstrom</td>
<td>Mead High School</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Jones</td>
<td>Crosspoint Academy</td>
<td>Kitsap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amir Matheney</td>
<td>Olympia High School</td>
<td>Thurston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laney Pham</td>
<td>Battle Ground High School</td>
<td>Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leah Sainz-Jones</td>
<td>Woodinville High School</td>
<td>King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew Shipman</td>
<td>Mount Vernon High School</td>
<td>Skagit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiley Tolison</td>
<td>Delta High School</td>
<td>Benton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Host: Lucas Smiraldo
Music: The Kareem Kandi Band
Program: Introductions and Program Information
Karen Hanan, Executive Director, Washington State Arts Commission
Recitations, Round One – Thirteen Students
- Short Intermission -
Recitations, Round Two –Thirteen Students
Announcement of Five Finalists
- Short Intermission –
Tod Marshall, Washington State Poet Laureate
Recitations, Round Three – Five Students
Announcements and Acknowledgements
Presentation of Awards
Q&A with All Student Participants

About Poetry Out Loud

Recitation and performance are major current trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the great popularity of hip-hop music. Poetry Out Loud builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have partnered with State Arts Agencies across the United States to support the expansion of Poetry Out Loud, a program that encourages the nation’s youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

After successful pilot programs in Washington, DC, and Chicago, Poetry Out Loud was launched as a nationwide program during the 2005-2006 school year. Here in Washington State, we’ve grown from just 8 participating high schools that first year, to 66 participating schools in the 2016-2017 school year.

Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy great poetry and to support our state finalists. Enjoy!

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is a state agency, established in 1961, whose purpose is to conserve and develop the State’s artistic resources, as essential to the social, educational, and economic growth of the State of Washington. One of our strategic goals is to strengthen K-12 arts education as part of, and fundamental to, basic education. For more information: www.arts.wa.gov.

The Washington State Arts Commission is committed to values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and creative expression. We believe in diverse forms of artistic expression, and we believe in access to arts and arts education for all individuals in our state. The arts can and should play a role in addressing inequities, modeling inclusion, and teaching empathy.
Poetry Out Loud ♦ Washington State Final ♦ March 4, 2017

Student Poem Selections

Students will recite in alphabetical order, by last name. For the first round of recitations the order will be A-Z. In the second round they will recite J-Z followed by A-I. The five finalists who advance to the third round will recite in a randomly chosen order. All poems were selected from the Poetry Out Loud anthology, available at www.poetryoutloud.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Poem Titles and Authors, In Order of Recitation</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Rhys Chapman       | *America* by Claude McKay  
|                    | *Kubla Khan* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
|                    | *After Apple-Picking* by Robert Frost                                           |
| Isabella Daltoso   | *The Arrow and the Song* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
|                    | *The Speakers* by Weldon Kees  
|                    | *Ex Machina* by Linda Gregerson                                               |
| Elise Divens       | *There Are Birds Here* by Jamaal May  
|                    | *I felt a Funeral, in my Brain* by Emily Dickinson  
|                    | *The Gaffe* by C.K. Williams                                                 |
| Julian Dow         | *The Enigma* by Anne Stevenson  
|                    | *Sign for My Father, Who Stressed the Bunt* by David Bottoms  
|                    | *The Destruction of the Sennacherib* by Lord Byron (George Gordon)             |
| Addi Garner        | *Tarantulas on the Lifebuoy* by Thomas Lux  
|                    | *Possible Answers to Prayer* by Scott Cairns  
|                    | *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson                      |
| Lizette Harris     | *The Children of the Poor* by Gwendolyn Brooks  
|                    | *Caged Bird* by Maya Angelou  
|                    | *Silence* by Thomas Hood                                                      |
| Kelton Hedstrom    | *At The Vietnam Memorial* by George Bilgere  
|                    | *The Hospital Window* by James L. Dickey  
|                    | *Kubla Khan* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge                                          |
| Charles Jones      | *Cartoon Physics, part 1* by Nick Flynn  
|                    | *At The Vietnam Memorial* by George Bilgere  
|                    | *The Idler* by Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson                                          |
| Amir Matheney      | *Ballad of Birmingham* by Dudley Randall  
|                    | *Camouflaging the Chimera* by Yusef Komunyakaa  
|                    | *We Wear the Mask* by Paul Laurence Dunbar                                        |
| Laney Pham          | *Personal* by Tony Hoagland  
|                    | *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley  
|                    | *To Have Without Holding* by Marge Piercy                                         |
| Leah Sainz-Jones   | *A Poison Tree* by William Blake  
|                    | *Tarantulas on the Lifebuoy* by Thomas Lux  
|                    | *El Olvido* by Judith Ortiz Cofer                                               |
| Drew Shipman       | *Novel* by Arthur Rimbaud  
|                    | *Oranges* by Roisin Kelly  
|                    | *Piano* by D. H. Lawrence                                                       |
| Kiley Tolison      | *A Locked House* by W. D. Snodgrass  
|                    | *Envy* by Mary Lamb  
|                    | *Dear Reader* by Rita Mae Reese                                                 |
Poetry Out Loud † Washington State Final † March 4, 2017

Our Judges:

Sarah Brauner is a graduate student at the University of Puget Sound, working towards her Master of Arts in Teaching. She graduated from UPS in May of 2016 with a degree in English, and hopes to teach English at the high school level. She is currently student teaching at Stadium High School in Tacoma.

Ginger Ewing has spent the better part of a decade as an arts advocate and organizer in Spokane. She is the founder of Window Dressing, a storefront gallery program that fills vacant buildings and disused spaces with short term art exhibits and pop-up events. She is also the cofounder of Terrain, a non-profit organization showcasing emerging artists in the Spokane region. Additionally, Ginger is an Ambassador for Artist Trust, a Spokane Arts Commissioner, the former Curator for Cultural Literacy at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, and a member of the board of the Washington State Arts Commission.

Paul Goudarzi-Fry is a senior at the University of Puget Sound and an English Major. He plans to eventually teach English at a high school or collegiate level. He is from the state of New Hampshire, but plans on staying here on the west coast, so he can stare wistfully out at the ocean instead of staring wistfully out at the trees.

Priti Joshi is professor of English at University of Puget Sound, where she teaches 19th century British literature and post-colonial literature and film. She also teaches in the Gender & Queer Studies and the Asian Studies programs at UPS. Growing up in India, she won class and school representative in “Elocution” (recitation) competitions from 1st-7th grades; she knows only too well the butterflies and exhilaration of reciting before an audience! Since 2012, she has also been teaching at the Washington state women’s prison in Purdy with the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound.

Tod Marshall is the Washington State Poet Laureate for 2016-18. Born in Buffalo, New York, he grew up in Wichita, Kansas. He studied English and philosophy at Siena Heights University, earned an MFA from Eastern Washington University, and graduated with his Ph.D. from The University of Kansas. He directs the writing concentration and coordinates the visiting writers series at Gonzaga University where he is the Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Endowed Professor in the Humanities. He enjoys backpacking and fishing and spends about a month of every year in a tent.

Christina Nguyen is the Youth Speaks Seattle and Teen Leadership Coordinator for Arts Corps. She is empowered to search and find her own voice with the resilient tools and new ideas she learns every day from her family in Youth Speaks Seattle. She hopes to channel her energy to others to help find and use their own power in the voices they were born with through the magic of assisting poetry classes, listening to and asking enlightening questions to conversation, and truly believing in others. Christina has worked as a facilitator for Seattle Participatory Budgeting: Youth Voice, Youth Choice in assisting youth delegates to write and pass proposals for the homelessness crisis in Seattle.

Kris Tucker served as Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Commission for more than 15 years (1999-2014). She has served as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, an active member of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and a longtime Board member for WESTAF (Western States Arts Federation). She now is active in her community and serves as Chair for the Olympia Artspace Alliance which is working to build affordable space for artists in downtown Olympia.

Our Host:

Lucas Smiraldo is a poet, spoken word artist and frequent master of ceremonies at events. He served as the Poet Laureate for the city of Tacoma for 2014-2015, and established the Laureate Listening Project involving the poetry of over 60 citizens from throughout Tacoma. Luke serves as a Policy Analyst for the Office of Equity in the City of Tacoma, where he helps lead equity training. He recently published his first book, The Thing That Gathers, and is working on a new poetry devotional that fuses yoga postures with racial consciousness and right action titled “365 Revolutions.” Hosting Poetry Out Loud is one of the highlights of Luke’s year.
Poetry Out Loud ♦ Washington State Final ♦ March 4, 2017

Poetry Out Loud Event Staff:
Host: Lucas Smiraldo
Musicians: The Kareem Kandi Band – Kareem Kandi and Ryan Donnelly
Judges: Sarah Brauner, Ginger Ewing, Priti Joshi, Tod Marshall, Christina Nguyen, Kris Tucker
Prompter: Paul Goudarzi-Fry
Production Assistant: Mitch Berndt
Broadway Center Staff: Don Littrell, Rich Tocher, and Chris Tubig

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) Staff:
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager; Project Director for Poetry Out Loud
Judy Cullen, Poetry Out Loud State Coordinator, and Regional Coordinator for Puget Sound

Special Thanks to our Regional Partners:
Central Washington: Yakima Valley Community College
Mark Fuzie & Dan Peters, Coordinators
Southeast Washington: Educational Service District 123
Sarah Reser, Coordinator
Eastern Washington: Eastern Washington University
Kate Peterson, Coordinator
Southwest Washington: Educational Service District 112
Jodi Thomas, Coordinator
Northwest Washington: The Skagit River Poetry Project
Molly McNulty, Coordinator

Many thanks to the Lead Teachers who coordinated Poetry Out Loud in their schools:
AC Davis High School - Rebecca Hoover; Anacortes High School - Brian Backman; Annie Wright School - Annie Green; Battle Ground High School - Heather Smithline; Bellingham High School - Anna Brown; Bickleton High School - Silvia Navarre; Burlington Edison High School - Jeremy Voigt; Camas High School - Terry Nyquist; Cedar Tree Classical Christian School - David King; Central Kitsap High School – Chalen Kelly; Coupeville High School - Sandra Moore; Crosspoint Academy - Lauren Healy; Delta High School - Kelly Hamby; DeSales High School - Christine Speiss-Richard; East Valley High School - Lynda Matthews; East Valley High School - Tammy Hovren; Eastlake High School - Katherine Wold; Eatonville High School - Margie Hoffman; Eisenhower High School - Danyelle Cook; Ellensburg High School - Jon McClintick; Ephrata High School - Samantha Byam; Fort Vancouver High School - Bethany Rivard; Governor John R. Rogers High School - Nikki Shannon; Graham-Kapowsin High School - Anne Bennett; Hanford High School - Jackie Cable; Hayes Freedom High School - Stephanie Spencer; International Community School - Brynne Garman; Kamiakin High School - Joyce Donais; Lakeside High School - Alecia Sing; Liberty Bell High School - Kelly Grayum; Life Christian Academy - Danielle Graham; Mead High School - Dori Whitford; Mount Si High School - Daniel Mancoff; Mount Vernon High School - Nicole Preston; Mt Spokane High School - Susan Dunfield; Naches Valley High School - Ali Bernard; North Thurston High School - Amy Solomon-Minarchi; Oak Harbor High School – Melissa Gibson; Okanogan High School - Dennis O’Connor; Olympia High School -Carolyn Gilman; Onalaska High School - Susan Roden; Orroville High School - Hillary Fogerty; Puyallup High School - Sarah Sherry; Rainier High School - Ashley Russ; Rainbeck Aviation High School - Wayne Storer; Richland High School - Linda Staeret; Ridgefield High School - Brittany Rodin; River Ridge High School – Angelina Downs; Selah High School - Jeff Weeks; Selkirk High School - Kathy Goodnight; Shorewood High School - Timothy Murray; Squalicum High School - Amy Cashman; Stadium High School - Connie Wyma; Stanwood High School - Ella Blackwood; Stevenson High School - Becky Harmening; The Oaks Classical Christian Academy - Ben Palpant; Thomas Jefferson High School - Marilyn Schumacher; Trout Lake School - Ellen Simonis; Vancouver School of Arts and Academies - Jody Adams; Vashon Island High School - Stephen Floyd; Wenatchee High School - Michelle Smith; West Valley High School - Mark Burns; Westside High School - Mike Hartley; Windward High School - Diana Austin; Woodinville High School - Yvonne McCord

For More Information:
The National Poetry Out Loud program: www.poetryoutright.org
Primary contact person for Poetry Out Loud in Washington State: Lisa Jaret, lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov