The Washington State Arts Commission Presents:

**POETRY OUT LOUD™**

2022 Washington State Final

March 12, 2022

Hosted by Tacoma Little Theatre
Welcome to Poetry Out Loud 2022

When the Poetry Out Loud program first started in 2005, 8 schools in a single Washington county participated. This year, 38 schools from 18 counties in Washington State participated in Poetry Out Loud.

After classroom-level competitions and school-wide competitions, these schools sent their top students to participate in one of four regional finals, held virtually this year in Central, Eastern, Northwest, and Southwest.

In addition, six students from around the state registered to be part of the first ever Poetry Out Loud Virtual cohort. Under the coordination of Tacoma Little Theatre, the program was made available to individual students from non-participating schools, and home-schooled students.

Top scoring students from each of these four regions, and the virtual cohort were invited to advance to the State Final with students reciting their poems live in a limited access virtual event.

This year, nine students are competing for the title of Washington State Poetry Out Loud Champion for 2022.

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 their school library. The state champion will represent Washington State in the National Finals which is also being held virtually. The semi-finals will be streamed online Sunday, May 1st; the finals will be streamed on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

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.
About Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the classroom.

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

The COVID-19 Pandemic has meant that many competitions have been held virtually at the regional and state levels, with students reciting poems selected from an anthology of more than 1,100 classic and contemporary poems.

About ArtsWA

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.
Washington State Regional Champions

Isabela Bennett  
(POL Virtual) Colville, Stevens County

Sinai Flores  
North Thurston High School, Thurston County

Kate Gemmell  
Kamiakin High School, Benton County

Serena Jenson  
Bickleton High School, Klickitat County

Lucy Laybourn  
Lincoln High School, King County

Bela Moore  
Methow Valley Independent Learning Center, Okanogan County

Josie Rinta  
Ridgefield High School, Clark County

Lucy Shainin  
Anacortes High School, Skagit County

Malina Weigel  
Okanogan High School, Okanogan County
Welcome and Introductions
   Program Host: Zinnia Hansen

   Introductions and Program Information

   ArtsWA Arts in Education Manager: Tamar Krames

   Presentation of the Washington State Regional Champions

Recitations - Round One
   All Students recite their first poem

Recitations - Round Two
   All Students recite their second poem

   ArtsWA Executive Director: Karen Hanan

   Announcement of Three Finalists

Recitations - Round Three
   Finalists recite their third poem

Announcements and Acknowledgments
   Announcement of the 2022 Washington State Champion
Student Poem Selections

Student recitations are conducted in alphabetical order, by last name. For the first round of recitations, we go A-Z. In the second round, we start at the center of the alphabet and go to Z, followed by A-L. The finalists who advance to the third round are presented in a randomly chosen order. All poems were selected from the Poetry Out Loud anthology, available at www.poetryoutloud.org.

Isabel Bennett  
(First Recitation in Round One)

Emily Dickinson at the Poetry Slam by Dan Vera  
Invictus by William Earnest Henley  
Mansplaining by Jennifer Militello

Sinai Flores

Burning In The Rain by Richard Blanco  
Songs For The People by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper  
Ars Poetica by José Olivarez

Kate Gemmell

This is the Honey by Mahogany L. Browne  
Siren Song by Margaret Atwood  
The Glories of Our Blood and State by James Shirley

Serena Jensen

Cartoon Physics, part 1 by Nick Flynn  
The Lyric in a Time of War by Eloise Klein Healy  
The Destruction of Sennacherib by Lord Byron (George Gordon)

Lucy Laybourn

And Soul by Eavan Boland  
Much Madness is divinest Sense - (620) by Emily Dickinson **  
the world is about to end and my grandparents are in love  
by Kara Jackson
Bela Moore
(First Recitation in Round Two)

One Art by Elizabeth Bishop  **
That’s My Heart Right There by Willy Perdomo
Songs For The People by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Josie Rinta

Sanctuary by Jean Valentine
Ode to the Midwest by Kevin Young
Fate by Carolyn Wells

Lucy Shainin

They Are Hostile Nations by Margaret Atwood
Say not the Struggle nought Availeth by Arthur Hugh Clough
This is the Honey by Mahogany L. Browne

Malina Weigel

A Thank-You Note by Michael Ryan
Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold
Let Me Tell You What a Poem Brings by Juan Felipe-Herrera

Click on the titles of the poems to be directed to the text of the poem, or the name of the poet to read their biography.

** These poems are not permitted for live broadcast.

State Finalist Anneka Siems at the 2019 State Final Competition
Poetry Out Loud Biographies

Zinnia Hansen, Host
Zinnia is the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate for 2021-22, a program sponsored by Seattle Arts & Lectures. She is a poet and essayist from the Pacific Northwest and a first year student at the University of Washington, studying linguistics. She is the 2021-2022 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. Her work has been published in various magazines and online publications, including the Blue Marble Review, Young Poets Network, and Ice Lolly Review. She was a finalist in the New York Times Personal Narrative Contest and part of the Hugo House Young Poet’s Cohort. She is in the process of writing a book, of amassing an archive of things she holds holy, which will be published June 2022.

Heidi Aijala, Judge
Heidi is the Associate Director of Secondary ELA at OSPI. She has over a decade of classroom experience at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Heidi holds a Ph.D. in English and a master’s degree in teaching. Her scholarly work and pedagogical focus are invested in issues of equity, inclusion, and social justice. Moreover, as a first-generation college student, Heidi is passionate about advocating for the economic, social, and civic benefits of education.

Lee Lyttle, Judge
Lee is a currently serving Washington State Arts Commissioner with previous service as an Olympia Arts Commissioner. He has over 25 years higher education teaching experience including service as Dean of First Years Studies, Director of the Masters in Public Administration program, Dean of Evening and Weekend Studies, and Dean of Library and Media Services at The Evergreen State College. His background includes international development work with the United Nations and the US Peace Corps. Lee holds a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts: Architecture, as well master’s
degrees in Public Administration, Urban Planning, and Library & Information Sciences.

**Matt Malyon, Judge**
Matt lives in Washington with his family. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia, and is the founding Executive Director of *Underground Writing*, a literature-based arts non-profit serving migrant, incarcerated, recovery, and other at-risk communities in Washington through literacy and voice amplification. His poetry has received a Pushcart Prize nomination and has appeared in a variety of publications and anthologies. He serves as a Mentor in the PEN Prison Writing Program, and recently founded the *One Year Writing in the Margins* initiative.

**Ashly McBunch, Judge**
Ashly is originally from the Midwest and moved to Olympia in 2017 when they were stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord. An Army retired veteran, Ashly spent many years writing for a creative outlet. They enjoy the aspects of creative collaboration, performance and use of intuitive guidance to bring out artistic expression that leads towards healing, growth, introspection and fun. They believe art is a tree with many creative branches that connects us all through the same nurturing soil. They are excited about exploring these inclusive artful branches with poetry and raising the poetic voices of Olympia.

**Rena Priest, Judge**
Rena is a Poet and an enrolled member of the Lhaq’temish (Lummi) Nation. She has been appointed to serve as the Washington State Poet Laureate for the term of April 2021-2023. She is a Vadon Foundation Fellow, and recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award. Her debut collection, *Patriarchy Blues* was published by MoonPath Press and received an American Book Award. She is a National Geographic Explorer (2018-2020) and a Jack Straw Writer (2019). She holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.
The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra, Music

The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality performances and music education to communities around the globe. Through concerts, workshops, composing, recording, and cultural exchanges The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra brings people together through the broad scope of music and the jazz art form.

Special thanks to the Washington’s 2021-22 Poetry Out Loud Leadership and Regional Partners:

Central Washington
Yakima Valley College: Mark Fuzie, Melanie Cole, Coordinators

Eastern Washington
Spokane Arts: Melissa Huggins & Casey Patrick, Coordinators

Northwest Washington
The Skagit River Poetry Foundation: Molly McNulty, Coordinator

POL Virtual
Tacoma Little Theatre: Brynne Garman, Coordinator

Southwest Washington
Educational Service District 112: Mika Yoshida, Allison Klump, and Heidi Barnes, Coordinators

Poetry Out Loud Teacher Liaisons
Dori Whitford, Mead High School, Spokane – East Washington
Amy Solo, North Thurston High School, Lacey – West Washington
Many thanks to the teachers who coordinated *Poetry Out Loud* at their school this year:

**Central**
Bickleton High School, Silvia Navarre; Delta High School, Carol Rivera; Ellensburg High School, Lorraine Barlow; Kamiakin High School, Joyce Donais; Richland High School, Jason Allen; Naches Valley High School; Ali Bernard

**Eastern**
DeSales High School, Christine Speiss-Richard; Lakeside High School, Alecia Sing; Liberty Bell High School, Kelly Grayum; Mead High School, Dori Whitford; Methow Valley Independent Learning Center, Kim Odell; Mt Spokane High School, Susan Best; Okanogan High School, Dennis O’Connor; The Oaks Classical Christian Academy, Emily Woodrooff

**Northwest**
Anacortes High School, Brian Backman; Annie Wright School: Upper School for Boys and Upper School for Girls, Robert Scotlan; Concordia Christian Academy, Nikki Shannon; Crosspoint Academy, Lauren Healy; Eastlake High School, Cleo Rohn; Lincoln High School, Wayne Storer; Mercer Island High School, Jane Stafford; Mount Si High School, Daniel Mancuff; Quilcene High School, Camille Hildebrandt; Sequim High School, Sean O’Mera; Shorewood High School, Tim Murray; Squalicum High School, Joe McAuliffe

**Southwest**
Battle Ground High School, Heather Smithline; Camas High School, Sam Greene; Cedar Tree Classical Christian School, David King; Heritage High School, Steven Massart; Kalama High School, Joshua Reed; North Thurston High School, Amy Solo; Olympia High School, Carolyn Gilman; Ridgefield High School, Brittany Rodin; River Ridge High School, Angelina Downs; Stadium High School, Liz Jacobsen; Stevenson High School, Becky Harmening
Production Credits

Host
Zinnia Hansen

Judges
Heidi Aijala, Lee Lyttle, Matt Maylon, Ashly McBunch, Rena Priest

Music
The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra: Kareem Kandi, Saxophone; Greg Feingold, Bass

Tacoma Little Theatre
Chris Serface, Managing Artistic Director
Dylan Twiner, Production Manager

Photography
Pavel Verbovski

Washington State Arts Commission Staff
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager
Judy Cullen, Poetry Out Loud State Coordinator
Audrey Molloy, Coordinator, Arts in Education
Michael Wallenfels, Communication Manager
Annette Roth, Program Manager Creative Districts

With Additional Support from
Anna Fulford, Community Investments Special Programs Coordinator
Alexis Sarah, Arts in Education - Early Learning Project Manager
The Poetry Out Loud Washington State Final is presented by the Washington State Arts Commission, with support from the following partners:

**National Endowment for the Arts**

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than $5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities.

https://www.arts.gov/The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

**Poetry Foundation**

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry Magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audiences.

**Special Thanks to**

Write253 and Line Break Press for the creation of custom letterpress prints to recognize this year’s State Finalists.

Suzy Willhoft for her continued support

**For More Information:**

The National Poetry Out Loud Program: [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)


Primary contact for Poetry Out Loud in Washington State: Tamar Krames, tamar.krames@arts.wa.gov