

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](http://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

# Washington State Final Program



2021 Poetry Out Loud State Final studio recording. Photo by Pavel Verbovski.

## 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](http://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 Aneka 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 Mancoff; 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)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA): [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov)

Primary contact for *Poetry Out Loud* in Washington State: Tamar Krames, [tamar.krames@arts.wa.gov](mailto:tamar.krames@arts.wa.gov)