



What is the Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate Program?

The Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate Program aims to identify young writers and leaders who are committed to civic & community engagement, poetry & performance, human relations, diversity, social justice and education across Metro Atlanta.

Timeline: March 2023 – May 2023

Who's Eligible:

- Residents of the Metro Atlanta Area (ie: Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton, Cobb, or Gwinnett county)
- Teens 13-18 years of age
- Teens with an interest in poetry writing and performance, as well as a demonstrated interest in community engagement and youth empowerment

YPL Benefits:

- Serve as a representative for youth voice and poetry in Metro Atlanta (access to performances, readings, etc.)
- Be published in the National Urban Word Youth Poet Laureate Anthology
- Eligible to compete in the regional and national Youth Poet Laureate competitions and all national Youth Poet Laureate programming with other youth across the country

- Option to receive either a \$500 prize or the resources to self-publish and print your own chapbook

Application Process:

1. Fill out the application [here](#)
2. Applicants are required to:
 - Submit 5 original works of poetry
 - Submit a resume, CV, or brag sheet detailing the applicant's accomplishments, community service, after-school program participation, awards, or anything else the applicant wishes to highlight about themselves
 - Submit adequate responses to all application questions
3. After the submission period has closed, the applicant pool will be narrowed to five finalists by community judges. The five finalists will then be invited to compete in a slam at our Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13, 2023. This slam will take place in Atlanta, GA. All five finalists will have to be present to be honored at the event for their commitment to community and the arts. However, at the conclusion of the event, the 2023 Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate will be chosen.

Current and Previous Atlanta Youth Poet Laureates:

Jayla Jackson 2022-present
[Aanika Eragam](#) – 2021 – 2022
[Nathan Wallace](#) – 2019- 2020
[Ogechi Ofodu](#) – 2017- 2018
[Ninel Nekay](#) – 2016-2017
Kenny Buckner – 2015