



## YOUTH POET LAUREATE LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY CHAPTER

The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning is proud to announce its continuation of Kentucky's first Youth Poet Laureate chapter in Fayette County. This prestigious program, in partnership with Urban Word NYC and the Kentucky Arts Council, is designed to honor young writers and leaders in Kentucky between the ages of 13-18, who are committed to making a civic impact through community engagement utilizing the power of their written and spoken words. We strongly believe that when we honor young people and give them this kind of office, the community is more likely to listen to what they have to say. The submission period for Fayette County Youth Poet Laureate applications is from August 14 through October 31, 2023.

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

The National Youth Poet Laureate Program is an initiative of Urban Word (UW), in collaboration with local youth literary arts organizations across the country, The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and championed by the leading national literary organizations, including the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America, PEN Center USA, and Cave Canem.

### HISTORY

In 2008, Urban Word launched the program, the nation's first ever, in partnership with the NYC Voters Assistance Commission and the NYC Mayor's Office. Urban Word has since honored eight Youth Poet Laureates in New York City, each having released his or her own debut collection of poetry through Penmanship Books. Penmanship Books is a local literary publisher based in Brooklyn, New York, and headed by poet and Urban Word Artistic Director, Mahogany L. Browne. In 2013, Urban Word partnered with six of the top youth literary arts organizations in Los Angeles to launch the first- ever LA Youth Poet Laureate program and announced the inaugural Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate. Since then, Urban Word has partnered with leading youth literary arts organizations to launch Youth Poet Laureate Programs in 35 more cities across the country and counting.

Founded with the commitment to create elevated platforms to celebrate the intersection of artistic achievement and social impact, Urban Word partners with local literary arts organizations

with mission-based commitments to marginalized youth and people of color, diverse artist-led organizations, and organizations that value youth leadership. Read more about the National Youth Poet Laureate Program here: <https://www.youthlaureate.org/home>



LEXINGTON YOUTH POET LAUREATE  
*2023 PROGRAM YEAR*

## LEXINGTON YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Complete application and timeline of events for the Lexington Youth Poet Laureate program is available on our website, [www.carnegiecenterlex.org/youth-poet-laureate/](http://www.carnegiecenterlex.org/youth-poet-laureate/). Submissions will open on August 14, 2023, and the first Lexington Youth Poet Laureate will be announced in December 2023 following a commencement ceremony. The Lexington Youth Poet Laureate will receive a cash prize, an opportunity to complete their own community project, publication in a national anthology and a local chapbook, as well as the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentoring from renown published writers in Kentucky. The Lexington Youth Poet Laureate will also be eligible to apply to Regional Youth Poet Laureate competitions. A regional Youth Poet Laureate is selected to be the National Youth Poet Laureate.

## NOMINATION

The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning and the Kentucky Arts Council seeks applications for the position of Fayette County Youth Poet Laureate. The person selected will strive to advance awareness of and appreciation for literary arts and humanities within Fayette County. As both a resident and emerging poet, the Youth Poet Laureate shall represent and celebrate the diversity and vision of the youth in Fayette County. As a representative of the county's literary community, the Youth Poet Laureate shall endeavor to promote a wide range of literary arts within the county and shall actively participate in ceremonial, educational and cultural activities throughout the county at various times in his or her term of service.

### Who May Be Nominated

- Be a current resident of the county of Fayette
- Be a youth poet who meets the selection criteria listed below
- Fayette County Youth Poet Laureate nominations or applications may come from any organization or individual

### Selection Criteria

- Must be between the ages of 13 and 18
- An established presence and history of involvement in the Fayette County literary arts community, volunteer and community service, and clubs, sports, after school activities, and extra academic activities

## THE REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Youth Poet Laureate Selection Committee shall review the nomination, application materials, and candidate poets, and recommend one or more for consideration. This committee



LEXINGTON YOUTH POET LAUREATE  
*2023 PROGRAM YEAR*

will be comprised of Kentucky writers, educators, social justice advocates, and will make the final appointment of the Youth Poet Laureate. The Committee may seek additional information or clarification from nominees or applicants once respective poet's materials have been submitted and may conduct interviews of some or all candidates before making its recommendations.

## TERM OF SERVICE AND EXPECTATIONS

The Youth Poet Laureate of Fayette County is an honorary position. The individual appointed will serve a one-year term, commencing in December 2023.

As a condition of appointment, the Youth Poet Laureate will participate in a minimum of four public functions throughout the one-year term of service. This can include, but is not limited to, the Youth Poet Laureate involvement with local colleges and high schools; they can endeavor to create or facilitate virtual workshops and readings that will bring the Youth Poet Laureate into contact with students of all ages, and the public in a variety of contexts. To the extent possible, the Youth Poet Laureate will work with other regional Poet Laureates to establish activities/programs to coincide with their term of service to promote community awareness of the literary arts, and to encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

## HONORARIUM

The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium, a project budget, a professional chapbook featuring their work, as well as access to free writing courses at the Carnegie Center, and a one-on-one writing mentor.

## APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

Interested applicants will be asked to submit a resume/CV with up to 3 poems (no more than 10 pages) attached and/or YouTube links to readings and performances of your original work. The Fayette County Youth Poet Laureate will be announced following a public (in person or virtual, to be determined) poetry event in December 2023.

Complete application materials and timeline of events may be found on our website <https://carnegiecenterlex.org/youth-poet-laureate/>.

Completed applications should be submitted online or emailed to [YPLex@carnegiecenterlex.org](mailto:YPLex@carnegiecenterlex.org). If email is not possible, mailed nominations must be postmarked on or before the stated deadline: October 31, 2023 (Materials submitted will not be returned).



LEXINGTON YOUTH POET LAUREATE  
*2023 PROGRAM YEAR*

Application Mailing Address:

Lexington Youth Poet Laureate  
Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning  
251 West Second St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

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Phone: (859) 254-4175 ext. 28

Email: [YPLex@carnegiecenterlex.org](mailto:YPLex@carnegiecenterlex.org)