

**VOX**ATL



**CALLING ALL POETS,  
SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS,  
EMCEES & WRITERS**

**WIN A CHANCE**

**TO REPRESENT ATLANTA, AS  
ATLANTA'S YOUTH POET LAUREATE**

★ **WIN A BOOK DEAL TO PUBLISH  
YOUR FIRST BOOK, PERFORM &  
TOUR THE CITY**

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



The finalist will perform and be honored at the Vox-a-palooza Youth Poet Laureate Commencement Performance on April 29th at:  
The Phillip Rush Center 1530 Dekalb Avenue NE, Suite A Atlanta, GA 30307  
Free Admission.



The Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate is a joint program of Urban Word NYC and VOX Teen Communications with support from Penmanship Books, the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America and Cave Canem. 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 Atlanta.

From February 18th through March 24th, VOX Teen Communications will accept submissions from young poets, rappers, leaders and activists ages 13-19 from across Atlanta who are interested in representing Atlanta as the 2017 Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate. A group of esteemed judges will choose three Finalists, all given the distinction of Atlanta Youth Poet Ambassador and the opportunity on Wednesday, April 12th, to be invited for the in-person component of the selection process where the judges will meet them and hear them perform a poem in conjunction with the final Atlanta Word Works workshop of the school year. We will then select one teen to be honored with the title of Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate which will be announced at Atlanta's Youth Poet Laureate Commencement Performance on {April 29, 2017} at our VOX-a-palooza event, at which we will also have the final round of auditions for the Atlanta Brave New Voices team@ **The Phillip Rush Center, 1530 Dekalb Avenue NE, Suite A, Atlanta, GA 30307.**

Along with winning the prestigious title of Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate, the winning poet will also win a book deal from Penmanship Books to publish their first collection of poems, as well as a library tour. The Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate and Atlanta Poet Ambassadors will have numerous opportunities and platforms to share their powerful voices, their leadership, and love of Atlanta at numerous events across the state. Urban Word and our other partners recognize that youth voice and community engagement are vital for empowering young people to effect positive changes in their communities and beyond. Local and national partners include the WonderRoot, Penmanship Books, the Academy of American Poets, Poetry Society of America and Cave Canem.

By applying to the Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate program, teens agree that the content submitted to VOX via email is their original work, and that VOX has permission to publish those works on **VOXatl.com** and promote it on VOX's social media platforms.



## CONTEST RULES/HOW to APPLY

### 2016 – 2017 Atlanta, Georgia Submission Guidelines:

1. Applicants must be current residents of the 5-county metro Atlanta area and between the ages of 13-19 years old.
2. Starting Saturday, February 18, 2017, please submit 5 original poems / raps / performances (and / or YouTube Links to your poems).
3. Include a resume that has your name, address, phone number and email, AS WELL AS detailing all of your accomplishments, community service, after school programs, volunteer experiences and awards.
4. ONCE you are ready, you can submit your documents via email to **AtlantaWordWorks@VoxAtl.org**. Your entire application is due March 24, 2017. The 2016-2017 Atlanta Youth Poet Laureate will win a book deal from Penmanship Books, conduct a reading tour and make special appearances throughout Atlanta for one (1) year.



Note: This RESUME Template is to help you in the process; however, if you want to use your own, feel free to email that (+ your 5 poems or YouTube links) to [atlantawordworks@voxatl.org](mailto:atlantawordworks@voxatl.org). This resume is an opportunity to share everything you have done, so put it all in there. Feel free to BRAG about yourself and your accomplishments!

Please write CLEARLY or Type All Information

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

IF APPLICANT IS UNDER 18, PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT EMAIL, IF APPLICABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

---

---

---

---

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE:

---

---

---

CLUBS/SPORTS/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

---

---

---

ANYTHING ELSE?

---

---

**PLEASE EMAIL this form (or use your own Resume/CV) as an ATTACHMENT  
+5 poems and/or YouTube links to [atlantawordworks@voxatl.org](mailto:atlantawordworks@voxatl.org).**

*Good Luck!*

# ESTEEMED JUDGES



**Ryan Jones** is a Mercer University Alumnus, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering and a Master's Degree in Engineering Management. Ryan began performing spoken word in 2012 after joining the B.L.A.C.K Poets in Macon, GA. In 2014, Ryan co-founded Mercer University's premiere spoken word organization on their campus, Point B.L.A.N.K. After entering and winning his first competitive poetry slam that same year (Bad Mamma Jamma Slam, Hosted by A.A.C. in Milledgeville), Ryan helped to lead Mercer University's inaugural poetry slam team to the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational in 2015, where they placed 20th in the nation for collegiate spoken word. In 2016, Ryan founded HomeGrown Poetry, a poetry outlet focused on uplifting and promoting the voices of spoken word artists in the south-east. Ryan is currently based in Snellville, GA and is dedicated to community and youth outreach through Spoken Word and other performative arts.

**Stephanie Kong** is the Programs Director at WonderRoot. With a background in social work and education, Stephanie integrates anti-bias practices, multiple intelligences, and conflict resolution into her work. She has presented at the National Education Alliance for Young Children in 2013 and 2014 on her approach to working with young children. Stephanie is a 2016 alum of the Art Leaders of Metro Atlanta, and she is currently participating in the Georgia Center for Nonprofits' *Momentum* and the Arthur M. Blank Foundation's *Art of Change*. In her free time, Stephanie and her partner run The Humble Telescopes, an initiative to expand the capacity of homeless and at-risk youth-serving organizations and to further develop their clients' wellbeing and safety through the arts.



**Ninel NeKay** is a nationally recognized writer, entertainer, and teaching artist based in Atlanta, Georgia. Although, obsessed with all genres of self-expression, Ninel discovered sanctuary within the bounds of creative writing and theater performance all by the impressionable age of 16. By her 18th year, Ninel had already accumulated a regalia of achievements as well as national acknowledgments for her artistic endeavors. From placing third in the world for performance poetry at The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts to winning a book deal and being crowned Atlanta's Youth Poet Laureate, Ninel reigns as a seasoned artist within her community. Not only does she command the attention of spectators around the world, but she also dedicates her time to coaching others on uncovering their inner artist by facilitating workshops that focus on reclamation, self-discovery, and creative evolution. To be forthright and without filler, Ninel NeKay utilizes her talent as a means to form artwork that evokes an exchange of human connection, genuine empathy, and stories told in a manner that proves her to be an old soul, one well beyond her time.

**Nicki Salcedo** is an Atlanta native and graduate of Stanford University. She is the author of ALL BEAUTIFUL THINGS, INTERSECTIONS, and ECHOES OF THE SAME. She writes for locally-sourced news sites Decaturish and AtlantaLoop. Nicki thinks everyone should write and loves connecting with readers. You can find her on social media or at <http://www.nickisalcedo.com>.



**Christian Stallworth** is a sophomore at Georgia State University. She is a part of VOXATL, Atlanta's home for uncensored publishing and self-expression, and while at VOX, she has created and facilitated a Creative writing workshop, submitted many poems, been a part of countless open mics, and has become an expert at public speaking. As the Atlanta Teen Voices editor at VOX, she works alongside Sarah Garnitz to conduct community workshops and guide poets in the right direction. She has been writing poetry since she was very young and is an advocate for bringing the weirdness and the darkness out of poetry. Her passion is creating eclectic poetry styles and reflecting her deepest emotions in her work. She believes that she can teach anyone to write poetry, if they only have the right mindset.

For more information or to support this work email: [atlantawordworks@voxatl.org](mailto:atlantawordworks@voxatl.org)

**VOX TEEN COMMUNICATIONS & URBAN WORD** would like to thank our partners:

