Ventura County Youth Poet Laureate 2019
www.VCArtsCouncil.org

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will use the following criteria to evaluate applicants to the Ventura County Youth Poet Laureate program.

Categories

Content
The poet's ability to examine his/her/their personal truths and make connections to larger community.

Craft
The poet's command of poetic craft and purposeful breaks with convention.

Voice
The poet's ability to write both honestly and authentically.

Leadership (final round only)
The poet's potential for leading, inspiring, mentoring and representing Ventura county and its youth.

Performance (final round only)
How the poet breathes life into the poem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Cannot Be Determined</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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Use the above scale to respond to the criteria sections below.
Content
The poet’s ability to examine his/her/their personal truths and make connections to larger community.

Content Qualities

● The poem engages in the process of sharing the poet’s personal truths and resonates a sincere expression of his/her/their ambitions and beliefs.
● The poet critically investigates the status quo, societal norms, assumptions, and/or dominant beliefs.
● The poet is able to recognize him/her/themselves as a valuable member of their community and brings up issues or questions that concern that community, particularly other young people.
● The poet reflects an awareness of his/her/their ongoing responsibilities as a citizen of the world.
● The poet’s work serves as a call to action for an issue(s) impacting Ventura county and/or Ventura county youth today.

Craft
The poet’s command of aspects of poetic craft and purposeful break with convention.

Craft Qualities

● The poet shows a command of language, rhythm, symbolism, metaphor, form and other poetic devices as creative tools.
● The poet intentionally plays with or manipulates traditional literary convention (i.e. spelling, grammar, verb tense) to highlight lines or ideas.
● The poet’s voice is consistent throughout the poem.
Voice
The poet's ability to write both honestly and authentically.

Voice Qualities
- The poet’s work evokes emotion.
- The poet conveys a strong viewpoint or a deep consideration of the subject matter.
- The poem could inspire young people across boundaries of race, class, gender, orientation, religion, geography, etc.
- The poet risks something; tackles a personally difficult or controversial subject with boldness and insight.
- The poet conveys his/her/their experience in an honest, original way.
- The poet gives proper credit to the source if another artist’s work is sampled in a poem and/or uses quotation marks to indicate borrowed text.

<table>
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<th>VOICE Score (for each poem)</th>
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<table>
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<th>POEM TOTAL (Content + Craft + Voice)</th>
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<th>FIRST ROUND TOTAL (Total of all three applicant’s poems)</th>
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Final Round

Leadership (final round only)
The poet's potential for leading, inspiring, mentoring and representing Ventura county and its youth.

Leadership Qualities

- The poet has experience or potential to inspire others to write, read, and listen to poetry.
- The poet uses his/her/their art to foster a culture that celebrates voice and empowers creative expression.
- The poet has the ability or the potential to speak for and about Ventura county and its youth in front of a variety of audiences.
- The poet has an interest in community service, education and improvement, and an ability to represent a collective and speak beyond their own self-interest to include the interests, struggles, and concerns of their community and the world.

LEADERSHIP Score

Performance (final round only)
How the poet breathes life into the poem.

Performance Qualities

- The performance of the poem elicits an emotional response.
- The poet’s presence is made strong by his/her/their use of eye contact, confidence, and ability to engage with the audience.
- The poet’s voice is clear and easy to understand. The poet utilizes the microphone appropriately to project their voice.
- The poet uses their body and movement to fortify the poem.
- The poet’s language is fluid and fluent.

PERFORMANCE Score

FINAL ROUND TOTAL (Leadership + Performance)

FINALIST'S TOTAL (First Round Total + Final Round Total)