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Los Angeles Public Library Invites Teens to Free Poetry Workshops Win a Book Deal in Youth Poet Laureate Contest

LOS ANGELES (April 8, 2016) – In honor of National Poetry Month, the Los Angeles Public Library invites teens to attend free poetry workshops at six of its 73 libraries. Experienced poets will lead two-hour workshops to show participants how to bring their work to the next level. Each workshop will include a performance by teen poets and spoken word artists.

The participating branches will also hold portfolio-building workshops where students can build resumes and receive help on entering the Youth Poet Laureate contest. Twelve contest finalists will perform at Central Library on June 4, 2016. The winner will be named LA Youth Poet Laureate for 2017 and will receive a book deal to publish their first book of poetry.

Find workshops at the following branches:

- **Chatsworth Branch**, 21052 Devonshire St., Chatsworth
Part I: April 21, 4:00 p.m. & Part II: April 23, 1:00 p.m.
- **El Sereno Branch**, 5226 Huntington Drive, Los Angeles
Part I: April 23, 3:00 p.m. & Part II: April 30, 3:00 p.m.
- **Hyde Park Branch**, 2205 Florence Ave., Los Angeles
Part I: April 16, 11 a.m. & Part II: April 23, 1:00 p.m.
- **Memorial Branch**, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles
Part I: April 11, 4:00 p.m. & Part II: April 25, 4:00 p.m.

(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

- **Pacoima Branch**, 13605 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima
Part I: April 16, 12 noon & Part II: April 19, 4:00 p.m.
- **Vernon Branch**, 4504 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles
Part I: April 14, 5:00 p.m. & Part II: April 28, 5:00 p.m.

The Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate is a program of Urban Word Los Angeles, and is supported by Los Angeles Public Library, the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, PEN Center USA and the Academy of American Poets. For more information on the contest, visit www.urbanword.org/la.

A 2015 recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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