

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT

**POETRY**

**OUT  
LOUD**



TM

**2022 NATIONAL  
FINALS**

WEBCAST AT  
**arts.gov**

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the state and jurisdictional arts agencies of the United States. The Poetry Out Loud National Finals are administered by Mid Atlantic Arts.

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Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more.



The **Poetry Foundation**, publisher of *Poetry* magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative partnerships, prizes, and programs. Visit [poetryfoundation.org](https://www.poetryfoundation.org) to learn more.



**Mid Atlantic Arts** supports artists, presenters, and organizations through unique programming, grant support, partnerships, and information sharing. Created in 1979, Mid Atlantic Arts is aligned with the region's state arts councils and the National Endowment for the Arts. We combine state and federal funding with private support from corporations, foundations, and individuals to nurture diverse artistic expression while connecting people to meaningful arts experiences within our region and beyond. Visit [midatlanticarts.org](https://www.midatlanticarts.org) to learn more.

# Poetry Out Loud, 2005-2022

## ROBERT FROST

The most searched for poet on poetryoutloud.org from September 2021 to March 2022

## “CAGED BIRD” BY MAYA ANGELOU

The most viewed poem on poetryoutloud.org from September 2021 to March 2022

## 4 MILLION+

Total number of students participating since 2005

## BILLY COLLINS

The poet with the most number of different poems recited at the National Finals since 2005 (six different poems)

## 17,000+

Total number of schools participating in POL since 2005

## “DOVER BEACH” BY MATTHEW ARNOLD

The most recited poem during the Poetry Out Loud National Finals since 2005

In 2005, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation partnered on a program that would help students master public speaking, build self-confidence, and learn more about their literary heritage, all through a dynamic poetry recitation competition. The program was piloted in Washington, DC, and Chicago, Illinois, and spread nationally during the 2005-2006 school year through partnerships with the state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Today, Poetry Out Loud is in all 50 states, American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with more than four million students participating over the past 17 years.

Want to learn more about Poetry Out Loud? Free materials, including the online anthology of poems, are all available at [poetryoutloud.org](https://poetryoutloud.org) along with contact information for each state on how to sign up for the 2022-2023 program.

**“Being able to get to know these different poets and their different poems, it really helps me understand the multitude of perspectives that exist in this world, and I think that’s a really beautiful thing.”**

—2021 Poetry Out Loud National Champion Rahele Megosha

# SEMIFINALS

## May 1

Student recitations were remotely recorded in early spring. Judges gathered virtually to watch the recitations and independently score each video recitation based solely on the official Poetry Out Loud evaluation criteria. The order of recitation was randomly generated and consistent for all three rounds of recitation.

### Welcome and Introductions

Lauren Miller  
National Endowment for the Arts

Justine Haka  
Poetry Foundation

### Semifinal 1 12:00 pm ET

Hosted by Sarah Anne Sillers

### Semifinal 2 3:00 pm ET

Hosted by Rayanne Gonzales

### Semifinal 3 6:00 pm ET

Hosted by Josephine Reed

Each semifinal will follow this schedule:

### First Round of Recitations

### Second Round of Recitations

### Announcement of Regional Finalists

(Top eight competitors in each semifinal will recite a third poem)

### Third Round of Recitations

### Announcement of National Finalists

(Top three competitors in each semifinal will advance to the National Finals)



## HOSTS



Photo by AM | CO Arts & Design

**SARAH ANNE SILLERS** is a Helen Hayes Award-nominated actor and vocalist based in the Washington, DC area. Sillers has performed at over a dozen venues throughout the region including Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, NextStop Theatre Company, Monumental Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, the Music Center at Strathmore, and others. Find her on Instagram @sarah.anne.sillers or on her website, [www.sarahannesillers.com](http://www.sarahannesillers.com).



Photo courtesy of Rayanne Gonzales

**RAYANNE GONZALES** is a Helen Hayes Award Winning actress and has appeared on Broadway (*Phantom of the Opera*), film & TV (*In the Heights*, *Sound of Music Live*), and across the U.S. and abroad on stage in opera, musicals, and plays. Select credits include: *Mystic Pizza* (world premiere, Ogunquit Playhouse); *A Christmas Carol* (Ford's Theatre); *Anastasia* (world premiere, Hartford Stage); *In the Heights* (Olney Theatre Center, Walnut Street, Sacramento Music Circus); *Destiny of Desire* (world premiere, Arena Stage); and *Daphne's Dive* (Signature Theatre).



Photo courtesy of Josephine Reed

**JOSEPHINE REED** is the media producer for the Public Affairs office at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She produces and hosts the NEA's weekly podcast, *Art Works*, a program that features interviews with artists and creative thinkers. Before coming to the NEA, Reed directed XM Satellite Radio's book and contemporary theater channel and hosted the program *Writers on Writing*. In partnership with the NEA, Reed also created the series *The Big Read* on XM. Passionate about language, she has interviewed writers of all genres throughout her career, including novelists, historians, playwrights, and poets.

## JUDGES

### Semifinal 1



Photo by Victor Jorge Sanchez

**JOSE HERNANDEZ DIAZ** is a 2017 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellow in Poetry and is from Norwalk, California. He is the author of a collection of prose poems, *The Fire Eater* (Texas Review Press, 2020). His work appears in the *American Poetry Review*, *Boulevard*, *Colorado Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Huizache*, *Iowa Review*, the *Missouri Review*, the *Nation*, *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*,

*Southeast Review*, *Yale Review*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011*. He teaches creative writing online and edits for *Frontier Poetry*.



Photo courtesy of Kristen Jackson

**KRISTEN JACKSON** currently serves as connectivity director for Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, DC. She earned her MA from University of Texas-Austin in performance as public practice and a BA in theater studies and English from Duke University. In 2016, Jackson was recognized as an exceptionally talented early-career leader of color by the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for professional theater, and was selected to participate in TCG's inaugural Rising Leaders of Color program.



Photo courtesy of Raquel Salas Rivera

**RAQUEL SALAS RIVERA** is a Puerto Rican poet, translator, and editor. His honors include being named Poet Laureate of Philadelphia, the New Voices Award from the Festival de la Palabra, the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry, the inaugural Ambroggio Prize, the Laureate Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship to translate the poetry of his grandfather, Sotero Rivera Avilés. He is the author of six full-length poetry books, which have been longlisted and shortlisted for the National Book Award, the Pen America Open

Book Award, and the CLMP Firecracker Award. With a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation, he serves as investigator and head of the translation team for *El proyecto de la literatura puertorriqueña/The Puerto Rican Literature Project* (PRLP), a free, bilingual, user-friendly, and open-access digital portal that anyone can use to learn about and teach Puerto Rican poetry.



Photo by Sarah Phillips

**ARHM CHOI WILD** is the author of *Cut to Bloom* (Write Bloody, 2020), the winner of the 2019 Write Bloody Prize. Wild received an MFA in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College and their work appears or is forthcoming in *Barrow Street*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Pleiades*, *Split this Rock*, *Blackbird*, and others. They were shortlisted for the Poetry International Prize and have received fellowships from Kundiman, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. They work as the director of the Progressive Teaching Institute and as a diversity coordinator at a school in New York City.

## Semifinal 2



Photo by Noah Barker

**THOMAS DOOLEY** is the author of *Trespass* (Harper Perennial, 2014), selected by the National Poetry Series. He is the founding artistic director of Poetry Well,

an organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting poetry as a vital part of our individual and collective wellness. For the past decade, Dooley has pioneered the medical humanities in hospitals and clinics, and has been invited to present internationally on the intersections of illness and poetry. He is the inaugural resident poet at the Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion at University of California San Diego, developing humanities curricula and arts programming, while collaborating with scientists and researchers on the interconnectedness of poetry and empathy.



Photo courtesy of Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley

**BENJAMÍN NAKA-HASEBE KINGSLEY** is not the Ben Kingsley best known for his Academy Award-winning role as Mahatma Gandhi. This Kingsley is a touch less famous, having not acted since his third-grade debut as the Undertaker in *The Music Man*. He belongs to the Onondaga Nation of Indigenous Americans in New York. Affrilachian author and Kundiman alum, Kingsley is the author of *Your Mama's Melting Pot* (University of Nebraska Press, 2018), *Colonize Me* (Saturnalia Books, 2019), and *Démos* (Milkweed Editions, 2021). You can find his recent work in *The BreakBeat Poets: LatíNEXT*, *Native Voices: Honoring Indigenous Poetry*, the *Georgia Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Oxford American*, *Poetry*, and *Tin House*. He is an assistant professor of poetry and nonfiction in Old Dominion University's MFA program.



Photo by Fid Thompson

**GOWRI KONESWARAN** is a queer Tamil writer, performing artist, teacher, and lawyer. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, *Adi Magazine*, *Lantern Review*, Split This Rock's *The Quarry*, and the *Margins*. She previously served as senior poetry editor at *Jaggery* and co-editor of *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*. Koneswaran has performed her poetry at Lincoln Center Out of Doors, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Smithsonian Asian American Literature Festival, Capital Fringe Festival, SpokenWord Paris, and universities in the U.S. and Canada. A fellow of the Asian American literary organization, Kundiman, she received the 2021 Nella Larsen Memorial Scholarship from the Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference and a 2021 Tanne Foundation Award.



Photo by Tasha Gorel

**JASMINNE MENDEZ** is a Dominican American poet, playwright, translator, and award-winning author of several books for children and adults. She is the author of two hybrid memoirs, *Island of Dreams* (Floricanto Press, 2013), winner of an International Latino Book Award, and *Night-Blooming Jasmin(n)e: Personal Essays and Poetry* (Arte Público Press, 2018). Her second young adult memoir, *Islands Apart*:

*Becoming Dominican American* (Arte Público Press), is forthcoming in May 2022 and her debut poetry collection, *City Without Altar*, was a finalist for the Noemi Press Book Award for Poetry and will be released in August 2022. Her debut middle-grade book, *Anina del Mar Jumps In* (Dial), is a novel in verse about a young girl diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and is set to release in 2023. Her debut picture book, *Josefina's Habichuelas* (Arte Público Press), was released last year. She has received fellowships from Canto Mundo, Macondo, and the Kenyon Review Writer's Workshop, among others. She is an MFA graduate of the creative writing program at the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University and a University of Houston alumni. She teaches with the MFA creative writing program at Goddard College.

## Semifinal 3



Photo by Catie Abonado

**ALBERT ABONADO** is the author of *Jaw* (Sundress Publications, 2020). He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. His work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, the *Margins*, the *Laurel Review*, *Zone 3*, and others. Abonado co-hosts New Ground Poetry Night. He teaches creative writing at SUNY Geneseo and Rochester Institute of Technology. He lives in Rochester, New York, with his wife and a hamster.



Photo by Brian McConkey

**REBECCA MORGAN FRANK** is the author of *Oh You Robot Saints!* (2021), *Sometimes We're All Living in a Foreign Country* (2017), and *The Spokes of Venus* (2016), all from Carnegie Mellon University Press, as well as *Little Murders Everywhere* (Salmon, 2012), a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, the *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere, and her collaborations with composers have been performed widely. She is the recipient of a Meier Foundation Achievement Award, the Poetry Society America's Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, and a Mississippi Arts Commission Fellowship in Poetry. Raised in Virginia, she has taught across the United States and currently lives outside of Chicago.



Photo by LaKaye Mbah Photography

**KANIKKI JAKARTA** is the first African American Poet Laureate of Alexandria, Virginia. She is an award-winning performance poet who has toured the U.S. and the U.K. Jakarta is the author of three novels, two poetry collections, a memoir, and a collection of poetry and short stories entitled *Alabama Girl*, *Virginia Woman*, and the co-author of *The Ultimate Guide to Self-Healing, Volume II*. She hosts #KaNikkiHarmony 1st Mondays Open Mic Night at Busboys and Poets Virginia, and



2nd Wednesday on an online format of the Busboys and Poet's Instagram Page. She facilitates a quarterly workshop entitled Write Like a Woman in Alexandria, Virginia, a virtual, bi-monthly workshop entitled Prep to Publish, and offers Marketing and Manuscripts, a virtual workshop for aspiring and published authors. She presents Poets and Platforms under the umbrella of a weekly, online womyn-led artistic experience entitled Keep the Mic On, where she is the co-founder.



Photo by Meg Reid

**LESLIE SAINZ** is a first-generation Cuban American, born and raised in Miami, Florida. The recipient of a 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, she received her MFA in poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work has appeared in or is forthcoming from the *Yale Review*, *New England Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *AGNI*, *jubilat*, *Narrative*, and others. A two-time National Poetry Series finalist, she's received scholarships, fellowships, and honors from CantoMundo, the Miami Writers Institute, the Adroit Journal, and the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts at Bucknell University. She is the managing editor of the *New England Review*.

## POETRY OURSELVES

**P**OETRY OURSELVES was launched in 2016 as a part of the National Endowment for the Arts' 50th anniversary celebration and is another way the Arts Endowment encourages student creativity. Each Poetry Out Loud state champion had the opportunity to submit an original work of poetry in one of two categories—written or spoken. Poet Chen Chen judged this year's submissions. Winning poems may be featured on [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) and [poetryoutloud.org](https://poetryoutloud.org).



Photo courtesy of Chen Chen

**CHEN CHEN** is the author of the forthcoming poetry collection *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* (BOA Editions, 2022) and the forthcoming book of essays *In Cahoots with the Rabbit God* (Noemi Press, 2023). His debut book of poems, *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors. He teaches at Brandeis University.

# NATIONAL FINALS

June 5

## Welcome

Kwame Alexander

## Roll Call of State Champions

## Introduction of Nine Finalists

## National Endowment for the Arts Remarks

Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D., Chair

## First Round of Recitations

## Poetry Foundation Remarks

Michelle T. Boone, President

## Second Round of Recitations

## National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Remarks

Pam Breaux, Executive Director

## Announcement of Three Finalists

## Final Round of Recitations

## Announcement of 2022 Poetry Out Loud National Champion

## HOST



Photo courtesy of Kwame Alexander

**KWAME ALEXANDER** is a poet, educator, publisher, and *New York Times* bestselling author of 36 books, including *Swing*; *Becoming Muhammad Ali*, co-authored with James Patterson; *Rebound*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious UK Carnegie Medal; The Caldecott Medal- and Newbery Honor-winning picture book, *The Undeclared*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson; and his Newberry Medal-winning middle grade novel, *The Crossover*. A regular contributor to NPR's *Morning Edition*, Alexander is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, the Coretta Scott King Author Honor, Three NAACP Image Award Nominations, and the 2017 Inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award. In 2018, he opened the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic in Ghana, as a part of LEAP for Ghana, an international literacy program he co-founded. He is the writer and executive producer of *The Crossover* TV series on Disney Plus. The fall of 2022 will see the release of book one of a new trilogy, *The Door of No Return*.

## JUDGES



Photo by Mike Cook

**FRANCISCO ARAGÓN** is the son of Nicaraguan immigrants. His books include *After Rubén* (Red Hen Press, 2020), *Glow of Our Sweat* (Scapegoat Press, 2010), and *Puerta de Sol* (Bilingual Press, 2005). He is also the editor of *The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry* (University of Arizona Press, 2007). His work has appeared in over 20 anthologies and various literary journals. A native of San Francisco, California, he is on the faculty of the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, where he teaches courses in Latinx poetry and creative writing. He also directs their literary initiative, Letras Latinas. A finalist for Split This Rock's Freedom Plow Award for poetry and activism, he has read his work widely, including at universities, bookstores, art galleries, the Dodge Poetry Festival, and the Split This Rock Poetry Festival.



Photo courtesy of Candice Iloh

**CANDICE ILOH** is a first-generation Nigerian American writer, dancer, and author of *Everybody Looking*, a 2020 National Book Award finalist and 2021 Printz Honoree. They have performed their work around the country,





most notably at Nuyorican Poets Café in New York City; the Women in Poetry & Hip-Hop celebration at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore; and as part of the Africa In Motion performing arts series at the National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC. Their work has been featured in *Fjords Review*, *Lambda Literary*, *Blackberry Magazine*, *Insight Magazine*, the *Grio*, *For Harriet*, *Blavity*, and most recently *The Breakbeats Poets, Volume 2: Black Girl Magic* anthology (Haymarket Books, 2018). Iloh is currently writing their third novel, *Salt the Water*, while preparing to tour their second novel, *Break This House* (out May 24, 2022 from Dutton Books for Young Readers).



Photo by Nikki Womac

**ROSA JOSHI** is a theater director, educator, and producer who hails from Seattle, Washington. She especially loves directing Shakespeare, and has directed productions for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Folger Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company. She is currently on the faculty of Seattle University's theater program where she teaches directing and theater history. As a founding member of upstart crow collective, a theater company that produces classical plays with diverse all-female and non-binary casts, she is committed to reimagining classical texts for the 21st century.



Photo by Autumn Clarkson Photography

**DANTE MEDEMA** is an author of books that make people cry sometimes. Her novels *The Truth Project* (Harper Collins, 2020) and *Message Not Found* (Quill Tree Books, 2022) hold honors like Indies Introduce, Indie Next, and YALSA Quick Pick for reluctant readers. A former board member for Alaska Writers Guild, Medema has presented on a variety of subjects at the Alaska Writers Conference, as well as sitting as a Writer in Residence at Alaska Pacific University. She lives in Anchorage, Alaska, with her husband, four daughters, two pups, and a room full of alien memorabilia—and books, of course. When she's not writing, she dabbles in baking, cake decorating, and reading up on enneagram personality types.



Photo by courtesy of Joan Naviyuk Kane

**JOAN NAVIYUK KANE** is Inupiaq with family from Ugiuvak and Qawiaaraq. The author of eight collections of poetry and prose, she held the 2021 Mary Routt Endowed Chair of Creative Writing and Journalism at Scripps College. Her second book, *Hyperboreal* (winner of the 2012 Donald Hall Prize, an American Book Award, and a finalist for the 2014 PEN Center USA literary award), will be published in translation by Editions Caractères in 2022, and a collection of new poems, *Dark Traffic*, was published in the Pitt Poetry Series in

September. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writer's Award, an American Book Award, the United States Artists Creative Vision Award, the Donald Hall Prize, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Artist Fellowship, and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute, the Rasmuson Foundation, the School for Advanced Research, and Brown's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race in America. A lecturer in the department of race, colonialism, and diaspora at Tufts, she also teaches creative writing at Harvard, Tufts, and the Institute of American Indian Arts. She raises her sons in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Photo by Kris Greenfield

**MARCUS WICKER** is the author of *Silencer* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)—winner of the Society of Midland Authors Award—and *Maybe the Saddest Thing* (Harper Perennial, 2012), selected by D.A. Powell for the National Poetry Series. He is the recipient of a 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, 2011 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, as well as fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and Cave Canem. Wicker's poems have appeared in the *Nation*, the *New Republic*, the *Atlantic*, *Oxford American*, and *Poetry*. He is poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*, and an associate professor of English at the University of Memphis where he teaches in the MFA program.



# STATE AND JURISDICTIONAL CHAMPIONS

## ALABAMA

**Abigail Kulkarni**  
James Clemens High School

## ALASKA

**Nikolai Chavez**  
Whitestone High School

## AMERICAN SAMOA

**Audrey-Rose Sevaaetasi**  
Samoana High School

## ARIZONA

**Oscar Manuel Landa Samano**  
Coconino High School

## ARKANSAS

**Lia Lawson**  
Wonderview High School

## CALIFORNIA

**Mia Ronn**  
The Archer School for Girls

## COLORADO

**Aidyn Lorin Jai Reid**  
Fountain Valley School of Colorado

## CONNECTICUT

**Wm Leete**  
Weston High School

## DELAWARE

**Natalie Kim Ramos**  
Saint Mark's High School

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Warwick Lloyd**  
St. Anselm's Abbey School

## FLORIDA

**Niveah Glover**  
Jacksonville Arts and Music School

## GEORGIA

**Amaya Ariel McGee**  
DeKalb School of the Arts

## GUAM

**Zekiya Sage N. Mapilisan**  
Okkodo High School

## HAWAII

**Tasha Kanoa**  
Mid-Pacific Institute

## IDAHO

**Seth Hill**  
Classical Christian Academy

## ILLINOIS

**Cole Patrick Delaney**  
Franklin High School

## INDIANA

**Lila Ward**  
Columbia City High School

## IOWA

**Landon Stanley**  
Marshalltown High School

## KANSAS

**Allie Cloyd**  
Manhattan High School

## KENTUCKY

**Lupita Diaz**  
Beechwood High School

## LOUISIANA

**Jacob Simmons**  
Covington High School

## MAINE

**Sofya Lantratova/Софья Лантратова**  
George Stevens Academy

## MARYLAND

**Harrison Lynch**  
The King's Christian Academy

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Ava Beringer**  
Masconomet Regional High School

## MICHIGAN

**Gabe Blaikie**  
Interlochen Arts Academy

## MINNESOTA

**Stella Wright**  
Armstrong High School

## MISSISSIPPI

**Noble Wilkinson**  
Jackson Preparatory School

## MISSOURI

**Ava Maupin**  
Osage High School

#### **MONTANA**

**Rachel Campbell**  
Chrysalis School

#### **NEBRASKA**

**Alexandra Rose Zaleski**  
V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School

#### **NEVADA**

**Eakjot Kaur Sekhon**  
Robert McQueen High School

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Emily Matos**  
Kingswood Regional High School

#### **NEW JERSEY**

**Italy Ja'rae Whitehead**  
Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

#### **NEW MEXICO**

**Analisa Ibarra**  
La Cueva High School

#### **NEW YORK**

**Pamela White**  
Bethlehem Central High School

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Gabriella Burwell**  
Knightdale High School

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Mya Tena**  
Bismarck High School

#### **OHIO**

**Pius Edzie**  
St. Francis DeSales High School

#### **OKLAHOMA**

**Ashlyn Sears**  
Bethany High School

#### **OREGON**

**Trayshun Holmes-Gournaris**  
Oregon School for the Deaf

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Mario Grugan**  
Tyrone Area High School

#### **PUERTO RICO**

**Victoria Sofía Monteagudo Santos**  
TASIS Dorado

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

**Mariama Hawa Bandabaila**  
Classical High School

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Emily Allison**  
The Fine Arts Center

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Hannah Dayaget**  
Washington High School

#### **TENNESSEE**

**Kendall Grimes**  
Battle Ground Academy

#### **TEXAS**

**Ava Shipp**  
The Hockaday School

#### **U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Makeda-Elizabeth Cabey**  
All Saints Cathedral School

#### **UTAH**

**Aeva Dye**  
Dixie High School

#### **VERMONT**

**Gianna Morin**  
South Burlington High School

#### **VIRGINIA**

**Katharina Ravichandran**  
Albemarle High School

#### **WASHINGTON**

**Lucy Shainin**  
Anacortes High School

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Morgan Sprouse**  
Bridgeport High School

#### **WISCONSIN**

**Jess Davis**  
Altoona High School

#### **WYOMING**

**Bailee Vargas**  
Fremont County Homeschool Group

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*These are the 2022  
Poetry Out Loud State and  
Jurisdictional Champions.  
Congratulations to all!*

# Semifinal 1

May 1 • 12pm ET

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Emily Allison

“The Oldest Living Thing in L.A.” by Larry Levis  
“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons

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## OHIO

### Pius Edzie

“The Song of the Smoke” by W.E.B. Du Bois  
“Invitation to Love” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

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## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

### Makeda-Elizabeth Cabey

“Bilingual/Bilingüe” by Rhina P. Espaillat  
“Mi Casa” by Luis Daniel Salgado

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## NEW JERSEY

### Italy Ja’rae Whitehead

“Love’s Philosophy” by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
“I Close My Eyes” by David Ignatow

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## DELAWARE

### Natalie Kim Ramos

“How to Triumph Like a Girl” by Ada Limón  
“A Barred Owl” by Richard Wilbur

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### Warwick Lloyd

“La Figlia che Piange” by T.S. Eliot  
“Ozymandius” by Percy Bysshe Shelley

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## NEW YORK

### Pamela White

“Candles” by Carl Dennis  
“Oranges” by Roisin Kelly

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## VERMONT

### Gianna Morin

“Sonnet XVIII: Shall I Compare Thee to a  
Summer’s Day?” by William Shakespeare  
“Mr. Darcy” by Victoria Chang

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## NORTH CAROLINA

### Gabriella Burwell

“Ballad of Birmingham” by Dudley Randall  
“Black Matters” by Keith S. Wilson

**CONNECTICUT****Wm Leete**

“Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou

“Epitaph” by Katherine Philips

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**RHODE ISLAND****Mariama Hawa Bandabaila**

“Cartoon Physics, part 1” by Nick Flynn

“History Lesson” by Natasha Trethewey

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**MAINE****Sofya Lantratova/ Софья Лантратова**

“Emily Dickinson at the Poetry Slam” by Dan Vera

“We Lived Happily During the War” by Ilya Kaminsky

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**WEST VIRGINIA****Morgan Sprouse**

“Mansplaining” by Jennifer Militello

“Ways of Talking” by Ha Jin

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**PENNSYLVANIA****Mario Grugan**

“I, Too” by Langston Hughes

“Mingus at the Showplace” by William Matthews

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**VIRGINIA****Katharina Ravichandran**

“The Woman at the Washington Zoo” by Randall Jarrell

“The Two Boys” by Mary Lamb

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**MASSACHUSETTS****Ava Beringer**

“Siren Song” by Margaret Atwood

“I Once Was a Child” by Victoria Chang

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**MARYLAND****Harrison Lynch**

“Y2K” by Therese Lloyd

“Their Bodies” by David Wagoner

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE****Emily Matos**

“Siren Song” by Margaret Atwood

“A Litany for Survival” by Audre Lorde

# Semifinal 2

May 1 • 3pm ET

## IOWA

### Landon Stanley

“Broken Promises” by David Kirby

“A Graveyard” by Marianne Moore

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## LOUISIANA

### Jacob Simmons

“Where The Wild Things Go” by D. Gilson

“Fairy Tale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter”  
by Jehanne Dubrow

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## GEORGIA

### Amaya Ariel McGee

“Hip-Hop Ghazal” by Patricia Smith

“We Are Not Responsible” by Harryette Mullen

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## KANSAS

### Allie Cloyd

“Say This” by Lucia Perillo

“Emily Dickinson at the Poetry Slam” by Dan Vera

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## OKLAHOMA

### Ashlyn Sears

“Under the Lemon Tree” by Marsha De La O

“The Last Performance” by Thomas Hardy

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## NEBRASKA

### Alexandra Rose Zaleski

“the world is about to end and my grandparents are in love”  
by Kara Jackson

“Songs for the People” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

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## INDIANA

### Lila Ward

“Invisible Children” by Mariana Llanos

“We Lived Happily During the War” by Ilya Kaminsky

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## MISSISSIPPI

### Noble Wilkinson

“If We Must Die” by Claude McKay

“In Love, His Grammar Grew” by Stephen Dunn

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## KENTUCKY

### Lupita Diaz

“Spanglish” by Tato Laviera

“Diameter” by Michelle Y. Burke



**PUERTO RICO****Victoria Sofía Monteagudo Santos**

“Y2K” by Therese Lloyd

“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons

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**ALABAMA****Abigail Kulkarni**

“To be of use” by Marge Piercy

“Broken Promises” by David Kirby

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**TENNESSEE****Kendall Grimes**

“Object Lesson” by Claire Schwartz

“A Litany for Survival” by Audre Lorde

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**WISCONSIN****Jess Davis**

“The Albatross” by Kate Bass

“All This and More” by Mary Karr

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**ILLINOIS****Cole Patrick Delaney**

“Not Horses” by Natalie Shapero

“The Day” by Geoffrey Brock

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**MICHIGAN****Gabe Blaikie**

“A Thousand Martyrs” by Aphra Behn

“Tomorrow” by Dennis O’Driscoll

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**FLORIDA****Niveah Glover**

“I, Too” by Langston Hughes

“A Hymn to the Evening” by Phillis Wheatley

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**MISSOURI****Ava Maupin**

“Propositions” by Stephen Dunn

“Revenge” by Letitia Elizabeth Landon

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**ARKANSAS****Lia Lawson**

“The Light of Stars” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“If We Must Die” by Claude McKay

# Semifinal 3

May 1 • 6pm ET

## TEXAS

### Ava Shipp

“Fairy-tale Logic” by A.E. Stallings

“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain, (340)” by Emily Dickinson

## MONTANA

### Rachel Campbell

“Another Antipastoral” by Vievee Francis

“All Hallow’s Eve” by Dorothea Tanning

## OREGON

### Trayshun Holmes-Gournaris

“Song of the Smoke” by W.E.B. Du Bois

“Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou

## AMERICAN SAMOA

### Audrey-Rose Sevaaetasi

“Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

“The Goddess Who Created This Passing World” by Alice Notley

## WASHINGTON

### Lucy Shainin

“They are hostile nations” by Margaret Atwood

“Say not the Struggle nought Availeth” by Arthur Hugh Clough

## HAWAII

### Tasha Kanoa

“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons

“I am Learning to Abandon the World” by Linda Pastan

## IDAHO

### Seth Hill

“To have without holding” by Marge Piercy

“Rain of Statues” by Sarah Lindsay

## GUAM

### Zekiya Sage N. Mapilisan

“Thoughtless Cruelty” by Charles Lamb

“Ars Poetica” by José Olivarez

## NORTH DAKOTA

### Mya Tena

“Spanglish” by Tato Laviera

“Love Song” by Dorothy Parker

## CALIFORNIA

### Mia Ronn

“the world is about to end and my grandparents are in love”  
by Kara Jackson

“Two Guitars” by Victor Hernández Cruz

**ALASKA**

**Nikolai Chavez**

“Spanglish” by Tato Laviera

“The Arrow and the Song” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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**COLORADO**

**Aidyn Lorin Jai Reid**

“This is Not a Small Voice” by Sonia Sanchez

“My Therapist Wants to Know about My Relationship to  
Work” by Tiana Clark

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**WYOMING**

**Bailee Vargas**

“Emily Dickinson at the Poetry Slam” by Dan Vera

“Let the Light Enter” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

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**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Hannah Dayaget**

“A January Dandelion” by George Marion McClellan

“Songs for the People” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

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**ARIZONA**

**Oscar Manuel Landa Samano**

“Spanglish” by Tato Laviera

“The Contract Says: We’d Like the Conversation to be  
Bilingual” by Ada Limón

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**UTAH**

**Aeva Dye**

“Hanging Fire” by Audre Lorde

“No, I wasn’t meant to love and be loved” by Mirza Asadullah  
Khan Ghalib

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**NEW MEXICO**

**Analisa Ibarra**

“A Litany for Survival” by Audre Lorde

“Whenever you see a tree” by Padma Venkatraman

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**NEVADA**

**Eakjot Kaur Sekhon**

“If They Should Come for Us” by Fatimah Asghar

“Where did the handsome beloved go?” by Jalal al-Din Rumi

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**MINNESOTA**

**Stella Wright**

“I look at the world” by Langston Hughes

“Ode to the Midwest” by Kevin Young

# PRODUCTION

## DIRECTOR



Photo courtesy of Michael Baron

**MICHAEL BARON** is the producing artistic director at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. He has directed over 100 productions across the country including *Master Class*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Titanic*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Bright Star*, *Freaky Friday*, *Fun Home*, *Disney's When You Wish*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Assassins*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dreamgirls*, *Les Misérables*, and the current production of *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre. Baron received the 2012 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of a Resident Musical for Adventure Theatre's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*; 2016 Oklahoma Governor's Arts Award; a special award from Mayor's Committee on Disabilities Concerns; and the Yad B'Yad, Hand in Hand Award from the Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City. He also serves on the Oklahoma Arts Institute Theatre Advisory Panel and the Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day committee.

## ASL INTERPRETERS

MIA ENGLE

KENTON MYERS

STEVEN PHAN

CHERYL RINGEL

ANDREA SMITH



## Prizes

### NATIONAL FINALS

**1ST PLACE**  
\$20,000 award

**2ND PLACE**  
\$10,000 award

**3RD PLACE**  
\$5,000 award

**4TH-9TH PLACES**  
\$1,000 award

The schools or organizations of the top nine finalists will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials.

The fourth-place student in each semifinal competition will receive an honorable mention award of \$1,000, with \$500 to their school or organization for the purchase of poetry materials.

### STATE FINALS

More than \$50,000 in monetary prizes were awarded at state final competitions.

*The Poetry Foundation provides and administers all aspects of the monetary prizes awarded in Poetry Out Loud.*

*Awards will be made in the form of lump sum cash payouts, reportable to the IRS. Tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winners and their families.*

Poetry Out Loud is managed at the state level by

Alabama State Council on the Arts	Kentucky Arts Council	Oregon Arts Commission
Alaska State Council on the Arts	Louisiana Division of the Arts	Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, and the Humanities	Maine Arts Commission	Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña
Arizona Commission on the Arts	Maryland State Arts Council	Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Arkansas Arts Council	Massachusetts Cultural Council	South Carolina Arts Commission
California Arts Council	Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs	South Dakota Arts Council
Colorado Creative Industries	Minnesota State Arts Board	Tennessee Arts Commission
Connecticut Office of the Arts	Mississippi Arts Commission	Texas Commission on the Arts
Delaware Division of the Arts	Missouri Arts Council	Utah Division of Arts & Museums
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities	Montana Arts Council	Vermont Arts Council
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs	Nebraska Arts Council	Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
Georgia Council for the Arts	Nevada Arts Council	Virginia Commission for the Arts
Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency	New Hampshire State Council on the Arts	Washington State Arts Commission: Arts WA
Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts	New Jersey State Council on the Arts	West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History
Idaho Commission on the Arts	New Mexico Arts	Wisconsin Arts Board
Illinois Arts Council Agency	New York State Council on the Arts	Wyoming Arts Council
Indiana Arts Commission	North Carolina Arts Council	and many incredible partners
Iowa Arts Council	North Dakota Council on the Arts	
Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission	Ohio Arts Council	
	Oklahoma Arts Council	



[www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

#POL22

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## POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2021	<b>Rahele Megosha</b> (South Dakota)
2020	No champion due to the COVID-19 pandemic
2019	<b>Isabella Callery</b> (Minnesota)
2018	<b>Janae Claxton</b> (South Carolina)
2017	<b>Samara Elán Huggins</b> (Georgia)
2016	<b>Ahkei Togun</b> (Virginia)
2015	<b>Maeva Ordaz</b> (Alaska)
2014	<b>Anita Norman</b> (Tennessee)
2013	<b>Langston Ward</b> (Washington)
2012	<b>Kristen Dupard</b> (Mississippi)
2011	<b>Youssef Biaz</b> (Alabama)
2010	<b>Amber Rose Johnson</b> (Rhode Island)
2009	<b>William Farley</b> (Virginia)
2008	<b>Shawntay Henry</b> (U.S. Virgin Islands)
2007	<b>Amanda Fernandez</b> (District of Columbia)
2006	<b>Jackson Hille</b> (Ohio)
2005 (Pilot Year)	<b>Stephanie Oparaugo</b> (Washington, DC) and <b>Devin Kenny</b> (Chicago, Illinois)