

LONG BEACH

YOUTH POET LAUREATE



WHAT IS

THE YOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM?



Collaboration between the Long Beach Public Library, Arts Council for Long Beach, and Urban Word.

Established in 2008 by Urban Word, **the Youth Poet Laureate Program aims to identify and nurture the voices of youth poets** (ages 13-18) through workshops, performances, publication opportunities, community initiatives, and mentor support.

The program's objectives are:

1. to teach poetry as a social practice, that is, a tool for activism
2. to provide youth poets with the experience and resources needed to build a life out of their work

Inaugural Year (2023-2024)

WORKSHOPS

- Held in branches throughout the city.
- Artist-led.
- Topics have included Government Responsibility & the Poet, Painting Poetry, and Protest Poetry.

PERFORMANCE

Past performance opportunities have included Vida Latina, FAB Festival, the YPL Ceremony, and will include readings at local coffeeshops, bookstores, libraries, and schools.

PUBLICATION

In addition to publishing and disseminating an anthology of work by the YPL Cohort, youth-poets will create a chapbook manuscript that will be shared with local presses.

COMMUNITY

YPL Cohort poets will lead workshops on topics of their choice and for their peers.

SELECTION PROCESS

PORTFOLIO

Portfolio of five poems judged on their creativity, content, and structure.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Curriculum vitae that demonstrates sustained contributions to Long Beach's literary community and social well-being.

PERFORMANCE

The ability to bring poetry to the public and, thus, to life.

MEET THE INAUGURAL

Youth Poet Laureate Cohort (2023-2024)



**CLAIRE
BEELI**

Youth Poet Laureate



**HELENA
DONATO-SAPP**

Poet Ambassador



**MATILDA
IEM**

Poet Ambassador



**KIERAN
LUNDY**

Poet Ambassador



**SOFIA
URIBE**

Poet Ambassador