NATIONAL STUDENT POETS PROGRAM

Fall 2017

Poets in Motion

Newsletter for Friends and Family of the National Student Poets Program

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers partner to present the National Student Poets Program (NSPP), the country's highest honor for young poets presenting original work.

Class of 2017 Step Onto the National Stage in D.C.



From left to right: Dr. Carla Hayden, Ben Lee, Annie Castillo, Kinsale Hueston, Juliet Lubwama, Camila Sanmiguel, Alfre Woodard, Juan Felipe Herrera, and Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. (Photo by Kevin Wolf/AP Images for Alliance for Young Artists & Writers)

The 2017 Class of National Student Poets were appointed by Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; Juan Felipe Herrera, the 21st U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry; and Alfre Woodard, acclaimed actor and activist (and two-time National Student Poets Program juror). Before their Appointment Ceremony at the Library of Congress, the five poets—**Annie Castillo**, Falls Church, VA (Southeast); **Kinsale Hueston**, Corona del Mar, CA (West); **Ben Lee**, Edina, MN (Midwest); **Juliet Lubwama**, Downingtown, PA (Northeast); and **Camila Sanmiguel**, Laredo, TX (Southwest)—enjoyed a visit to the Library's stacks and a workshop with poet mentor Glenis Redmond.

The poets kicked off their service year with a workshop led by Juan Felipe Herrera in the historic Hispanic Reading Room of the Library of Congress, where they created a mural based on a 15th century Mayan scroll. Herrera, a Program juror and long-time supporter of the National Student Poets, offered an inspiring and magical lesson on sharing poetry straight from the heart.



The Class of 2017 National Student Poets create a collaborative poetry mural with 21st U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry Juan Felipe Herrera in the Hispanic Reading Room at the Library of Congress. (Photo by David Hathcox)

At the National Book Festival



The National Student Poets attended the 2017 National Book Festival as readers and workshop leaders, reading original works at the Library of Congress Town Square, conducting group poetry performances with children at the Scholastic Booth, and attending sessions with Marie Howe and Adrian Matejka. The poets also attended a powerful Poetry Out Loud session and a reflection on Juan Felipe Herrera's tenure as U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

The poets were guests at the National Book Festival Gala, where they were honored from the stage by Dr. Carla Hayden, and met some of their literary heroes, including best-selling authors Nicola Yoon, Dav Pilkey, Margot Lee Shetterly, and Diana Gabaldon.

On the Horizon

From October 4–6, the 2017 Poets will be together again in New York City to attend master classes with acclaimed poets Edward Hirsch, President of the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and Academy of American Poets Chancellor Elizabeth Alexander, director of Creativity and Free Expression at the Ford Foundation. The poets are looking forward to their time in NYC, working on their Community Service Projects, and paying their love of poetry forward throughout their Year of Service!

Request a National Student Poet!
If you'd like to invite a Class of 2017 National Student Poet to your school, library, museum, or festival, visit **artandwriting.org/nspp/request**.

Dr. Matthew's Inspiring Words



At the Appointment Ceremony, the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, set the tone for the poets' upcoming year of service. In her remarks, she charged the new class of National Student Poets to "take poetry into our nation's places of learning, into our schools, museums, our libraries, and community spaces. Reflect and amplify the multiple voices and stories around you. You are a key part of our nation's future and the caliber of work and the strength of your passion tell me that the future is indeed bright." The Class of 2017 is eager to follow Dr. Matthew's advice.

Through the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and its vast network of libraries and museums, the Class of 2017 National Student Poets is well on its way to bringing each poet's love of poetry to communities across the nation.

(above left) The Class of 2017 at the National Book Festival, leading a group poetry performance at the Scholastic Booth. (Photo by David Hathcox)

(above right) Camila Sanmiguel, Annie Castillo, Juliet Lubwama, Kinsale Hueston, and Ben Lee meet Dr. Matthew for the first time before their official appointment as National Student Poets. (Photo by David Hathcox)

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Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
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Library of Congress
Poetry Foundation