



OHIO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Online Newsletter Week of February 19, 2024

ARTS FYI



News from the Ohio Arts Council



Amanda Braig Named 2024 Ohio Poetry Out Loud (POL) Champion



Image courtesy of Terry Gilliam

2024 Poetry Out Loud State Finalists (L to R): Eli Abel, Tamia Christian, Houda Loukssi, Tori Negroni, Amanda Braig, Daphne McCombs, Timya Ciboro, Addison Derry, and William Chadwick

Congratulations to McNicholas High School (Cincinnati) senior Amanda Braig, named the 2024 Ohio Poetry Out Loud State Champion during Ohio's State Finals held on February 9, 2024.

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is the nation's largest youth poetry recitation competition connecting high school students to poetry and poets from around the world. It is presented by the *National Endowment for the Arts* and the *Poetry Foundation* in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) to encourage high school students to learn about great poetry, master public-speaking skills, build self-confidence, and study their literary heritage. POL is administered in partnership with the state arts agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

WOSU Public Media again hosted Ohio's State Finals in the Ross Community Studio in Columbus, where nine students competed in three rounds in front of a live audience. Each student recited one poem in each round. Contest results were determined by the cumulative scores from all three rounds, with the State Champion title awarded to the student with the highest score overall. The three guest judges were poets Susann Moeller, Terry Hermesen, and Cynthia Amoah. Ohio Arts Council Board member Peter Lawson Jones emceed the event.

The 2024 Ohio POL State Finalists are:

- *Eli Abel*, senior, Bexley High School
- *Amanda Braig*, senior, McNicholas High School (Cincinnati)
- *William Chadwick*, senior, Arcanum High School
- *Tamia Christian*, junior, Cleveland Heights High School
- *Timyah Ciboro*, sophomore, Toledo Early College
- *Addison Derry*, sophomore, John Glenn High School (New Concord)
- *Houda Loukssi*, junior, Xenia High School
- *Daphne McCombs*, freshman, River Valley High School (Caledonia)
- *Tori Negroni*, senior, Upper Arlington High School

Amanda Braig's winning performance featured the poems "All this and More" by Mary Karr; "Amor Mundi" by Christina Rossetti; and "Self-Inquiry Before the Job Interview" by Gary Soto. She received a cash prize of \$200 and \$500 for her school library. **Ms. Braig will represent Ohio at the national competition April 30 - May 2, 2024, in Washington, D.C.** Students from all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C., will compete for a total prize pool of \$50,000. The National Champion will receive a grand prize of \$20,000.

Daphne McCombs, a freshman from River Valley High School in Caledonia, earned second place, and Tori Negroni, a senior at Upper Arlington High School, earned third place.

In recognition of their achievements, each of the top three finalists also received a work of art made by Zanesville photographer Jana Pryor, which incorporated poetry by the evening's four guest poets, Mary Ruth C. Kamp, Jacqueline Wilkinson-Johnson, Kimberly Bolden, and Wendy McVicker.

Donna S. Collins, Executive Director of the Ohio Arts Council, noted that, “It was another outstanding State Finals, with Ohio’s students once again delivering exemplary performances. The OAC is proud to support arts education through *Poetry Out Loud* and looks forward to supporting Amanda as she prepares for and performs at the national competition.”

This year *Poetry Out Loud* celebrates 18 years of increasing student awareness about the art of performing poetry. The first POL National Champion was Jackson Hille from Columbus Alternative High School in Columbus in 2006. Many other students from Ohio have participated in the national championship since then, and have ranked highly in the national competition.

For more POL information visit the Ohio Arts Council’s website [HERE](#).

Source: Paa, Andrew, “**Cincinnati Senior Named 2023 Ohio Poetry Out Loud State Champion**,” Ohio Arts Council, February 12, 2024 [HERE](#).



Arts Impact Ohio 2024 announces Plenaries: Marc Folk, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapzsukiewicz, Susan Reams, and Robin Jones



Experience. Create. Connect.

The Ohio Arts Council announced last week plenary speakers for *Arts Impact Ohio 2024*, which will be held at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown on May 15-16, 2024.



(L to R): Marc Folk, Mayor Wade Kapzsukiewicz, and Susan Reams

Plenary Session: Arts Longevity and Local Government, Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 9:00 -10:15 AM

Marc Folk, The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo; **Mayor Wade Kapzsukiewicz**, City of Toledo; and **Susan Reams**, Lauded Arts Advocate, will discuss how they established new arts programs in Toledo with the support of local government and advocates, and how they sustained those programs through strong partnerships with local government.



Plenary Session: Demystifying the ADA and Related Laws: Moving Beyond Compliance
Thursday, May 12, 2024 at 12:15 -1:30 PM

Robin Jones, Great Lakes ADA Center, will share her expertise to help attendees better understand the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related civil rights laws for persons with disabilities. The goal is to view ADA as a starting point for building a more inclusive and welcoming experience for all employees, visitors, customers, and patrons as organizations prepare to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse society. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about specific situations they've confronted or handled and discuss concerns related to the obligations that the ADA sets forth.

DR. TASHA GOLDEN
National Leader in Arts and Public Health



Keynote Speaker of Arts Impact Ohio 2024: Dr. Tasha Golden

The Ohio Arts Council previously announced Keynote Speaker **Dr. Tasha Golden**, a national leader in arts and public health, a singer-songwriter for the band *Ellery*, and a published poet and founder of *Project Uncaged: an arts-based health intervention for incarcerated teen women*.

Dr. Golden holds a Ph.D. in public health sciences and is currently the director of research at the International Arts + Mind Lab at Johns Hopkins University.

As a national leader and consultant in arts and public health, she has published extensively on the impact of the arts, music, aesthetics, and social norms on health and well-being.

In her keynote address, *Igniting Change, Inviting Growth: Redefining Arts, Health, and Community Care*, Dr. Golden will explore art's potential to help people heal, connect, and lead positive change using innovative models like "arts on prescription."

Arts Impact Ohio 2024 will be held May 15-16, 2024 at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown

Full conference registration includes access to the May 15, 2024 evening reception, networking events, admission to select ArtAround sites, all provided meals, and all workshop sessions, plenary, and keynote content. [HERE](#).

A complete agenda for *Arts Impact Ohio 2024* will be available in the spring 2024.

Those who **register between January 9 through February 29, 2024** to attend *Arts Impact Ohio 2024* can earn **30 percent off the cost of registration**, with additional savings for subsequent registrants from the same organization. [HERE](#).



Americans for the Arts ACTION Fund Webinar recap: Advocacy 101 available

[Recap: Advocacy 101 Webinar](#)

Did you miss our recent Advocacy 101 Webinar which was on January 23rd? If so, go listen to the recording to learn from national and local experts on what you can be doing to advance the arts in your community. Here is the description: We all want more support for the arts and culture from our federal, state and local government officials, but how do you go about achieving these goals? Join us for the first of a series of advocacy webinars to learn from national, state and local advocacy experts about effective tips and strategies in educating your elected officials on why they should enact pro arts policies. The webinar will cover the building blocks of starting meaningful relationships with key decision makers to hearing advocacy success stories and how they were achieved. Speakers will include U.S. Congressional Staff, Americans for the Arts' Federal Advocacy Captains, Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund Professional Staff. Use these tools that you learn not only for federal advocacy, but locally with your mayor, city council, school board or state legislatures.

Check out the webinar recording [HERE](#).



CCAD offers Open House for Arts Educators

Do you have students interested in attending art school? Would you like to learn more about the application process and academic offerings at CCAD? Are you interested in meeting with CCAD faculty and participating in hands-on activities in our classrooms? Join us on **Friday, March 1, 2024 at 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT** for an open house for high school art educators!

Register for Open House [HERE](#).