



Russell Lehmann is an award-winning and internationally recognized motivational speaker and poet with a platform of autism and mental health. His words have been featured in the *USA Today*, *LA Times*, NPR, Yahoo! News, *Success Magazine* and archived in the Library of Congress. A graduate of MIT's "Leadership in the Digital Age" course, Russell is on the national Board of Directors for The Arc, is a council member for the Autism Society of America, the Youth Ambassador for the mayor of Reno, Nevada, and has also sat on the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities as well as the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Russell showed signs of autism as a newborn, however, he was not formally diagnosed until the age of 12 after suffering through five weeks in a lockdown psychiatric facility. In 2011, Russell wrote a book titled *Inside Out: Stories and Poems from an Autistic Mind*, which was featured in the *LA Times*, earned an Honorable Mention at the 2012 NY Book Festival, read by Temple Grandin, and won the award for Literary Excellency at the 2013 International Autistic People's Awards in Vancouver, Canada. His new book, *On the Outside Looking In*, recently hit bookstores nationwide. In 2018, Russell was named as Reno-Tahoe's "Most Outstanding Young Professional Under 40." In 2019 and 2020, Russell lectured for the prestigious King's College of London and the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education in Abu Dhabi, respectively.

Russell currently travels the world spreading hope, awareness, and compassion in a raw and dynamic fashion, while also setting his sights on erasing the stigma and stereotypes that come with having a disability. Russell's passion is to be a voice for the unheard, for he knows how difficult and frustrating it is to go unnoticed.

For more information about Russell and his work, visit his website at www.TheAutisticPoet.com and follow his journey on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).