

Sunday, March 21, 2021

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### **CALLING ALL POETS! A WRITING CONTEST FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS**

Inspired by World Poetry Day on March 21, the Kauffman Center invites submissions to *Artful Poetry*, the Center's first poetry competition. Entries are open to youth and adults through the end of National Poetry Month on April 30, 2021. Winners get the opportunity for a once-in-a-lifetime on-stage experience at the Center.

"*Artful Poetry* is a new and exciting way for the community to come together in celebration of the arts," Kauffman Center President and CEO Paul Schofer said. "We love finding new ways to highlight the incredible talent Kansas City has to offer."

#### **Categories and Guidelines:**

Submissions must include an original poem AND video of the applicant reciting the work. Submissions must follow one of three prompts and adhere to additional guidelines, which can be found [here](#).

Youth and adult divisions are open to entries from Kansas and Missouri. First, second and third place winners will be selected in two categories:

- youth (17 and under)
- adult (18 and over)

Winners will be selected by a panel of three accomplished local writers and three Kauffman Center staff members.

#### **Prompts:**

1. Visit a favorite work of art, in person or virtually. Sit with it and study it. Then, describe and recall the work only using one sense (touch, taste, sound, smell or sight).
2. Write a poem addressed to a future version of yourself. What do you hope for your future self and the community in which you live?

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the heart and soul of the community.  
Write about what community means to you and what is at the heart of a community.

### **Prizes**

Winners will have the opportunity to:

- Perform and record their winning poem on the Kauffman Center's stages.
- Be featured on the Center's website and social media channels.
- Have their work highlighted in a radio segment on Kansas City's KKFI Community Radio 90.1 FM program ARTSPEAK RADIO.

### **Timelines:**

Submissions are due by **11:59 p.m. April 30, 2021**. For more information and to enter the contest, visit our [webpage](#).

Winners will be notified by May 17, and filming will take place between May 29 and July 31, 2021.

### **Meet the Judges**

- Glenn North:
  - Executive Director at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center.
  - Inaugural Poet Laureate of the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District.
  
- José Faus:
  - Speaker, writer, visual artist and performer.
  - Founding member of the Latino Writers Collective in Kansas City, Missouri.
  - Board member for the Latino Writers Collective and Charlotte Street Foundation.
  
- Maria Vasquez Boyd:
  - Producer, engineer and host of Kansas City's KKFI Community Radio 90.1 FM program ARTSPEAK RADIO.
  - Painter, artist and writer.
  - Founding member of the Latino Writers Collective in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Kauffman Center looks forward to showcasing the talents of spoken word artists in the Kansas City community. For more information about the contest, guidelines and to apply, visit [KauffmanCenter.org/artful-poetry](https://www.kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry).

Questions? Email [opendoors@kauffmancenter.org](mailto:opendoors@kauffmancenter.org)

*Artful Poetry is underwritten by Joan Horan and Barbara Nelson.*

### **ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater, and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at [kauffmancenter.org](https://www.kauffmancenter.org).

Visit the Kauffman Center's online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: [kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/](https://www.kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/)

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



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