

March 20, 2023

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**SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH**



**ARTFUL  
POETRY  
CONTEST**

Submissions  
Open  
**March 21**  
to  
**April 30**

For more information and to submit, visit  
[kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry](https://kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry)



**Artful Poetry: A Writing Contest for Youth Poets**

Kansas City, MO - Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to welcome back Artful Poetry, a contest for spoken word and poetry.

As an extension of the Open Doors Spotlight on Youth initiative, Artful Poetry will focus on youth poets with categories for ages 10 & under and ages 11-18. Entries are open to residents in Kansas and Missouri.

**Categories and Guidelines:**

Submissions must include an original poem AND a video of your recitation of your work.

First, second and third place winners will be selected in two categories:

Category 1: Elementary (ages 10 and under).

Category 2: Middle and High School (ages 11-18).

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

**Prompts:**

Poetry submission should be based on one of the following three 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) You are holding a key. Close your eyes. What does it open, or does it keep something contained? Where does it take you? How will you use it? Imagine the possibilities.

**Prizes:**

Winners will have the opportunity to:

- Perform their winning poem during Future Stages Festival on June 11, 2023, at the Kauffman Center.
- Have their winning poem featured on the Kauffman 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, 2023**. For more information and to enter the contest, visit [kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry](https://kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry).

Winners will be notified by May 22, 2023, and winning poems will be performed at Future Stages Festival on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

**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 young spoken word artists in the Kansas City community. For more information about the contest, guidelines and to apply visit [kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry](http://kauffmancenter.org/artful-poetry).

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

## **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 for everyone. 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](http://kauffmancenter.org).