

Poetry

SLAM



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends and Supporters of America SCORES,

Thank you for joining us for our 16th annual Poetry SLAM! Unfortunately, COVID prevented us from hosting this event live, but it hasn't stopped us from empowering our youth to express themselves and find their voice through poetry and spoken word.

If you're not familiar with America SCORES, we are part of a national network in 11 cities nationwide, inspiring over 13,000 youth through soccer, poetry and service-learning programming.

Since the March school closures, we have engaged 365 scholars in both virtual and in-person programming in partnership with 21 Cleveland agencies. Our goal was to continue providing creative outlets for our youth focused on writing and performing poetry, and staying fit through soccer activities. In addition, we've distributed hundreds of SCORES kits filled with soccer balls, literacy activities, and hygiene products to our scholars and school communities.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our poet-athletes as soon as it is safe to do so but until then we will continue to serve our community in any way we can.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debi Pence-Meyenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debi Pence-Meyenberg, Executive Director

SPECIAL THANK YOU

This year has been different and challenging for everyone. We could not have the wonderful Fall season we had without our amazing coaches. They dedicated their time, in-person and virtually, to teaching about poetry and how to write and perform their own poems for our Poetry SLAM.

Thank you:

Kim Alfred - Writing Coach

Willson Virtual Team

Courtney Barker - Soccer Coach

Jones Road Development Corporation Learning Pod

Theresa Culpepper - Writing Assistant Coach

Core Yellow Virtual Team

Chujanda Foster - Writing & Soccer Coach

St. Adalberts

Jennifer Holder - Writing Coach

Core Yellow and Middle School Orange Virtual Teams

Catrina Huffman - Writing Coach

Little Critters Too Learning Pod

Ariel Jordan - Writing & Soccer Coach -

Little Critters Too Learning Pod

Denise Likar - Writing Coach -

Core Yellow Virtual Team

Donielle Lisbon - Writing Assistant Coach -

Core Purple Virtual Team

Tanisha Madden - Writing & Soccer Coach -

Lexington Bell Learning Pod

Karen Miranda - Writing Assistant Coach -

Core Green Virtual Team

Tierra Newborn - Writing Assistant Coach -

Middle School Grey Virtual Team

Thank You Continued -

Grace Nemeth - Soccer Coach

Little Critters Too Learning Pod

Mark Ogilvie - Soccer Coach

Little Critters Too Learning Pod

Marie Posner - Writing & Soccer Coach

Merrick House

Michelle Smith - Writing Coach

Middle School Grey Virtual Team

Lindsay Rados - Writing Coach

Core Green Virtual Team

Akshai Singh - Soccer Coach

Bethel SDA Church Learning Pod

Marva Walton - Writing Coach

Jones Road Family Development Learning Pod

Kimberly Watkins - Assistant Writing Coach

Willson Virtual Team

Karen Wesley - Writing & Soccer Coach

Lexington Bell Learning Pod

Madeline Wright - Writing & Soccer Coach

Boys Hope Girls Hope

JUNIOR (K-2ND GRADE) PERFORMERS:

Amir, 2nd grade, "WWE"
Aubrielle, 2nd grade, "One, Two"
Dakari, 1st grade, "Once Upon a Time"
Davonne, Kindergarten, "I won't Fall"
DJ, 2nd grade, "I Love Cookies"
Eli, 1st grade, "Fish"
Jayden, 2nd grade, "Soccer is Special"
Jaylen, 2nd grade, "Soccer is so Fun"
Jeniyah, 1st grade, "So Excited"
Jeylianis, 2nd grade, "Untitled"
Kayle, 1st grade, "Pumpkin"
Kenneth, 1st grade, "I Like Soccer"
Kerani, 2nd grade, "At Merrick House"
Link, 2nd grade, "I like to Play Soccer"
Sirentiy, 1st grade, "Sun"

CORE (3RD- 5TH GRADE) PERFORMERS:

Alexander, 4th Grade, "My Blue World of Lapis"
Angel, 3rd Grade, "Untitled"
Anthony, 5th Grade, "Homework"
Brian, 5th Grade, "Video Games"
Briana, 3rd Grade, "Untitled"
Bryson, 4th Grade, "More Peace"
Chloe, 3rd Grade, "I Love..."
Chloe, 4th Grade, "My Dance Competition"
Christian, 5th Grade, "My Bike"
Colton, 4th Grade, "Neptune the Seahorse"
Elsie, 4th Grade, "Soccer"
Grant, 3rd Grade, "Halloween"
Jamoore, 5th Grade, "Walk the Dog"
Ja'niayah, 4th Grade, "Working Together"
Jayden, 3rd Grade, "Untitled"
Kiera, 4th Grade, "My Beautiful Tree"
Kyrie, 3rd Grade, "Roses are Red"
London, 4th Grade, "She is London"
Maeve, 4th Grade, "My Feis day with Maeve"

CORE (3RD- 5TH GRADE) PERFORMERS CONT.:

Melvin, 4th Grade, "I Like Ohio"
Mia, 4th Grade, "Annoying Pets"
Mikyah, 3rd Grade, "I Want a Lizard"
Naomi, 4th Grade, "Black Lives Matter"
Peyton, 4th Grade, "My Big Dinner"
Queen, 3rd Grade, "Untitled"
Raven, 5th Grade, "Hip Hop Dance"
Ryan, 3rd Grade, "My Nightmare is Granny"
Sophia, 4th Grade, "Christmas Time"
Tya, 3rd Grade, "Helping Hands"
Tyairre, 3rd Grade, "Man in the Mirror"
Tylan, 4th Grade, "Follow Your Dreams"
Tyrane, 4th Grade, "Achieve Your Goals"
Zakar, 5th Grade, "Untitled"

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6TH- 8TH GRADE)

PERFORMERS:

Ahna'iece, 6th Grade, "TikTok"
Gregory, 6th Grade, "We Need to Change"
Jeralyis, 6th Grade, "Jeralyis's Rainbow Sky"
Kameria, 6th Grade, "TikTok"
Nyla, 6th Grade, "Dark Dreams"
Paige, 6th Grade, "Memories"
Savannah, 6th Grade, "Through Sickness and Health"
Zallie, 7th Grade, "In My World"

AMIR, 2ND GRADE, "WWE"

My friends and me
Play WWE

My friends & me
Play WWE
We like the Royal Rumble
on the PS4
My friends & me
Play WWE
The Royal Rumble
2k20
They wrestle to the end
with the championship on
The line.

The championship is on
the line
But we wrestle to the
end.

AUBRIELLE, 2ND GRADE, "ONE, TWO"

One, Two
Tie my shoe
Three, Four
Ready to score
Five, Six
Check our my kicks
Seven, eight
That's the game!



DAKARI, 1ST GRADE, "ONCE UPON A TIME"

Once upon a time
there was a little girl
She went to the park
She played ring around a rosie
with her brother
"Do you want to go back home, little brother?"
The little boy said, "Yes."
They went home
Knocked on the door
No one answered
They climbed through the window
Mother said, "Haha, didn't I tell you
to lay down."
They fell asleep
Little girl had a dream
Little brother got into her makeup
She woke up and he was playing
with her makeup
He got in trouble
and they got kicked out.
Both cried
They knocked on the door and asked,
"Can you please be my mom and dad?"
The neighbor said,
Yes!"
All had a movie night had some fun.
The End.

DAVONNE, KINDERGARTEN, "I WON'T FALL"

I love to run around,
Kicking the ball
I have to be careful so I won't fall



DJ, 2ND GRADE, "I LOVE COOKIES"

I love cookies
I love cookies
they make me happy
I love them so much
They are my favorite
chocolate Chip and
McFlurries vanilla

ELI, 1ST GRADE, "FISH"

Fish,
Fall and jumping
by my feet
Creature there

JAYDEN, 2ND GRADE, "SOCCER IS SPECIAL"

Soccer is a special game
some you win
some you lose
I love the game just the same

JAYLEN, 2ND GRADE, "SOCCER IS SO FUN"

Soccer is so fun
We kick the ball
Try not to Fall
Soccer is the best of all



JENIYAH, 1ST GRADE, "SO EXCITED"

I get so excited
once we hit the door
I know we're playing soccer
I'm hoping that I score

JEYLIANIS, 2ND GRADE, "UNTITLED"

My name is Jeylianis
I like hamburger
I like French fries and
I like happy meals
And I want to have one.
I want a dog and
I want a cat but I'm
allergic.
But I really want a dog
So I will want a dog.
I just want a dog.

KAYLEE, 1ST GRADE, "PUMPKIN"

Tall
Pink
Bright
Stained
Look at Pumpkin



KENNETH, 1ST GRADE, "I LIKE SOCCER"

I like soccer is so fun
I like to go outside and run
I like to play soccer it is so cool,
I like it just like school.

KERANI, 2ND GRADE, "AT MERRICK HOUSE"

I am going to talk about
things that we do at Merrick House
We practice writing
and then reciting
We study similes, stanzas, lines
sight words, poems and rhymes
We play soccer and get sweaty
drink lots of water to be healthy
We dribble the ball and run
take breaks and have fun.

LINK, 2ND GRADE, "I LIKE TO PLAY SOCCER"

I like to play soccer
I love to kick the ball
I'm learning poetry too
That's the best part of all!



SIRENITY, 1ST GRADE, "SUN"

Sun
Sun is fun
With rainbows
I like to play in the rain

ALEXANDER, 4TH GRADE, "BLUE WORLD OF LAPIS"

Lapis makes me feel happy
happy like the ocean
Blue animals all around
Blue berries, blue raspberries
Blue diamonds in the blue skies
The grass is blue
all around my blue house
where me and my blue
friend live
I wear my blue hat and walk with my blue cat
In my blue hand
I'm holding a blue wand
My bed is blue
My whole life is blue
because blue makes me feel
happy.



ANGEL, 3RD GRADE, "UNTITLED"

I like cats
Is one of my favorite things
I like Among Us
is easy for me
I like Roblox
all the games on Roblox
I feel excited when I play Roblox
and I'm a good player,

In Roblox

ANTHONY, 5TH GRADE, "HOMEWORK"

I feel good about having no homework
I would probably play
Video games all day
The game I'll play is
Fortnite all day!

BRIAN, 5TH GRADE, "VIDEO GAMES"

Video games are fun
but sometimes not
Sometimes it's boring
Sometimes it's not
I see it's important
but now I have to
go back to school.



BRIANA, 3RD GRADE, "UNTITLED"

I love WWE Summer Slam
My dream match is Mia Jax vs. Tam
Team Bella vs Team PBS.
I love Monday night raw
My dream match is Ronda
Rousey vs Becky Lynch
I love Friday night
smackdown too
Dream match is Bobby vs Drew.

BRYSON, 4TH GRADE, "MORE PEACE"

Sad, mad is how I feel when you aren't real
I feel good when I reading
I feel calm
I feel peace
I feel excited when I'm running
To get where I'm going and
where I'm going
I'm going to find more peace
More peace that's what matters so much to me
I'm going to find more peace I'm going to
bring it back and everyone will love me
I'm going to find more peace
Yeah more peace
I'm going to bring it back and
everyone will know me
and everyone will know me
I'm going to be the king
and rule everyone around me.



CHLOE, 3RD GRADE, "I LOVE.."

I am a JR soccer kid
I love to play soccer
I love poetry too
This is what I love to do.

CHLOE, 4TH GRADE, "MY DANCE COMPETITION"

I'm the best dancer on stage
like a flying reindeer named Prancer
Because I practice a lot and work hard
when I am on stage I can see my nice
friends cheering.
I can hear the loud music and clapping in the air
It tastes like pretzels and pizza from
the convention's concession stand
The room smells stinky
like stinky socks and sweat from the
people working so hard
When I got onstage I feel butterflies in
my stomach
Moving around and making me feel
like I will forget my dance
But I end up looking amazing, doing
great and winning an award.



CHRISTIAN, 5TH GRADE, "MY BIKE"

My bike is special
it matches my clothes
black and red
Over and under
My tires soak up the bumps
and come crashing down
and down to rest
and I feel free.

COLTON, 4TH GRADE, "NEPTUNE THE SEAHORSE"

I'm going to tell you
A story about a seahorse in the sea
About the cutest one there can ever be
A yellow stomach and blue skin
Two small horns
and a very weird chin
This horse was named Neptune
Her younger brothers were little goons
Her mother was pink
Her dad was tan
and the ocean they lived far from land
The seahorses were out at a party one day
The Neptune was about to say
But something grabbed and took her far away
From her family and where she stayed
Her mother was crying super hard
then floating through the sea came a card
it said, "I have trapped your daughter."
Far away and out of the water
The seahorses did not know how to save her
So her mom became a savior
She swam out of the water really fast
like a cannon from the past



**COLTON, 4TH GRADE,
"NEPTUNE THE SEAHORSE CONTINUED"**

She found Neptune in a cage
which really raised her rage
The monster was going to eat them
which wasn't fair
But suddenly the monster got whacked by a chair
It was the brothers and the dad
who had gotten very mad
The boys freed the girls and they were fine
They went back to the water in a straight line
"Oh dear Neptune what were you going to say before
the monster got you?"
I wanted to say "I love you."

ELSIE, 4TH GRADE, "SOCCER"

Soccer is harder then you think
People think soccer is easy
But that's not true
You can get hurt
Playing in goal
But any other spots in soccer.



GRANT, 3RD GRADE, "HALLOWEEN"

Halloween, Halloween oh how
I love Halloween it is my
Favorite holiday
the reason because
I love to be scared, oh how I have fun
being scared.
I love ghost and
zombies
I love skeleton and gargoyle
Oh I am the king of Halloween
and the king of being scared
And of scaring people while being quiet
and scaring
Oh how it is fun
I love Halloween
You can be anything or person
The best thing about Halloween is
when you can dress up
and get candy that is why
I love when it is October and Halloween.

JAMOORE, 5TH GRADE, "WALK THE DOG"

I was walking my dog
Across the street
I also was eating meat
There was a big dog
Trying to bite me
He was being bad
And that made me sad.



JAYDEN, 4TH GRADE, "WORKING TOGETHER"

When you are in space
There's no air to be found.
When you are on Earth there's a lot of
air to go around.
We will make this through air or not.
We make big risks to the point,
We are not scared.
When I reach for the stars
I know we will make it.
A sign will lead us to freedom.
Nothing can stop us.
We will not give up.

JAYDEN, 3RD GRADE, "UNTITLED"

I was born in 2011
And I was trained to fight
When I was one year old
I was very mean
But now I'm very nice
and I help others
I care for others
And I like game
And names
I like cars and Mars
I am awesome
And I love all my fans



KIERA, 4TH GRADE, "MY BEAUTIFUL TREE"

Roots, air, water and the beginning of life
The necessity of life.
Something that keeps us together and alive, a tree
You as the tree, could be the leaves, wood,
branches, roots, but most of all love.
Everyone has a family tree with many layers
Like us, some people may try to cut you down.
DON'T LET THEM!
For we live for eternity in the land of God,
Remember don't fall,
My STRONG, BRAVE, BEAUTIFUL TREE.

KYRIE, 3RD GRADE, "ROSES ARE RED"

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Video games cool
And so are you
Cats have night vision
And dog's don't.

LONDON, 4TH GRADE, "SHE IS LONDON"

She is strong
She is brave
She is unapologetic
Her skin is smooth and beautiful
like deep dark chocolate
Her hair is thick like wool
Her smile is calm
like the first sun
Love is within her
Love protects her
Love is her
She is London.



MAEVE, 4TH GRADE, “MY FEIS DAY WITH MAEVE”

I am a Irish Dancer
It's time for me to compete
As I enter into the ballroom
I hear the bangs of my hard shoes on my feet
I smell grape hair spray Mom put in my hair
I see shimmering bright dresses
I see my friends over there
I taste sweat on my lips
From practicing so hard
I feel nervous and excited
I hope I earn an award.

MELVIN, 4TH GRADE, “I LIKE OHIO”

I like Ohio because
It is where I grew up
And I was born here
Because it is nice!



MIA, 4TH GRADE, "ANNOYING PETS"

Pets bug you when you sleep
When you want them to be quiet and not make a peep
They eat like a big storm
But they play in a different form
They smell gross from the rain
But feel soggy like wet lion's main
They roll around in the grass
But sometimes they're a sassafra
They get slobber all over you
And scare you like barking Boo!
They make messes all over the house
And they are never quiet like a mouse
They bark when someone is at the door
When they don't know who
or what it's for they beg you when they want a treat
Like their proud of their stinky paw feet
Now you know what it's like to have a pet
Do you still want one?

MIKYAH, 3RD GRADE, "I WANT A LIZARD"

My name is Mikyah and
I've been wanting a lizard
For the longest now
Why I want a lizard because
some time I be bored and
me and my friend can play
What are lizard
And I want
A dog too
Why I want a dog
Because it can sleep
What me it can protect.



NAOMI, 4TH GRADE, "BLACK LIVES MATTER"

We need to stop all this foolish stuff
I'm done, we need a change
We have the right to protest about our skin
Because you know nothing
Stops without a war or a fight
So we need to change and these people are dying
Because of their skin color
This needs to stop
If you have no noticed
But people are suffering
Because they die
Because of the color of their skin
People are people
And other kinds have shed their blood for us
And we know we have the right to protest
go out there and protest
Because you have the right
So lets raise our hands and protest
Black Lives Matter, Protest of the People!!

PEYTON, 4TH GRADE, "MY BIG DINNER"

Chopping onions
Making rings
I love cooking
And all the joy it brings
Simmering veggies
Chopping meat
Putting stuff in the oven
Now it's time to eat
I made mashed potatoes
And cut ripe tomatoes
Tacos tonight!
What a delight
And dessert
Oh that's the best
It is better
Than all the rest
I made crumb cake
and apple pie
And a cake so big
It could touch the sky
Dinner was very big tonight
I cannot eat another bite



QUEEN, 3RD GRADE, "UNTITLED"

I like ice cream
Because it's good and tasty
My dog is helpful
and pretty and thankful.

RAVEN, 5TH GRADE, "HIP HOP DANCE"

I love to dance
My favorite dance is Hip Hop
Because it's like a work out
and I feel like I was born to be a dancer
and it's important to me
and I love all of the different moves
and it's fun to move all around and
I want to be a Hip Hop Dance one day.

RYAN, 3RD GRADE, "MY NIGHTMARE IS GRANNY"

It is my worst nightmare because
When I saw our backyard
neighbors I got scared
When he died in the game but I found
a game similar to it
It was less scarier.
It was called piggy
I wasn't scared
Because I watched
videos of it
It was fun
I loved playing it but Granny
was too scary.



SOPHIA, 4TH GRADE, "CHRISTMAS TIME"

Christmas time comes every year
It is filled with lots of cheer
Lots of cake and candy and fun
Look at what we all get done
My favorite part is when we go
get the presents
We open them up in just a second
Then we go outside it is so cold
That we get hot coco in the snow.

TYA, 3RD GRADE, "HELPING HANDS"

When a friend is in need
We help them to be safe
When a friend is struggling
We help each other
When a friend is in danger
We help them
When a friend is hurt
We help them
When a friend is sad
We comfort them
When a friend is mad
We help them calm down.
When a friend is sick
We send them soup and lots of love.

TYAIRRE, 3RD GRADE, "MAN IN THE MIRROR"

I am the man in the mirror
I'm changing the world
I see myself and God
I see the moon
I love you just like you love me
Roses are red
Just like we bleed
We live just like we need to be



TYLAN, 4TH GRADE, "FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS"

Once upon a time
I was sitting on a
bench. This black Little King
Told me follow your dream
And my dream was to be a Black Queen
And my dream was to be a Black Queen
Everybody for the Black Queen
Everybody should follow their dream
My mom always told me I am my dream
Then the next day I was
a Black Queen.
And then I remember that
Black King tell me,
Always to wear a visible crown
But I always follow my dream.

TYRANE, 4TH GRADE, "ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS"

Achieve Your Goal
If you achieve your goal
You can get the
Flow
If you fall on the ground
shot a hundred free throws
If you try your best you will get the test
If you make mistake
You will love to skate
If always hate you don't have no fate
If you want good grades
try to have straight
As if you scare of deer
try to face your fear
Then tell your mom
you don't got no time
I'm going to achieve my goal
and the flow.



ZAKAR, 5TH GRADE, "UNTITLED"

My name is Zakar
I always spit bars
I like cars and go Karts

I also like cats
but I don't like bats
most of them are ugly
I was gonna be Pugsley
I don't like rats
like snitchnine swine
My cousin is gonna be nine
and I'm about to be eleven
Kerarie is seen.

AHNA' LIECE, 6TH GRADE, "TIKTOK"

TikTok
TikTok
Dance with your family
TikTok
TikTok
Dance with your friends

I watch people dance
Because they have great moves.
Sometime I wish I can
be in their shoes.
TikTok
TikTok
I follow my cousin
TikTok
TikTok because it's fun.



We need to change
Whether it's short or long
Everyday people commit crimes
and they know that they are wrong
This is where it begins
We need to stop these criminals
It is becoming very pivotal
We need to make crime minimal
It's gotten so bad
It's getting political
Social injustice happens everyday and
it is just not fair
People are missing their families
so don't you dare
Do a crime without thinking of the punishment
Putting random people who are innocent
in harms way
We really really need to change
Do you really see through their eyes?
Watching news everyday is a surprise
Kids watch the news every day and
their too young to know
But I know and they can't silence me
Think one day it will happen to me
Seeing through the eyes of people
this has happened to
They see terror
They see it on the TV and don't know
if it's going to happen to them one day
Seeing through the eyes of a cop
not caring
Taking innocent lives like it's nothing
I speak out about injustice
It's bad
We need to call the police on the police
We need to understand
that human society should be treated the same
No matter the color of their skin
But by the content of their character.



JERALYIS, 6TH GRADE, "JERALYIS 'S RAINBOW SKY"

I am a rainbow
So bright and blue
when you see me
I see you.
I am a rose so
pretty as can be
like a swan so
elegant and pretty
Never dark like a cloud
Always light as the sun
Bright pink like the stars
but never dark as black
I'm a Lamborghini fast and cool
I'm not a slugbug
Slow and junky
People don't understand
I like me for me
You can't change me
into who you want me to be.

KAMERIA, 6TH GRADE, "TIKTOK"

TikTok is my favorite app
TikTok is an app for dancing
There are FUP pages
That stands for For You Pages
There are famous people on there
My favorite thing about this app
Is I got 285 followers
and you should download it too
It'll be lots of fun.



Surrounded by water, deep in the ocean
Closed in with thoughts, getting deeper into the ocean
I feel a sudden Heat and Fear in my body
I slowly open my eyes to see nothing
I try to move but I'm stunned
I stay there still for a few moments
Then look again
To see a Big Grey and White cold blooded fish
with large sharp scary teeth
I was confused on what it was
until I realized it was a SHARK!
I suddenly started Panicking
when I realized it hasn't tried to eat me
I got very confused and closed my eyes to think
I attempt to move again
But Swim upwards and it works
I swim up to the surface when I see someone in
the distance
but it was my Great-Grandmother
which is weird because she isn't here anymore
She comes up to me
I get Confused, Happy, Sad then start crying
then we hug
and that's when I wake up from this Scary, Sad
Amazing Dream.



Let's take a trip down memory lane
to a place before my time.
I heard some real cool
memories where they chilled
back eating Cracker Jacks
looking for the prizes in the pack.
Or had Fly Hairstyles
Where they were Big and Wild
with the fancy Updos
high top tennis shoes
and the matching fake tattoos
Kids had fun and played lots of
Cool things - kaleidoscopes, etch-a-sketch
Double Dutch
and more and Grandma's
used to say "Stop Slamming my screen door!"
Can you imagine a time with no Tik-Tok
eating candy pop rocks and
Playing connect the dots?
No, no I cannot!
This trip down memory lane was cool and all
I learned things I never knew
I wouldn't mind taking a trip
again how about you?



SAVANNAH, 6TH GRADE, "THROUGH SICKNESS AND HEALTH"

Through sickness and health

We have started a really brave movement, people. In the world we are either blaming someone or taming someone. Shootouts and protests we are starting to look like we only have anger in us, and not potential.

Through sickness and health.

Police beat on us, when half the time we were just trying to walk down the street. People have not been given the credit they deserve all because of the complexion of their skin.

Through sickness and health

2020 has made us weak at times but strong at others. From Mothers crying, because their sons are dying, we will still rise up .For women's rights, we have made protest, and gotten through to those who did give up hope. Cops who once argued against us are now standing with us.

But THROUGH SICKNESS AND HEALTH

We have overcome any obstacles in front of us, and we did it together.

Through sickness and health

We have started something great and we won't and we can't lose hope.



ZALLIE, 7TH GRADE, "IN MY WORLD"

In my world
I see colors
Purple, blue gold and yellow
In my world
there is many smells
flowers, sweetness and
freshness all around.

In my world
there are many sounds
birds, rain, waves and nature
In my world
the way I feel
free, open and calm.



GUEST JUDGES

Mary Barrett is a dancer, choreographer, poet, lecturer, and teaching artist from Cleveland, Ohio. She began her work with Twelve Literary Arts as an intern at the One Mic Open after school fellowship and over the years evolved into Twelve's current Youth Programs coordinator. Her writing merges critical race theory, feminist theory, afrofuturism, and hip hop cultural studies with spoken word aesthetics.

Raja Bell Freeman is a performance poet, visual artist, and flautist. She has worked with Twelve Literary Arts as an intern, a member of the Six of Twelve Youth Performance Poetry Ensemble, and is a two-year member of the One Mic Open Youth Poetry Slam Team. She is a graduate of Cleveland State University and she hates writing bios

Ruth Coffey HR leadership is focused on people and helping them fulfill their dreams at work. Outside the office, she is passionate about literacy, wellness and opportunity for our poet-athletes. Her upbringing in Ireland ingrained a love of poetry and words. She is a regular judge at our Poetry Slams and led the creation of America SCORES Cleveland's Inspired Art event.

Dairus Daughtry is an accomplished writer, director, educator and creative consultant who truly believes in the transformative power of arts. Organizations throughout the country such as, the Naval Academy, the Poetry Foundation and the Adrienne Arsht Center, have commissioned Darius to conduct creative writing and performance workshops and trainings. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Art Prevails Project, a performing arts organization dedicated to cultivating community through the power of storytelling, arts education and community engagement. Mr. Daughtry has written, directed and produced a series of successful theatrical productions, and his collection of poetry, *And the Walls Came Tumbling*, is an introspective poetic memoir and cultural eulogy critique

Stevi Knighton is a Columbus native and Fisk University alum, MsStevi Knighton, describes herself as a poet, performer, and public thinker. She began performing spoken word as a teenager at an open mic and now hosts The Composition Open Mic night among other events around the city. You may follow her performances and the public thoughts she shares by following DearMsStevi on all social media platforms and can find more of her written work at dearstevi.wordpress.com.



Vet Nixon is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, where she earned her Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA). She has worked in both micro-level and macro-level social work practice. Ms. Nixon provides grants management in the Out-of-School Time Department at Starting Point. In her current role she provides consultation and technical assistance regarding grant funding requirements, program implementation, data collection, and professional development. Ms. Nixon is very passionate about community and youth development and she is committed to being a social servant in the Cleveland community.

Emily Splain is a lover of the arts and arts in education. She graduated from Cleveland State University with a B.A. in Art History & Graphic Design as well as a M.A in History & Museum Studies. Her focus throughout her studies has been education and arts administration. Now she focuses on her own artwork and helping Art House with its mission to inspire exploration and expression in the visual arts.

Maria Varonis is a communicator, writer, editor, and instructor with comprehensive experience in technical and creative fields. She has helped launched several startups in Northeast Ohio and currently works as an editor for a fast-paced tech company based in Akron. Maria played soccer her entire life (usually right full-back, stop, or sweep) and has been an active yoga instructor for the past 10 years.



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SPECIAL THANKS

The **guest judges** for sharing their expertise of poetry and their love and support for the youth of Cleveland. They had one of the toughest jobs of the event - scoring all these amazing performances!

The **coaches** of America SCORES Cleveland who tirelessly serve as mentors, role models, and educators. It is with a humble heart that we thank our coaches for all of the effort that each has contributed to another great season with America SCORES Cleveland!

The **parents** for supporting and guiding their children and for helping out with logging on to virtual lessons!

The **guest SLAM poets** from Lake Erie Ink who worked with the students to get them ready for their performances. They were a huge help and a major source of inspiration for our poet-athletes!

The **America SCORES Cleveland Board of Directors** for all of their dedication, vision and leadership in helping us to reach new heights in providing quality afterschool programming in Cleveland.

The **America SCORES Cleveland Associate Board** for their innovative ideas, can-do spirit, and dedication to the mission of America SCORES Cleveland.

All of our **sponsors**, for not only their financial support but also their dedication to providing opportunities for our youth to grow and succeed. Without their assistance, America SCORES Cleveland programming would not be possible!

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