FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS March 8, 2020

Santa Fe – Join nine New Mexico high school students as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud State Champion at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 1 p.m. Admission for the event is free and open to the public. State Poet Laureate Levi Romero will open the program.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Poetry Foundation and state arts agencies. The New Mexico event is sponsored by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Nine schools, 894 students, and 20 teachers participated at the classroom level across New Mexico to select the nine finalists who will compete to be State Champion on March 8. Schools that will send representatives to the 2020 State Finals are Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Arrowhead Park Medical Academy in Las Cruces, Clayton High School in Clayton, La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe, Public Academy for Performing Arts in Albuquerque, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute in Las Cruces, and Taos High School in Taos.

The state winner will receive $200, plus $500 for their school library for the purchase of poetry books, and an all-expense-paid trip, with adult chaperone, to Washington, DC, to compete at the National Finals. The National Champion receives $20,000 in prizes, Second Place $10,000, and Third Place $5,000.

The 2020 illustration for the official State Final Poster is titled Cognitive Dissonance and was painted by 2019 Albuquerque Academy graduate Carolyn Wang. Carolyn was a New Mexico Gold Key Awardee and National Silver Medal winner in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
Posters will be given away while supplies last on Wednesday February 19, 6:00pm at the monthly Lobo Slam at 50/50 Coffee House & Pub. Poets Laureate, students, Burque Revolt, Lobo Slam and special guest Matthew Brown will share the microphone.
Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation’s youth to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. The inspiration for this program is to promote poetry in both the classroom and the community. Performers are judged on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, evidence of understanding, and accuracy.

The New Mexico Museum of Art is located at 107 W. Palace Ave. in downtown Santa Fe. For more information, contact Phyllis Kennedy, New Mexico Arts, at (505) 476-0520 or (800) 879-4278 (statewide), or email phyllis.kennedy@state.nm.us.

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New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the state arts agency. New Mexico Arts administers the state’s One Percent for Public Art program, awards grants to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programs in their communities across the state, and provides technical assistance and educational opportunities for organizations, artists, and arts educators throughout New Mexico.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation’s largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audience.