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POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST
NEW MEXICO STATE FINALS
March 11, 2018

Santa Fe – Join 11 New Mexico high school students at 1 p.m. on Sunday March 11, 2018 at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art, as they compete to become New Mexico’s state champion in the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest. This year marks the 13th Annual New Mexico Poetry Out Loud event.

Santa Fe radio DJ, Michelle Laflamme-Childs, who manages New Mexico Arts public art program, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Special guest artist will be Alice Blumenfeld’s ABREPASO Flamenco. Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

“Poetry Out Loud helps thousands of teachers nationwide give their students a new outlet into understanding poetry, while also increasing student self-confidence and public speaking skills,” said National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu. “For 13 years, the NEA, in partnership with the Poetry Foundation and the state arts agencies, has provided this high-quality arts education program to students across the country.”

Since Poetry Out Loud began 13 years ago, more than 12,000 New Mexico high school students have participated in this exciting program. This year, 1681 students and 35 teachers took part at the classroom level across New Mexico.

Schools participating in the 2018 New Mexico State Finals include: Arrowhead Park Early College High School in Las Cruces, Bosque School in Albuquerque, Highland High School in Albuquerque, La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, Native American Community Academy (NACA) in Albuquerque, Oñate High School in Las Cruces, Pojoaque Valley High School in Santa Fe, Public Academy for Performing Arts (PAPA) in Albuquerque, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute in Las Cruces, Sandia High School in Albuquerque, and Taos High School in Taos.

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

This year’s judges for the New Mexico State Finals include New Mexico Arts Commissioner Tom Maguire of Santa Fe, poet Debbi Brody of Santa Fe, University of New Mexico Professor Lisa D. Chavez, and Inaugural Navajo Poet Laureate Luci Tapahonso. Jessica Helen Lopez, an adjunct faculty member of the University of New Mexico’s Chicana and Chicano Studies Department and former Albuquerque Poet Laureate, is the 2018 State Final event coordinator.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and state arts agencies. The New Mexico portion of the national poetry recitation contest is sponsored by New Mexico Arts, a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

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.

National Endowment for the Arts Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. For more information, visit www.arts.gov

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. For more information, please visit www.poetryfoundation.org