



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

**Media Contacts:**

Lana Adlawan  
Teen Services Coordinator  
Oakland Public Library  
510-238-7613  
[ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org)

Winifred Walters  
Community Relations Manager  
510-238-6932  
[wwalters@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:wwalters@oaklandlibrary.org)

## News from: Oakland Public Library

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### 2015 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Announced

**Oakland, CA** – The Oakland Public Library is very excited to announce that 16-year-old **Tova Ricardo** has been selected as the City of Oakland’s 2015 Youth Poet Laureate. Ms. Ricardo will be entering her junior year at Bentley High School where she is an active member and leader in the diversity clubs. She also applies her leadership skills in the classroom and on the soccer field.

Khafre Jay, Executive Director of HipHopForChange, Inc. who participated as judge in this year’s competition says,  
*“Tova is a powerful Oakland artist who embodies the passion and eloquence of our youth here who are striving to makes sense of the world and bring change to a system that holds so many to the margins.”*

Ms. Ricardo emerged as the best of seven talented finalists from schools across the Bay Area. Students from Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy, Met West and Oakland Technical High School, amongst others, participated in a highly competitive process juried by accomplished authors, educators and community leaders. Ms. Ricardo will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and the opportunity to officially represent the Oakland community through poetry, media, and public appearances.

Now in its fourth year, the Youth Poet Laureate Program is a partnership between Oakland Public Library, Youth Speaks, ProArts and more than a dozen community partners.

For more information, please contact Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Coordinator, at 510-238-7613 or [ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org).

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