



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Public Library (OPL) Proud to Sponsor and Participate in the Oakland Book Festival

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Book Festival, now in its 3rd year, will take place at Oakland's City Hall on Sunday, May 21st from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm and features over 100 novelists, poets, historians, philosophers, journalists, editors, and activists at City Hall, engaging event goes in panels, interviews, and open debate. This year's Festival will feature **Angela Davis, Judith Butler, Danielle Allen, Jeff Chang, Arlie Hochschild, Sheryl Oring, Mistah F.A.B, Wendy Brown, Ishmael Reed, Laura Albert and Anthony Marra** (among many others).

During the festival, Oakland's sixth Youth Poet Laureate will be announced. The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year, since 2012, we accept submissions from talented young writers (ages 13-18) to be considered for the city's top literary honor. The Laureate earns an educational scholarship and embarks on a year of opportunities as an ambassador for literacy, arts and youth expression.

The winning announcement will take place after performances from all seven of the 2017 finalists. These seven brilliant young people come from six different neighborhoods in Oakland, attend four different high schools and have ages ranging from 14 to 18. They all use their poetic talent for powerful, personal, vital messages. Don't miss them at 1pm in the City Hall Amphitheater.

The library will have a children's area with readings and activities and the OPL Bike Library will be in attendance. Visitors can also find the Friends of the Oakland Public Library and the OPL Advocates in booths on site.

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