



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Announced

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Public Library and Youth Speaks are thrilled to announce that 18-year-old **Lucy Flattery-Vickness** is the City of Oakland's 2017 Youth Poet Laureate.

Eugene "Ace" Johnson, Founder/President of iVisionary Academy, who served as one of this year's five Youth Poet Laureate judges, says, "Lucy has the making of a world changer. The work she has already initiated in her school and surrounding community lines up with the impactful words she speaks."

Ms. Flattery-Vickness has been applying to the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate since she was 13, was last year's runner-up, a 2015 Finalist and has performed and spoken as a representative of the program, her peers, and her city at numerous events and on several news shows. This year, she emerged as the winner amongst seven talented finalists from Oakland. Ms. Flattery-Vickness will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and the opportunity to officially represent the Oakland community through poetry, media, and public appearances.

Ms. Flattery-Vickness is a 2017 graduate of Oakland Technical High School where she served as Captain of both the volleyball and basketball teams and founded the club Y.E.S W.E W.I.L.L (Youth Empowering Students With Education, Words, Inspirational Lives, and Love) to fight injustices in the education system. As a student, she also placed first in the OUSD Martin Luther King Oratorical Festival Finals in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Now in its sixth year, the Youth Poet Laureate Program is a partnership between the Oakland Public Library and Youth Speaks, along with several community partners.

For more information, please contact Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Coordinator, at 510-238-7613 or ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org.

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About Youth Speaks:

Founded in 1996, Youth Speaks is one of the world's leading presenters of Spoken Word performance, education and youth development programs. Youth Speaks has long championed a national and increasingly global movement of Brave New Voices.

Through the intersection of arts education and youth development practices, civic engagement strategies and high quality artistic presentation, Youth Speaks creates safe spaces that challenge young people to find, develop, publicly present, and

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apply their voices as creators of societal change. Youth Speaks exists to shift the perception of youth by combating illiteracy, alienation, and silence, creating a global movement of brave new voices bringing the noise from the margins to the core.

About Oakland Public Library:

The Oakland Public Library is a part of the City of Oakland in California and has been in existence since 1878. Our locations currently include 16 branches, a Main Library, a Second Start Adult Literacy Program, the Tool Lending Library, and the African-American Museum and Library. We also offer many other special services for residents of Oakland and California. Your Oakland Public Library empowers all people to explore, connect, and grow by serving our diverse community as a resource for information, knowledge, and artistic and literary expression, providing the best in traditional services, new technologies, and innovative programs

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