

SAY WORD

LITERACY. CONFIDENCE. HEALING.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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Say Word is dedicated to and motivated by a set of beliefs and values about ourselves, our programs, our community and the young poets with whom we work. These six values

form our guiding principles and serve as a foundation for all of our work and decisions.

* LITERACY

We believe that literacy reflects more than just academic success, but is a powerful tool to build self-discovery and strengthen civic engagement.

* EMPOWERMENT

We believe that the dynamic energy and empowerment of spoken word poetry has an exponential effect on the lives of young people, inspiring them beyond the power of the pen to the power of the people.

* LEADERSHIP

We value those among us who think critically, who are brave and bold, who take initiative, accountability, and ownership of their words and who are ready to inspire the same in their community.

* DIVERSITY

We value differences of opinion, of perspective, and honor all ethnic, cultural, gender, socio-economic, educational and sexual identities. We create spaces that are safe, protective and build understanding, empathy and compassion.

* ACCESS

We believe that equal and ample access to education, art, literature and social awareness builds unity in communities both privileged and under-served.

* COMMUNITY

Finally, we see ourselves as a part of a large and disparate world. We understand that the best way to build equity in our community is through understanding of how our own actions affect our world in both positive and negative ways.



EMPOWERING, ENLIGHTENING, & ACTIVATING YOUTH

IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCY *

Offered free of charge to schools that qualify, our In-School Residency programming consists of two hour-long sessions a week, over the course of 24 weeks. Each session is taught by a trained Say Word Teaching Artist, working alongside resident teachers, within the classroom setting.

Our curriculum aligns with California Common Core standards, engages students at the intersection of literacy and performing arts, and explores

various themes, working outwards from Self-Discovery to Inner Circle to Community. Within each class, teaching artists create safe and nurturing opportunities for young writers to dive deep and reflect on what defines them and how they are defined by others, examining their cultural, socio-economical, and gender identities.

By supporting, encouraging and facilitating this work, Say Word introduces students to the essential tools of self-expression.

AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOPS *

Upon completion of the In-School Residency, interested students can move their experience outside of the classroom and into their own hands. Our After School Workshops give students a place to go in the vulnerable afternoon hours and are set up as venues for young poets to network, receive encouragement, challenge themselves, build

important relationships and community, and refine their writing, performing and slam strategy styles in anticipation of performance team opportunities and slam team qualifiers. These workshops are an important bridge between the beginner work in our In-School Residencies and the more nuanced, advanced, and rigorous work involved with both, the slam team and Say Word performance team season.



THE SAY WORD SLAM TEAM *

We believe that competition is a great catalyst to building character, which is where the Say Word Youth Slam Team steps in. Qualifying events start each year in Fall and continue through Spring. Each young poet will write, edit and perform original works, adhering to pre-set guidelines and judged on a point system at each Slam event. The top scoring poets advance to semi-final and final competition rounds where the top five poets earn a spot on the Say Word Youth Slam Team. Say Word Founder and Executive Director Kat Magill serves as Head Coach and leads the team in local competitions through the spring, and travels with them in summer to compete and participate in the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival. The annual festival brings together the best youth poets from around the world for five days of workshops, showcases, community service and civic participation events, and of course individual and group slams.



ONE MIC



ONE MIC ARTISTIC DEVELOPEMENT *

From there, Say Word selects the most committed to participation in One Mic, a year-long artist development program. The selected poet will have the chance to participate in education, training, writing and performance workshops, and learn specific skills such as creating a bio, cultivating a fan base, booking, and building a set list.

In addition, the poet in development will work with Say Word staff and volunteers to create a single piece of work (including but not limited to a manuscript, stage production, CD, multi-media production or any other poetry focused creation).

They also receive editing and book design services, 50 printed books, and a release event to debut their final work.

AMPLIFY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM *

Finally, there's AMPlify Internship, our youth mentoring program. Engaging youth through the vulnerable transition years, AMPlify is open to young poets ages 19-24 who want to develop their leadership skills, and grow professionally. The program provides students with an opportunity to shadow a Say Word Teaching Artist, in our In-School Residency program, who serves as a

mentor and guide through the year-long program. At the programs conclusion, participants have the chance to lead a classroom themselves. Participants are given a variety of opportunities for learning, including workshops, field trips, opportunities for performance and monthly lectures covering topics such as student engagement, and curriculum development.

AMPLIFY





"I've been with Say Word for five years now. It is so powerful for me to sit here now as a mentor within Say Word and not only listen to MY student's poetry but to give the opportunity for children to understand the concept of self love. That there is always another side to things and how they always have the capacity to change something. I'm happy to be a part of this organization. It is truly something timeless because no matter how long I've been with Say Word, starting first as a kid participating, I'm still continuously growing and remembering the bigger picture of this art form. If I have learned anything from being a young poet within Say Word to now a mentor, it isn't about the poems, its about people and confidence and watching teens learn how to believe in themselves, Because I was one of those kids that didn't believe in myself and Say Word kept reminding me of where I've come from and what I dreamt of was and is still possible."

– Krys Bragg

Say Word Alumni & Mentor

"Its hard for me to articulate the monumental impact Say Word has had on me, but really its all about the people within the organization. They are so caring, nurturing and all enveloping. Its amazing how much they love. Say Word Changes lives."

– Cheyenne Bartram

Say Word Slam Alumni

"Working with Say Word made me believe for the first time that I had the power to change my own heart and by extension, other hearts, and that has changed my life forever."

– Julia Horwitz

2015 Los Angeles
Youth Poet Laureate

www.SayWordLA.org

For general information about our programs, to purchase our curriculum, or to bring Say Word to your classroom, please visit our website above or email us directly at Info@SayWordLA.org

Say Word is
a project of

