

# ALAMEDA COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR ITS **FIRST YOUTH POET LAUREATE!**

**Raise Your Voice!**

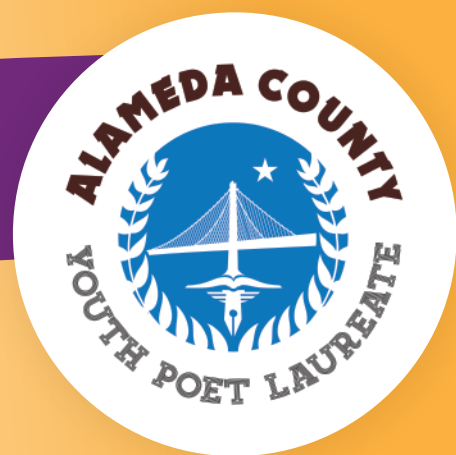
**For Teens: 13-18**

**WILL IT BE YOU?**  
**Applications Open April 1**



Are you a teen who wants to speak your truth, make friends, and have fun? We're looking for poets and spoken word artists from all over the county to **SHOW UP** and **AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES**.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT:  
**[aclibrary.org/youth-poet](http://aclibrary.org/youth-poet)**



## JUDGES



### **Azariah Cole-Shephard**

Azariah was the 2016 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate. Azariah has performed nationwide, taught at various high schools and multiple institutions of higher learning, including Stanford, and received a Resolution from the City of Oakland.



### **Brendon Woods**

Brendon is the first Black Chief Public Defender in Alameda County, and Board Member and former President of the California Public Defenders Association. He feels fortunate to fight for those battling systems of oppression and strives to reshape the discourse and nature of public defense and criminal justice as a whole.



### **Cianga**

(Chia-nga) is a Congolese multimedia artist whose work engages with themes of diaspora, mental health and joy as radical resistance. Cia has served as a judge for the Oakland chapter of YPL, and is excited to support Alameda County's upcoming youth poets.



### **Cindy Chadwick**

Cindy is the County Librarian of Alameda County, and has worked as a job counselor at a women's shelter on the South Side of Chicago. Cindy recently completed a Ph.D. in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions at Simmons College, with a dissertation on power and public libraries.



### **Keba Konte**

Keba is an artist, food entrepreneur, community man, and the founder of the Red Bay Coffee Company in Oakland. Through his work he has embraced and hired people of all backgrounds and strives to be inclusive of those who have traditionally been left out of the specialty coffee industry, especially people of color, the formerly incarcerated, women and people with disabilities.