



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2026–27 Michigan Poetry Out Loud Registration is Open

MARSHALL, MI—Michigan Humanities and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council are pleased to announce that registration for the 2026–27 Poetry Out Loud season is open. Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that lifts poetry off the page by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. Since the program began in 2005, more than 4.6 million students and 89,000 teachers from 22,000 schools across the U.S. have participated in Poetry Out Loud, helping students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

The 2026–27 Poetry Out Loud season marks the 22nd year of this statewide, free program. Last year, more than 3,000 students and 75 teachers participated across Michigan. All types of high schools are welcome to participate, including public, private, parochial, independent, charter and homeschool. Non-school organizations, such as after school clubs, libraries, or nonprofit organizations, may partner as well. Online registration is open until December 4, 2026.

Poetry Out Loud starts in a high school classroom or at the local level with an area organization. Teachers or other partnership leaders organize a competition at their school or organization, then winners of those competitions advance to the state competition and ultimately to the national level. Participating students select, memorize and recite poems from the Poetry Out Loud anthology. The National Endowment for the Arts provides free, standards-based curriculum materials for organizers to utilize in their programs.

This season, the state finals competition will be held February 19–20, 2027 at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. The Michigan state champion will then compete in the national finals, held in Washington, D.C. April 27–28, 2027, where \$50,000 in prizes and stipends are awarded annually to competitors and their home communities—including a \$20,000 prize for the National Champion. All expenses for the national finals are provided for the state champion and a chaperone.

Michigan's Poetry Out Loud program is funded through a partnership between Michigan Humanities and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Additional support is generously provided by the National Endowment for

the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information about Michigan's Poetry Out Loud program and registration details, please visit michiganhumanities.org. For more information about the national Poetry Out Loud initiative, please visit poetryoutloud.org.

About Michigan Humanities

Michigan Humanities strives to bring people together through stories, histories, cultures, and conversations. In carrying out this mission, Michigan Humanities builds awareness and excitement for humanities in everyday life, achieves best practices and sustainability for all humanities programs and services in Michigan, and upholds the following key values: uplifting all Michiganders; discovery and understanding; authentic conversation; respectful collaboration; and meaningful experiences. Michigan Humanities' vision is a more thoughtful, connected, engaged, and informed Michigan.

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