

COMMUNITY SPOKEN WORD SLAM

INSPIRED BY THE THEMES OF HAMILTON

June 19, 2018

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All of the work used in the Slam **must be original writing by the individual slamming**. Individuals that plagiarize will be disqualified.
- The Slam is about the poet and the mic. **Props may not be used in the Slam**. Props are defined as any non-body piece of equipment. Musical accompaniment (excluding mouth/body percussion) may not be used in the Slam.
- Each individual **piece must be under 3 minutes 30 seconds in length**. We will have a **10 second grace period**, after which significant time penalties will incur.
- **If individuals go over the time limits, their scores will be penalized** .5 for each 10 seconds beyond 3:30 minutes, starting at 3 minutes 40 seconds. (e.g. up to 3:39 – no penalty; 3:40 to 3:49 - .5-point penalty; 3:50 to 3:59 – 1-point penalty, etc.)
- There is **no censorship** whatsoever, but gratuitous use of profanity could work against you when it comes to scoring. It is **recommended** that individuals try to avoid excessive violence, sexually explicit content and/or language that is degrading to any group of people. Please, **do it for the love**.
- If you are performing a poem with references to rape, sexual assault, self-harm, or extreme violence, please offer a **trigger warning** before you begin your piece. Your trigger warning will not count against your time.
- Poets who attended one of the Saturday workshops (attendance verified through sign-in) will receive an additional **.5 points** added to their final score.
- The slam will be one round only. However, **poets are encouraged to have two poems ready to slam** in the event of tied score.
- Poems are **not REQUIRED** to be memorized but it is **highly encouraged** as they tend to score better. 😊
- Winners in a youth and adult division will receive a pair of **tickets to HAMILTON** as part of its Des Moines engagement in the summer of 2018. Tickets are for the July 10, 2018 performance and may not be exchanged for another performance date or time.