

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO

Vicki Panella Bourns is the director for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. She also serves on the board of the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks Tier I Advisory Board. A founding member of Dance Theater Coalition, she produced, directed, choreographed, and performed in numerous original dance and theatre works. She has a bachelor's degree in modern dance and a master's degree in arts administration from the University of Utah. She helped transform the Utah Citizens for the Arts into the Utah Cultural Alliance and served as treasurer for the State Arts Advocacy League of America. Previously, she was the director for Salt Lake County's Zoo Arts and Parks Program. She also managed Salt Lake County's public art, art collection, and open space programs.

Lisa Bickmore is Utah's poet laureate, appointed by Governor Cox in 2022. She is the author of three books of poems: *Haste, flicker* (which won the 2014 Antivenom Prize from Elixir Press) and *Ephemerist* (Red Mountain Press, June 2017). Published work has appeared in *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*; *Tar River Poetry*; *Sugar House Review*; *Southword*; *Caketrain*; *Hunger Mountain Review*; *Terrain.org*; *Quarterly West*; *The Moth*; *MappingSLC.org*; *Fire in the Pasture: 21st Century Mormon Poets*. Her poem "Eidolon," received the Ballymaloe International Poetry Award.

Meadowlark String Band is a spunky duo, featuring Melissa Chilinski and Roz Newmark. Bringing their collective experiences as performers and life enthusiasts, they offer toe-tapping and heart-warming melodies for an audience of all ages. Melissa has been impressing listeners with her abilities on guitar, banjo, and vocals for over a decade. Roz has been breaking the fun meter, fiddling and singing for longer than she wants to admit. Whether playing a driving version of old-time music, original material, or nesting into an old swing song, their sound will help you soar.

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POL regional coordinators — Erin Day, Erica Plummer, Angelika Brewer, Benjamin Lesue, Greg Bartholomew, Owen Kennington

Poetry Ourselves judges, English — Todd Petersen, Jerry Rapiere, Darryl Stamp, Nancy Takacs

Poetry Ourselves judges, Spanish — Claudia Benavides, Manuel Aaron Garcia, Lina Vega-Morrison

Finalist coaching — Alyssa Hickman Grove, Abraham Smith

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And to all the AMAZING Utah teachers, parents, mentors, friends, and others who contributed to making Poetry Out Loud happen in Utah — we are deeply grateful.

**POETRY
OUT LOUD**
20 YEARS



**POETRY
OURSELVES**

MAR 12, 2025

**MID-VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
TAYLORSVILLE, UT**

SCHEDULE

WELCOME:	Victoria Panella Bourns Director, Utah Arts & Museums
HOST REMARKS:	Melissa Salguero
SPECIAL GUEST:	Angelica Flores The Poetry Foundation
READING:	Lisa Bickmore Utah Poet Laureate
READINGS:	Poetry Ourselves winners read their original poems
ROUND ONE:	Contestants recite their first poem
ROUND TWO:	Contestants recite their second poem
ROUND THREE:	Contestants recite their third poem
AWARD PRESENTATION:	Victoria Panella Bourns Lisa Bickmore Angelica Flores Melissa Salguero



Cairo Evans, 2024 Utah Poetry Out Loud Finals

TONIGHT'S HOST

Melissa Salguero — Melissa is a Guatemalan poet and performance artist. A nominee in 2020 for the Pushcart Prize, her poetry has been featured in publications including *Write About Now Poetry*, *Ink & Nebula*, *Rising Phoenix Press*, and *Crepe & Penn*. As an actor on numerous stages she appeared in “Otherworld” (Delaware Theatre Company), “Go Home Come Back” (Plan-B Theatre) and “The Little Mermaid” (John F. Kennedy Center).

TONIGHT'S JUDGES

Todd Petersen — Todd Robert Petersen is a writer and professor of creative writing and film at Southern Utah University. He has published four books, the most recent is *Picnic in the Ruins*, a novel about antiquities theft and the question, “who owns the past?”

Jerry Rapier — Jerry has been the artistic director of Plan-B Theatre since 2000 and is the first person of color to lead a professional arts organization in Utah. He has never been downhill skiing.

Darryl Stamp — A retired Granite School District language arts teacher, writer, and actor, Darryl is an adjunct faculty member at Weber State teaching introduction to acting, and is a member of Plan-B Theatre’s playwrighting for young people’s program at City Academy in Salt Lake City.

Nancy Takacs — Nancy is the recipient of several poetry awards including the Juniper Prize and a Pushcart Prize. Her latest book is *Dearest Water* from Mayapple Press.

SPECIAL GUEST

Angelica Flores, Poetry Foundation — Angelica is the education programs assistant at the Poetry Foundation sponsors of Poetry Out Loud. She holds a B.A in English from Dominican University and a M.A. in education from the University of Illinois Chicago. She is responsible for managing POL prizes at the state and national levels.

CONTESTANTS & POEMS

ROUND 1

Audrey Low, Olympus High School
“Song of the Shattering Vessels” by Peter Cole

Brunelle Tauzin, West High School
“Where did the handsome beloved go?” by Jalal al-Din Rumi, Translated by Brad Gooch

Janet Flake, Legacy Preparatory Academy
“Songs for the People” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Sariah Calles, Box Elder High School
“Respectability” by Tina Boyer Brown

Jaimie Lesue, Monument Valley High School
“The Arrow and the Song” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Myah Gubler, Snow Canyon High School
“Sonnet 29: When, in disgrace with fortune and men’s eyes” by William Shakespeare

Ivy Jensen, Karl G Maeser Preparatory Academy
“We Wear the Mask” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

ROUND 2

Audrey Low, Olympus High School
“Much Madness is divinest Sense” by Emily Dickinson

Brunelle Tauzin, West High School
“After the Disaster” by Abigail Deutsch

Janet Flake, Legacy Preparatory Academy
“Nowhere Else to Go” by Linda Sue Park

POETRY OURSELVES

Congratulations to the winners of Poetry Ourselves, our annual original poetry writing competition for Utah high school students. The winning poems this year are:

1st Place

“My Can of Mace”
by Isla McMahan,
Rowland Hall

Runner Up

“Captain Crunch”
by Lillian Conroy,
West High School

1st Place — Spanish Language

“Mi Papá, el Tiempo y Yo” by Andrea Vallejos,
Olympus High School

Runner Up — Spanish Language

“Los Mojados”
by Lorena Martinez,
Olympus High School

Sariah Calles, Box Elder High School
“Invisible Children” by Mariana Llanos

Jaimie Lesue, Monument Valley High School
“Insomnia” by Dana Gioia

Myah Gubler, Snow Canyon High School
“Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun” by Emily Brontë

Ivy Jensen, Karl G Maeser Preparatory Academy
“Water of the womb” by Tianna Bratcher

ROUND 3

Audrey Low, Olympus High School
“Cartoon Physics, part 1” by Nick Flynn

Brunelle Tauzin, West High School
“Dream of the Phone Booth” by Emilia Phillips

Janet Flake, Legacy Preparatory Academy
“Do Not!” by Stevie Smith

Sariah Calles, Box Elder High School
“Dirge in Woods” by George Meredith

Jaimie Lesue, Monument Valley High School
“All This and More” by Mary Karr

Myah Gubler, Snow Canyon High School
“Fairy Tale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter” by Jehanne Dubrow

Ivy Jensen, Karl G Maeser Preparatory Academy
“Edgar Allan Poe Is Reached at the Baltimore Harbor by the Shadows That Pursue Him” by Fernando Valverde,
Translated by Carolyn Forché