



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland poet and educator S. Renee Mitchell leads a group of young poet ambassadors through a rehearsal at the Artist Repertory Theatre.

# Young Poets <sup>in</sup> Action

## Engaging in literacy, leadership and activism

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland is about to get its first ever youth poet laureate.

Twelve teenagers from a racially diverse group have earned a spot as poet ambassador finalists in a competition that comes to a zenith on Monday, Sept.

28 when one of them is handed the year-long title and a chance to earn a national publishing and distribution book deal from a New York City-based publisher along with a regional book tour.

The young poets range from ages 14 to 18. They attend both public and private high schools and have varying socioeconomic backgrounds.

At the upcoming competition, the audience will get to choose which poet has the most innovative and thoughtful project. Marquee performances are also scheduled by the "Whatchu Wanna Do Crew" and Savanna Carter, a singer and poet who recently

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