

# Uplifting and Empowering Young Voices

## Portland debuts Youth Poet Laureates

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Portland's first ever youth poet laureates are benefiting from the work of local professional artists and writers who have made it their mission to uplift young and traditionally marginalized voices.

The two winners are both north Portland high school students who say they've been empowered by their new title, and vow to represent the city's burgeoning literary scene in their own ways.

The contest and recognition comes thanks to Spit/Write, a play on the hip-hop term to spit or shout out rhymes, an organization formed by local writer and educator S. Reneé Mitchell, other professional artists and Portland's Artists Repertory Theater. Together they are in partnership with Urban World,



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Sekai Edwards of Jefferson High School (left) and Alexis Cannard of Roosevelt High tie for Portland Youth Portland Laureate.



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