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SOUTH TEXAS ☆ BOOK FESTIVAL

Announcements!

SouthTexasBookFestival.com



Poetry Night

Verses From Our Roots

**Thursday,
April 10th
6:00PM**

Main Library - Meeting Room B
4001 N. 23rd St., McAllen, TX
(956) 681-3061
www.SouthTexasBookFestival.com



McAllen
Public
Library

Featured Poets:



Amanda Puryear El

Amanda was born and raised in Pharr, Texas. She has always held a strong work ethic, which has given her the opportunity to work in many different avenues. Amanda turned her youthful stubbornness into a reality that required a lot of work, change, and dedication. She grew up expecting nothing for herself, but she always wanted and strived for more. Amanda beat the odds by changing her mentality and perspective. By focusing on changing her outlook and access, she grew to love working in marketing for the music and television entertainment industry, where she combined her local survival skills and introduced them to the national stage, working for several companies such as Telemundo, Advertir, Puro Tejano TV, Cennarium, and Wall Street. Amanda currently lives in Pharr, TX, and has published 10 books. On October 29th, she brought poetry to a TEDx stage. She has also been nominated for the 2025 State of Texas Poet Laureate appointment by the State of Texas Arts Commission and is currently working on a spoken word poetry album.



César L. de León

Cesar L. De Leon has been a resident of the Rio Grande Valley for more than 30 years. He is the author of *Speaking with Grackles* by Soapberry Trees and has contributed to numerous anthologies and journals over the years. *Speaking with Grackles* by Soapberry Trees is the recipient of the 2021 John A. Robertson Award from the Texas Institute of Letters

and the 2022 Best Book of Poetry Award from the Philosophical Society of Texas. Cesar is a poet-organizer for Poets Against Walls and a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop.



Emmy Pérez

Emmy will read poetry from her various publications y compartirá traducciones al español de sus poemas. Emmy Pérez, Texas Poet Laureate 2020, is the author of the poetry collections with the River on Our Face and Solstice. Her latest book *Paper America: New and Selected Poems* is forthcoming in 2025. Raised in Santa Ana, California, she has lived in the Texas borderlands for the past 24 years. She is a professor of Creative Writing and affiliate faculty in Mexican American Studies at UTRGV. Currently, she holds the Dr. Robert S. Nelsen Professorship in Mexican American Studies 2021-2024



Gume Laurel III

Gume is a Texan, native to the Rio Grande Valley, along the southernmost US/MX borderlands. For the past decade, he has dedicated himself to crafting literary works that promote inclusion and showcase diverse characters with intersectional identities. Gume's stories especially highlight the underrepresented groups he is a part of: Latine, Chicanx and queer. His first traditionally published hi-lo verse novel, *Samson & Domingo*, received Honorable Mention for Best in LGBTQ+ Themed Book from the International Latino Book Awards. His most recent publication, *Solar Punks*, is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection. When Gume isn't writing, he can be found getting lost on a hiking trail with his dogs Blu and Mouse. He's also a botana connoisseur, considers himself a professional amateur poet, and claims he could probably be a good DJ if he tried.



Jan Seale

Jan Seale, the 2012 Texas Poet Laureate, has authored thirty books, including poetry, nonfiction, fiction, and children's books. Her writing has also been published in such venues as *Texas Monthly*, *Writer's Digest*, *Newsday*, and *The Yale Review*. She has held a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry and has been a Humanities Scholar for Humanities Texas. Her latest books are *Elder Skelter* and *Border Biome*.

TEEN Poetry SHOWCASE



Read the
Teens Poems
Online.
Just Scan the
QR Code!

Elliette Perata Santamaria Age: 14
History In My Blood

Karime Torres Age: 16
Take A Look Inside Family

Naima Ybarra
Woven In Legacy

Rodolfo Roman III Age: 12
La Familia Feliz

Serah Candanosa Age: 13
Home 2